

Senate Meeting Report, 2017-01-18

Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place on Wednesday, January 18, 2017. The meeting was chaired by Dean Nicell, since Principal Fortier is attending the World Economic Forum in Davos.

Senate adopted the minutes of the last Senate meeting (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/senate_minutes_dec_7_2016.pdf), the report of the Steering Committee (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/2_report_of_the_senate_steering_committee_16.pdf) and the agenda (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/1_agenda_senate_jan_18_2017.pdf). As an item of business arising from the December 7, 2016 Senate minutes, V.-P. Goldstein provided verbally some additional information concerning indirect costs of research; the text will be included in the minutes of today's meeting. At a future meeting, further information will be provided on matters pertaining to the taxation status of post-doctoral fellows.

Under the agenda point for formal questions, Senators Ger and Sobat posed a question regarding University governance best practices, for which an answer was provided by Provost Manfredi (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/4_question_and_response_regarding_university_governance_best_practices.pdf).

Provost Manfredi presented Professor Frédéric Bachand's report on the three Open Forums which were held in September 2016 to discuss the recommendations of the 2016 CAMSR Report on Divestment (CAMSR being the Committee to Advise on Matters of Social Responsibility, a committee of the Board of Governors), as well as the Provost's response to Professor Bachand's report (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/5_d16-31_open_forum_on_recommendation_of_2016_camsr_report.pdf). Comments from Senators during this agenda item pertained for the most part to the original CAMSR report rather than to the subsequent Open Forums. Both the report on the Open Forums and the Provost's response to it will be presented to the Board in February.

The Provost presented the 477th report of the Academic Policy Committee (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/6_d16-32_477th_apc_report.pdf), which was adopted.

Professor Dimitrios Berk, Ombudsperson for Students, presented the annual report of the Ombudsperson for Students (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/7_annual_report_ombudsperson_for_students.pdf). Senator Dow asked whether it might be advisable for the recently-created position of Senior Equity and Inclusion Officer to operate out of the office of the Ombudsperson for Students rather than under the Associate Provost (Policies, Procedures & Equity), so that this Officer would not be as closely connected to the Administration as is presently the case. Associate Provost Campbell responded that the terms under which Senior Equity and Inclusion Officer Pascale Legros operates are not yet fully developed, but she noted that the Equity and Ombudsperson offices overlap to some degree. Professor Campbell added that Pascale Legros is a lawyer trained in mediation, and that individuals who wish to consult an Assessor under the *Policy on Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law* have eleven Assessors at their disposal if they prefer to consult someone other than the Senior Equity and Inclusion Officer.

V.-P. Goldstein presented the annual report on Research and Innovation (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/8.annual_report_research_and_innovation.pdf). On the subject of research grants, Senator Hébert commented that while it might be good to have big programs which bring in lots of money, he wondered what could be done to support beginning researchers and mid-career researchers rather than professional grant-writers. V.-P. Goldstein responded that we need to support both fundamental research and big projects. The data show that McGill's early-career researchers actually do quite well, but V.-P. Goldstein added that more work may need to be done with regard to mid-career researchers.

As the final item of business, Senator Harpp presented the report from the Board of Governors to Senate (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/9.d16-35_board_report_to_senate_january_2017.pdf).

The next Senate meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 15, 2017. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

Regards,
Your librarian Senate reps,

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Marc Richard
Natalie Waters