

Senate Meeting Report, 2018-01-17

Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place on Wednesday, January 17, 2018.

The meeting began with memorial tributes being presented by Senator Panda for Emeritus Professor Eric Adler, by Senator Gold for Emeritus Professor John Durnford and by Senator Eidelman for Emeritus Professor Abby Lippman.

Senate adopted the minutes of the last Senate meeting

(http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/senate_minutes_dec_6_2017.pdf), the report of the Steering Committee (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/2_report_of_the_senate_steering_committee_24.pdf) and the agenda (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/1_agenda_senate_jan_17_2018.pdf).

In her comments from the Chair, Principal Fortier reported that a good deal of work was done over the past year on the project to revise the government's *grille de financement*, which is used for the allocation of funding to Quebec universities. One of the government's objectives is to simplify the grid, which currently has some 540 elements. The working group has now invited all Quebec universities to look at the preliminary results of the revision project and to provide input. The Principal also informed Senate that she will be taking part in the upcoming World Economic Forum in Davos.

Provost Manfredi presented the 484th report of the Academic Policy Committee

(http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/4_d17-36_484th_apc_report_to_senate.pdf), which was adopted. Senate also approved the report of the Senate Nominating Committee (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/5_d17-37_nominating_report.pdf), which recommended the appointment of Mr. David Curtis to the Senate Committee on Libraries.

Associate Provost Campbell presented for approval a set of proposed revisions to the Regulations Relating to the Employment of Contract Academic Staff (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/6_d17-38_cas_regs_post-retirement_addition.pdf). Regarding the new "post-retirement" nil salary appointment designation, which can be of a duration of up to three years and which could be used for tenured professors who seek to complete graduate supervisory and/or research work following their retirement, Senator Oke asked whether someone could obtain more than one such appointment. Associate Provost Campbell responded that she does not foresee such a designation being used more than once for someone; this can be understood from the text, which refers to "newly-retired" academic staff, though it is not explicitly stated. The proposed revisions were adopted.

Senate gave final approval to the terms of reference for the Faculty of Medicine Faculty Council

(http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/7_d17-39_faculty_of_medicine_faculty_council.pdf), which were provisionally approved by Senate in April 2015. A review of the terms of reference was undertaken by the Faculty Council within two years of this initial approval, and no revisions were deemed necessary at this time.

Secretary-General Rogowska presented a notice of motion for a proposal to amend article 6.1.1 of the Statutes to include the Associate Provost (Equity and Academic Policies) as an ex officio member of Senate. Senator Hastings requested that the proposal, when it is brought to Senate for approval at a later meeting, be accompanied by expanded background information, including a list of the current Senate seats. He also asked why this change is being proposed outside of the normal cycle which is prescribed for the periodic review of the composition of Senate. The Secretary-General responded that the proposal is being made at this time for practical reasons, in order to deal with an issue which was not addressed fully during the last review. Senator Saroyan raised the concept of the President of MAUT being made an ex officio member of Senate.

Senator Richard noted that article 6.1.1 of the Statutes, which contains an obsolete reference to one elected member from the Faculty of Religious Studies, gives the misleading impression that there are currently 57 elected members of the academic and librarian staff on Senate rather than 56. He asked the Secretariat to verify these numbers, because adding an ex officio seat for the Associate Provost (Equity and Academic Policies) would raise the Senate membership from 111 to 112. If there are indeed 56 elected academic seats on Senate rather than 57, raising the number of Senate seats to 112 would contravene the principle (stated in the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to Review the Composition of Senate, which was presented to Senate at its meeting of May 2012 (

[66 ad hoc committee to review the composition of senate report.pdf](#)) that elected academic and librarian staff have traditionally had, and should continue to have, a majority on Senate.

V.-P. Crago presented for information the 2017 annual report on Research and Innovation (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/9_d17-41_report_on_research_and_innovation_2017.pdf). As the final agenda item, Ms. Tina Hobday, Representative of the Board of Governors to Senate, presented the report from the Board of Governors to Senate (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/10_d17-42_board_report_to_senate_january_2018.pdf).

The next Senate meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 21, 2018. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

Regards,
Your librarian Senate reps,

Genevieve Gore
Marc Richard
Natalie Waters