

Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place on Tuesday, September 19, 2017.

The meeting began with memorial tributes being presented by Principal Fortier for Chancellor Emerita Gretta Chambers, by Dean Eidelman for Professor Zafer Ali-Khan and by Dean Ravenscroft for Professor Eleanor Stubbley.

Senate adopted the minutes of the last Senate meeting

([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/senate\\_minutes\\_may\\_15\\_2017.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/senate_minutes_may_15_2017.pdf)), the report of the Steering Committee ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/2\\_report\\_of\\_the\\_senate\\_steering\\_committee\\_6.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/2_report_of_the_senate_steering_committee_6.pdf)) and the agenda ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/1\\_agenda\\_senate\\_september\\_19\\_2017.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/1_agenda_senate_september_19_2017.pdf)).

In her remarks from the Chair, Principal Fortier expressed thanks to everyone who contributed to making this year's Orientation Week a great success. Final enrollment figures for 2017-2018 will only be known in February, but a 2% increase in student numbers is being projected; 58% of the students are female. McGill has retained its 42th place worldwide in the Times Higher Education ranking, has slipped from 63rd to 67th place in the highly volatile Academic Ranking of World Universities (also known as the Shanghai ranking), and is the top Canadian institution (in the 103rd place) in the Nature Index for Innovation.

Regarding government relations, the Principal noted that the Naylor Report, which provided a review of fundamental science, offered recommendations in two main areas: investments in fundamental science and governance (the latter including better coordination between funding agencies). The Quebec government will invest \$23M to combat sexual violence on campuses; colleges and universities will be required to adopt a sexual assault prevention policy if they have not already done so; McGill's policy was adopted in the fall of 2016. The Quebec government is also looking at a new funding policy for universities; Principal Fortier is leading McGill's presence in the working group.

The Principal announced that an Open House on Campus Planning Initiatives will take place on October 11, 12, and 13 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. under a tent on the West Field of the downtown campus; it will showcase initiatives such as the Downtown Campus Master Plan and the former Royal Victoria Hospital site redevelopment project. Principal Fortier and Deputy-Provost Dyens encouraged the McGill community to participate in the forthcoming annual Centraide campaign.

Following the Principal's comments, Senator Richard asked whether the new funding policy for universities involves revisions to the *grille de financement* or something broader. Principal Fortier responded that, in addition to revisions to the funding formula, the government is hoping to simplify the categories of student activities which affect university funding (there are currently about 200 such categories) and is hoping to attract more foreign students. Senator Hastings encouraged members of the McGill community to write to their Members of Parliament to urge them to follow up on the Naylor Report.

There were no items under the agenda point for formal written questions. Senate adopted the report of the Nominating Committee ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/4\\_d17-01\\_nominating\\_report.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/4_d17-01_nominating_report.pdf)), which was presented by Provost Manfredi; this included the appointment of Ms. Shufeng Zhou to the Senate Committee on Libraries. Senate also approved the appointment of three Assessors ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/5\\_d17-02\\_harassment\\_assessors.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/5_d17-02_harassment_assessors.pdf)) under the Policy on Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law; this item was presented by Associate Provost Campbell.

Provost Manfredi presented for information the Report of the Provost's Task Force on Indigenous Studies and Indigenous Education ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/6\\_d17-03\\_task\\_force.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/6_d17-03_task_force.pdf)) and outlined the follow-up actions which have been taken or which are planned. In the subsequent discussion period, Senator Hastings referred to item 22, which calls on the University "to establish mechanisms that provide Indigenous community representation in central organs of University governance, in particular, the Board of Governors and University Senate, and at central University ceremonies, including convocations." He wondered whether McGill should be appointing Board members on the basis of ethnic relation. Provost Manfredi responded that the Board's Nominating, Governance and Ethics Committee will be seized of the issue and will discuss it. Senator Lenetsky expressed approval of the concept of renaming the Redmen varsity teams and asked how the consultation process for this change will work. Provost Manfredi responded that he has looked at how

other universities (notably Yale) have dealt with similar renaming issues, and that he will be connecting with Senate on this matter.

Associate Provost Campbell presented for information a set of proposed revisions to the *Regulations Relating to the Employment of Contract Academic Staff*, and some associated proposals for *new Regulations Relating to Visiting Academic Appointments* and for revisions to the *Regulations on Retirement of Academic Staff* ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/7\\_d17-04\\_academic\\_policies.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/7_d17-04_academic_policies.pdf)). She thanked the MAUT working group with whom she had worked on these proposals over the past year. The proposals will come back to Senate in October for approval. Senator Harpp asked how many contract academic staff McGill has. Associate Provost Campbell responded that there are approximately 1,200 to 1,500 non-hospital contract academic staff at McGill, both ranked and unranked. Senator Hastings asked whether figures could be extracted from the annual staffing report and broken down; Professor Campbell indicated that she would look into this question.

Provost Manfredi presented a Progress Report on Sustainability Initiatives at McGill ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/8\\_d17-05\\_progress\\_report\\_on\\_sustainability\\_initiatives\\_at\\_mcgill.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/8_d17-05_progress_report_on_sustainability_initiatives_at_mcgill.pdf)). Senator Mikkelson commented on the fact that the document says nothing about divestment, even though it arises from the 2016 CAMSR Report on Divestment; he also asked how McGill professors can be induced to fly less. Provost Manfredi concurred that getting people to change their behaviour is desirable, and Vice-Principal Beauchamp noted in relation to Vision Travel that payments made with the BMO Virtual Card give rebates which can be used to provide carbon offsets.

Senate received for information the annual report on the Policy on Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/9\\_d17-06\\_harassment\\_policy\\_annual\\_report.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/9_d17-06_harassment_policy_annual_report.pdf)), which was presented by Associate Provost Campbell; the annual report of the Committee on Student Services ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/10\\_d17-07\\_annual\\_report\\_of\\_the\\_css.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/10_d17-07_annual_report_of_the_css.pdf)), which was presented by Deputy-Provost Dyens; and the annual report of the Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/11\\_d17-08\\_jbsce\\_annual\\_report.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/11_d17-08_jbsce_annual_report.pdf)), which was presented by Associate Provost Campbell.

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, October 25, 2017. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

Regards,  
Your librarian Senate reps,

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