

Senate Meeting Report, 2017-05-15

Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place on Monday, May 15, 2017.

The meeting began with Dean Eidelman presenting a memorial tribute for Professor Emeritus Bruce Williams and for Professor Mostafa Elhilali. Senate adopted the minutes of the last Senate meeting (not yet posted), the report of the Steering Committee ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/2\\_report\\_of\\_the\\_senate\\_steering\\_committee\\_18.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/2_report_of_the_senate_steering_committee_18.pdf)) and the agenda ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/1\\_senate\\_agenda\\_may\\_15\\_2017.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/1_senate_agenda_may_15_2017.pdf)).

In her remarks from the Chair, Principal Fortier described two recent funding announcements by the Quebec government: one pertaining to investment in an artificial intelligence supercluster, an initiative in which McGill is a partner, and the other pertaining to the *Stratégie québécoise de la recherche et de l'innovation*. The latter item involves \$600M over five years, with most of the funding slated for the period after the next election. The Principal reported on the recent meetings of the U15, of the Association of American Universities and of Universities Canada, all of which she attended. One of the main topics discussed at the U15 meeting was the implementation of the report of the Advisory Panel on Federal Support for Fundamental Science (also known as the Naylor report). Principal Fortier also thanked everyone who had contributed to the success of last week's ACFAS conference, which was hosted by McGill this year and which featured over 300 scientific presentations.

V.-P. Beauchamp gave an update on construction projects at the downtown campus ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/4\\_chairs\\_remarks\\_-\\_construction\\_update.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/4_chairs_remarks_-_construction_update.pdf)).

Under the agenda point for formal questions, a question regarding the composition of Senate was submitted by Senators Dunn, Sobat and Singh; the answer was provided by Secretary-General Rogowska ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/question\\_and\\_response\\_regarding\\_senate\\_composition.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/question_and_response_regarding_senate_composition.pdf)).

Senate approved the 481st report of the Academic Policy Committee ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/6\\_d16-61\\_481st\\_apc\\_report.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/6_d16-61_481st_apc_report.pdf)) and the report Senate Nominating Committee ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/7\\_d16-62\\_nominating\\_report.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/7_d16-62_nominating_report.pdf)). The latter item included the appointment of Ms. Svetlana Kochkina to the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee and of Ms. Tatiana Bedjanian to the Advisory Council on the Charter of Students' Rights.

Associate Provost Campbell presented a set of proposed revisions to the Policy on Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/8\\_d16-63\\_proposed\\_revisions\\_to\\_the\\_harassment\\_policy.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/8_d16-63_proposed_revisions_to_the_harassment_policy.pdf)), which Senate approved. During the discussion of this item, Senator Gehr suggested that the next revision of the policy should consider the idea of separating Discrimination Prohibited by Law from the other two components of the policy, in view of the different nature of these two types of issues. Senate also approved the appointment of additional Assessors under the Policy on Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/9\\_d16-64\\_apointment\\_of\\_harassment\\_assessors.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/9_d16-64_apointment_of_harassment_assessors.pdf)). It is anticipated that three more Assessors will be appointed in the Fall.

Senate approved the Calendar of Academic Dates for 2020-21 and for 2021-22 ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/10\\_d16-65\\_calendar\\_of\\_academic\\_dates\\_2020-21\\_and\\_2021-22.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/10_d16-65_calendar_of_academic_dates_2020-21_and_2021-22.pdf)), which University Registrar Massey presented.

Senate received for information the biennial report on Employment Equity ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/11\\_d16-66\\_report\\_on\\_employment\\_equity.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/11_d16-66_report_on_employment_equity.pdf)), which was presented by Associate Provost Campbell). Dean Buddle presented the report of the Ad Hoc Committee to Review the Charter of Students' Rights ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/12\\_d16-67\\_report\\_of\\_the\\_ad\\_hoc\\_committee\\_to\\_review\\_the\\_charter\\_of\\_students\\_rights.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/12_d16-67_report_of_the_ad_hoc_committee_to_review_the_charter_of_students_rights.pdf)); it is expected that a final version of the revised Charter to Senate will be brought to Senate for approval during the Fall 2017 academic term.

Ms. Martine Gauthier, Senior Director, Student Services, gave a progress report on McGill's Health and Wellness Strategy ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/13\\_d16-68\\_progress\\_report\\_on\\_wellness\\_strategy.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/13_d16-68_progress_report_on_wellness_strategy.pdf)). Referring to the strategy's holistic approach to health and wellness, which aims to move beyond student mental health to a broader concept of campus health and wellness, Senator Richard noted that McGill Student Services are already operating at capacity and therefore could not take on the responsibility for health and wellness at McGill as a whole. He asked whether the contemplated campus health and wellness model would be implemented either by the creation of a new unit or by the establishment of a consortial arrangement involving existing units. Ms. Gauthier responded that these types of ideas are being contemplated.

Secretary-General Rogowska presented the annual report on the Policy on Safe Disclosure (“Whistle Blowing”) ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/14\\_d16-69\\_annual\\_report\\_policy\\_on\\_safe\\_disclosure.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/14_d16-69_annual_report_policy_on_safe_disclosure.pdf)). Senator Saroyan asked whether the low number of complaints -- just one last year -- suggests that McGill's other policies are working well. Secretary-General Rogowska noted that the Policy is in fact meant to be used as a last resort for situations which have not been resolved through other policies.

As the last two information items on the agenda, Senate received the latest report from the Board of Governors to Senate, ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/15\\_d16-70\\_board\\_report\\_to\\_senate.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/15_d16-70_board_report_to_senate.pdf)), which was presented by Mr. Ram Panda, and the Senate calendar of dates for 2017-18 ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/16\\_d16-71\\_fall-winter\\_2017-2018\\_meeting\\_dates.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/16_d16-71_fall-winter_2017-2018_meeting_dates.pdf)), which was presented by Secretary-General Rogowska.

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 Tuesday, September 19, 2017. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

Regards,  
Your librarian Senate reps,

Genevieve Gore  
Marc Richard  
Natalie Waters