

Senate Meeting Report, 2017-03-22

Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place on Wednesday, March 22, 2017.

The meeting began with Dean Geitmann presenting a memorial tribute for Professor Paula Ribeiro. Senate adopted the minutes of the last Senate meeting (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/senate_minutes_feb_15_2017.pdf), the report of the Steering Committee (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/2_report_of_the_senate_steering_committee_19.pdf) and the agenda (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/1_senate_agenda_march_22_2017_0.pdf).

In her remarks from the Chair, Principal Fortier noted that the federal budget will be presented today. The Administration will communicate with the McGill community once it knows the contents of the budget document. In terms of funding measures which are already in place, renovations will be done to the Stewart Biology Building using some \$33M provided by the federal government and, to some extent, by the provincial government. Principal Fortier and the other heads of Quebec universities met recently with the Quebec Premier and with the Minister of Higher Education. Although the details will have to wait until the March 28 Quebec budget, it is expected that there will be more stability in terms of university funding, with this year's budget apparently featuring a modest reinvestment and no cuts.

Under the agenda point for formal questions, there was one question from Senators Hébert and Bernard regarding the sale of lecture materials by students and companies, for which an answer was provided by V.-P. Goldstein and Provost Manfredi (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/4_question_and_response_re_sale_of_lecture_materials_final.pdf). In the follow-up to the answer, Senator Bernard suggested that this important issue might be a subject for a future Open Discussion in Senate; Principal Fortier concurred that this would be a good topic. A number of questions were asked regarding Prep 101, notably about whether this company has a financial relationship with any of the student societies at McGill. Deputy-Provost Dyens, who was not present at today's meeting, will provide a follow-up answer at the next meeting of Senate.

The 2015-2016 annual report on Scholarships and Student Aid (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/5_d16-42_scholarships_and_student_aid_with_attachments.pdf) was presented by Ms. Cara Piperni, Director, Office of Scholarships and Student Aid, on behalf of Deputy-Provost Dyens. This was followed by the 2015-2016 annual report on Enrolment and Strategic Enrolment Management (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/6_d16-43_sem_report_to_senate.pdf), which was presented by University Registrar Massey.

Provost Manfredi presented this year's second budget planning report for FY 2017-2018 (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/7_d16-44_budget_planning_fy2017-2018_report_ii_senate_0.pdf). Regarding Table 1, Senator Richard noted that the right-side column somewhat confusingly combines four different pieces of information (a dollar amount, an indication of whether the amount is a surplus or a deficit, an indication of whether the amount has gone up or down, and an indication of whether the figure represents income or expenditures). Provost Manfredi indicated that this will be clarified. Senator Hastings inquired about the line "Academic renewal priority and related tenure-track complement objectives to be updated" in Table 2b; Provost Manfredi responded that McGill is still in net growth with regard to the hiring of tenure-track academic staff and that there is still a bit of room to grow, but that the limit is being approached.

Senate approved the 479th report of the Academic Policy Committee (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/8._d16-45_479th_apc_report_revised.pdf), the report of the Senate Nominating Committee (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/9._d16-46_nominating_report.pdf), and the proposed revisions to the Terms of Reference for the McGill University Medal for Exceptional Academic Achievement (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/10._d16-47_revisions_to_the_mcgill_medal.pdf); all three items were presented by Provost Manfredi.

V.-P. Goldstein presented for discussion the proposed revisions to the Policy on Intellectual Property (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/11._d16-48_revisions_to_ip_policy_v2.pdf). The proposed revisions to the IP Policy, which has not been modified since 2001, are intended to bring it up to date and to provide both clarification and simplification.

Senator Singh, noting that the Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation) is the officer to whom IP disputes can be referred for resolution, asked what method would be used to resolve a matter which places the Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation) in a conflict of interest. Associate Provost Campbell responded that McGill has a Regulation on Conflict of Interest, and that this Regulation prescribes who should serve as the Reporting Officer for a given member of the McGill community in potential conflict-of-interest situations involving that particular member.

V.-P. Goldstein indicated that the proposed revisions to the IP Policy will return to Senate for a vote later in the academic year; between now and then, any concerns about the proposed revisions can be brought to her attention.

As she had announced at the beginning of the meeting, Principal Fortier left Senate at this point due to another commitment and Dean Lennox took the Chair.

Dean Nalbantoglu presented the 2015-2016 annual report from Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/12._d16-49_report_from_gps.pdf). Senator Saroyan asked what percentage of international students come to McGill with their own funding. Dean Nalbantoglu responded that the percentage is currently very small, but that she would like the numbers to be higher; GPS is also trying to improve the tracking of this information. Senator Robaire commented that, with regard to international students, GPS must provide better support for immigration-related issues, since there have been many difficulties in this area. Dean Nalbantoglu responded that it would be desirable for GPS to have an immigration lawyer.

Mr. Ram Panda presented the report from the Board of Governors to Senate (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/13._d16-50_board_report_to_senate_march_2017.pdf).

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 Thursday, April 20, 2017. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

Regards,
Your librarian Senate reps,

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