

## Senate Meeting Report, 2016-11-23

Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place on Wednesday, November 23, 2016.

The meeting began with Dean Eidelman presenting memorial tributes for Professors Allan Sherwin and John Richardson. Senate adopted the minutes of the last Senate meeting ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/senate\\_minutes\\_oct.19\\_2016.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/senate_minutes_oct.19_2016.pdf)), the report of the Steering Committee ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/2\\_report\\_of\\_the\\_senate\\_steering\\_committee\\_14.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/2_report_of_the_senate_steering_committee_14.pdf)) and the agenda ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/1\\_senate\\_agenda\\_nov.23\\_2016.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/1_senate_agenda_nov.23_2016.pdf)).

In her remarks from the Chair, Principal Fortier indicated that the latest Maclean's university ranking has given McGill the top rank in the medical/doctoral category for the 12th year in a row. She also mentioned that the Times Higher Education Supplement has conducted a study on the employability of university graduates, in which McGill ranked 18th out of the 150 best universities. On the subject of government relations, the Principal reported that all of Quebec's universities have worked together successfully to send a common brief to the Minister of Education regarding the proposed *Conseil des universités*. Principal Fortier referred to the recent good news from Ottawa about a policy initiative to facilitate immigration by international students, but she noted that Quebec has its own rules on immigration matters; McGill is working with the Quebec government on this subject.

Under the agenda point for formal questions, Senator Sobat posed a question regarding University regulation of unpaid internships, for which an answer was provided by Provost Manfredi ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/question\\_and\\_response\\_regarding\\_unpaid\\_internships.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/question_and_response_regarding_unpaid_internships.pdf)). The second and final question, posed by Senators Dow, Cleveland and Sobat, concerned campus accessibility during construction periods; the answer was provided by V.-P. Yalovsky ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/5\\_question\\_and\\_response\\_regarding\\_campus\\_accessibility\\_during\\_construction.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/5_question_and_response_regarding_campus_accessibility_during_construction.pdf)).

The next agenda item was an Open Discussion on the subject of "Preparing PhD Students for Careers Inside and Outside Academia" ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/6\\_d16-19\\_open\\_discussion\\_on\\_preparing\\_phd\\_students\\_for\\_careers.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/6_d16-19_open_discussion_on_preparing_phd_students_for_careers.pdf)). The comments offered during the discussion included the following points:

- It was suggested that the package of background information developed for the Open Discussion be transmitted to all Ph.D. students at McGill.
- It was suggested that a similar examination be made of the situation of post-doctoral fellows, to whom some of the same concerns apply.
- It was suggested that McGill facilitate and encourage encounters between graduate students and potential employers outside the classroom, for example through internships.
- It was noted that the Ph.D. thesis, which represents the classic model of the deliverable in doctoral studies, is not necessarily what employers are looking for in potential hires, and that alternatives should be explored.

- In relation to the two previous points, it was noted that one advantage of internships is that they allow students to transfer to a CV the less tangible skills which they acquire at university and which employers are seeking more and more.

Provost Manfredi presented the 476th Report of the Academic Policy Committee (<http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/7. d16-20 476th apc report.pdf>) and the report of the Senate Nominating Committee (<http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/8. d16-21 nominating report.pdf>), the latter including proposed revisions to the terms of reference of the Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity. Both reports were adopted. The Provost also presented for adoption a substantially revised version of the proposed Policy against Sexual Violence (<http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/9. d16-22 policy against sexual violence.pdf>), an earlier draft of which was discussed at Senate in October. The Policy was adopted unanimously by Senate, and will now go to the Board of Governors for final approval. Principal Fortier and Provost Manfredi expressed their appreciation to the members of the McGill community for all the work they had devoted to the development of this Policy.

Senate received for information the annual report of the Committee on Enrolment and Student Affairs (<http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/10. d16-23 cesa annual report.pdf>), which was presented by Deputy-Provost Dyens; the annual report from the Committee on Student Discipline (<http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/11. d16-24 committee on student discipline.pdf>), which was presented by Dean Buddle; and the report of the joint Board-Senate meeting (<http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/12. d16-25 report of the joint board-senate meeting.pdf>), which dealt with the theme of McGill's sustainability plans and initiatives; the report was presented by Principal Fortier.

As the final agenda item, Senate moved into confidential session to discuss the report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee.

The next Senate meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 7, 2016. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

Regards,  
Your librarian Senate reps,

Genevieve Gore  
Marc Richard  
Natalie Waters