

Senate Meeting Report, 2017-11-23

Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place on Thursday, November 23, 2017.

The meeting began with Senate adopting the minutes of the last Senate meeting (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/senate_minutes_oct._25_2017.pdf), the report of the Steering Committee (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/2._report_of_the_senate_steering_committee_22.pdf) and the agenda (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/1._senate_agenda_nov._23_2017.pdf).

In her comments from the Chair, Principal Fortier provided an update on the Principal's Task Force on Respect and Inclusion in Campus Life, which is co-chaired by Dean Lennox and Professor Ramanujam, and on the investigation on allegations of anti-Semitism which is being conducted by the former Ombudsperson for Students, Dr. Spencer Boudreau. Regarding government relations, the Principal has met Mayor Valérie Plante, and is planning for a future one-on-one meeting with her. The Principal noted the introduction of two bills in the *Assemblée nationale*: Bill 157 (which pertains to the enactment of the Cannabis Regulation Act, and regarding which the *Bureau de coopération interuniversitaire* has submitted comments) and Bill 151 (which is aimed at preventing and fighting sexual violence in higher education institutions).

Under the agenda point for written questions and motions, Senators Wali and Oke presented a written motion regarding Bill 62 ("*An Act to foster adherence to State religious neutrality and, in particular, to provide a framework for requests for accommodations on religious grounds in certain bodies*"), which was adopted in October by the the *Assemblée nationale*. The motion (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/4._motion_regarding_bill_62_-_revised.pdf) was approved by Senate.

The next agenda item was an open discussion on experiential learning, for which a set of background documentation was provided ahead of the meeting (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/5._d17-21_open_discussion_on_experiential_learning.pdf). The 483rd report of the Academic Policy Committee (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/6._d17-22-483rd_apc_report_to_senate.pdf) was presented by Provost Manfredi for information; none of the items in the report required Senate approval.

Senate endorsed a one-year extension (to December 2018) of McGill's Strategic Research Plan (SRP) 2013-2017 (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/7._d17-23_srp_extension_-_senate_final.pdf). A new SRP will be developed by V.-P. Crago through a process involving collaboration with faculties and consultation with the University community. V.-P. Beauchamp and Mr. François Miller, Sustainability Director, Office of Sustainability, presented the Climate and Sustainability Action Plan for 2017-2020 (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/8._d17-24_climate_and_sustainability_action_plan.pdf).

Provost Manfredi presented a report on the "McGill context" prepared by Associate Provost Campbell and Dean Buddle (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/9._d17-25_mcgill_context.pdf). The report relates to section 10 of McGill's Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures ("the Code"), which deals with situations which occur "on property owned or occupied by the University, or in a University context". The goal of the review was to help arrive at a clearer, implementable definition of this University context, i.e. to inform revisions to the Code in order to clarify the scope of the University's disciplinary jurisdiction over cases where an incident occurring off-campus has ramifications that adversely affect the security or academic success of members of the McGill community. The proposals in the report would not create new offenses within the Code; they deal with the circumstances under which the University might take disciplinary jurisdiction over a matter. Even where the University takes such jurisdiction, this would not mean that a disciplinary offence has occurred; this can only be determined pursuant to an investigation (and, in some cases, a hearing) to assess the available evidence, all of which must accord with procedural fairness.

Deputy Provost Dyens and Ms. Martine Gauthier, Senior Director, Student Services, presented a verbal progress report on the McGill Wellness Strategy. Professor Dyens also presented the annual report of the Committee on Enrolment and Student Affairs for 2016-2017 (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/12._d17-28_cesa.pdf).

Dean Buddle presented the annual report of the Committee on Student Discipline for 2016-2017 (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/10.d17-26_csd_annual_report_2016-17_0.pdf). Dr. Cameron Charlebois, Executive Director, Campus Planning and Development, presented the annual report of the Senate Committee on Physical Development for 2016-2017 (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/11.d17-27_scpd_annual_report_2016-17_0.pdf). Principal Fortier then presented the report of the joint Board-Senate meeting which was held on November 15, 2017, and whose topic was "Building stronger communities and citizenship through mentorship" (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/13.d17-29_joint_board-senate_report.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 Wednesday, December 6, 2017. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

Regards,
Your librarian Senate reps,

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