

Senate Meeting Report, 2017-12-06

Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place on Wednesday, December 6, 2017.

The meeting began with Senator Zorychta presenting a memorial tribute for Professor Winston Purdy. Senate adopted the minutes of the last Senate meeting (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/senate_minutes_nov.23.2017.pdf), the report of the Steering Committee (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/2_report_of_the_senate_steering_committee_23.pdf) and the agenda (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/1_agenda_senate_dec.6.2017.pdf).

Principal Fortier opened her remarks from the Chair by noting that today is the anniversary of the École Polytechnique tragedy and that the date has been established as the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women; Senate observed a moment of silence in commemoration. The Principal indicated that Bill 151, *An Act to prevent and fight sexual violence in higher education institutions*, is moving through the *Assemblée nationale* at a rapid pace and that its adoption is expected in the near future. Principal Fortier and Deputy Provost Dyens reported that the McGill Centraide campaign will be ending on December 15; indications are that this year's campaign target will be met.

V.-P. Beauchamp and Associate V.-P. Tinmouth presented the annual report on the financial state of the University (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/4_d17-31_financial_state_of_the_university_0.pdf). Senator Saroyan noted that some of the tables (such as the table for tenure-track academic staff) present data for multiple years, while other tables (such as the table for administrative and support staff) only present data for a single year. She suggested that the tables for all staff groups should have a comparable multi-year span. Regarding the *Plan de redressement* which McGill must file by December 31, 2017 to demonstrate a return to balanced budget over the next three to five years, Senator Richard asked whether Quebec's other universities are required to file similar plans. V.-P. Beauchamp responded that such plans are automatically required when a university is running an operating deficit; he added that the requirement does not pertain to a university's accumulated debt.

Senator Maciasz noted that the largest figure in the table for Combined Other Non-Salary Expenses is the figure for meals and entertainment; she asked that more details be provided in future about these expenses. Principal Fortier noted that some of these expenses relate to events celebrating major donations being made to the University. Senator Oke asked whether an estimate is available regarding the financial impact the forthcoming review of the pay equity maintenance exercises for 2010 and 2015. V.-P. Beauchamp responded that a figure cannot be estimated at this time; the eventual figure will depend on the settlement which is reached.

Provost Manfredi presented the first of this year's projected reports to Senate on the budget planning process for 2018-2019 (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/5_d17-32_budget_planning_report_i.pdf). He also presented the report of the Senate Nominating Committee (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/6_d17-33_nominating_report.pdf), which was adopted.

The last item of business was the annual report of the Senate Committee on Libraries (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/8_d17-34_committee_on_libraries_revised.pdf), which was presented by Associate Provost McClure. Senator Wali expressed appreciation on behalf of the students for the Library initiatives which have focused on promoting student wellness.

The next Senate meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 17, 2018. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

Regards,
Your librarian Senate reps,

Genevieve Gore
Marc Richard
Natalie Waters