

Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place on Wednesday, March 28, 2018.

The meeting began with Dean Eidelman presenting a memorial tribute for Professor Hervé Le Moual. Senate adopted the minutes of the last Senate meeting (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/senate_final_minutes_feb.21_2018.pdf), the report of the Steering Committee (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/2_report_of_the_steering_committee.pdf) and the agenda (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/1_senate_agenda_march_28_2018.pdf).

In her comments from the Chair, Principal Fortier discussed the federal budget of February 27 and the Quebec budget of March 27, both of which included welcome news. The federal budget follows broadly the recommendations in the 2017 final report of the Advisory Panel for Federal Support for Fundamental Science Report (also known as the Naylor Report); Principal Fortier extended her thanks to everyone who worked hard to make the case for this investment in research. The measures announced included the following items: the three federal granting councils will receive an additional \$925 million in funding over the next five years, with the new allocation increasing over time; the Canada Research Chairs (CRC) Program will receive an additional \$210 million over five years; and the Canada Foundation for Innovation will receive \$763 million over five years, with a promise to establish a permanent level of funding at \$462 million per year by 2023-24. On the provincial side, spending on universities increased by \$173 million, of which some \$25.5 million is attributable to growth in student complement; the remaining \$148 million is cumulative of new commitments made in 2017 and 2018. Roughly 80% of this \$148 million will be allocated as additional general funding to the universities, with the rest divided equally between paid student internships and the government's new overall digital strategy. The Quebec budget also signaled an additional \$20 million investment in the three Quebec funding councils (with each council receiving between \$6.4 and \$6.9 million). Additionally, the budget provides an incremental investment for maintenance of Quebec's higher education infrastructure of \$1.1 billion over the next ten years.

Under the agenda point for formal questions, Senators Lenetsky and Youssef posed a question concerning the administration of course registration restrictions; the response was provided by Senator Anna Walsh, Interim University Registrar (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/senate_question_and_response_re_administration_of_course_registration_restrictions.pdf).

Provost Manfredi presented the 486th report of the Academic Policy Committee (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/5_d17-51_486th_apc_report_0.pdf), which included a proposal to create the Bensadoun School of Retail Management. Senator Richard noted that the School's governance structure will include an Advisory Board, and that one of the Board's members will be Dr. Aldo Bensadoun, who provided a major donation for the creation of the School; he asked whether the Board would be operating at arm's length from the School and whether the Board would be able to decide or influence matters such as the hiring or dismissal of academic staff. Provost Manfredi and Dean Bajeux-Besnainou responded that the Board would be acting completely at arm's length, and Dean Bajeux-Besnainou further noted that all the academic processes of the School would function in the same way as they do elsewhere at McGill. The APC report was approved.

The Provost next presented for information this year's second report to Senate on budget planning for 2018-2019 (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/6_d17-52_budget_planning_2018-2019_report_ii.pdf). He indicated that the Quebec government's new funding grid will come into force on May 1st; McGill has some indications of what it will contain. Provost Manfredi noted that because of McGill's large size and the diversity of its programs, grid changes which would translate into funding decreases in some areas might be compensated by increases in other areas. He also noted that McGill, unlike some Quebec universities, does not budget strictly according to the grid; instead, it makes strategic budgeting decisions, and these provide us with a degree of resilience. Senator Robaire asked where McGill was situated relative to other Quebec universities in terms of its deficit; the Provost responded that we are approximately in the middle of the group.

Senate next approved a proposal, presented by Dean Buddle, to repeal the Policy on Text-Matching Software (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/7_d17-53_repeal_text-matching_policy.pdf).

Senate received for information a report on the McGill University Student Wellness Plan (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/8_d17-54_wellness_strategy.pdf), which was presented by Provost Manfredi,

Deputy-Provost Dyens, and Ms. Martine Gauthier, Senior Director, Student Services. A status report on the work of the Principal's Task Force on Respect and Inclusion in Campus Life (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/9._d17-55_task_force_respect_and_inclusion_status_report.pdf) was presented by the Task Force's Co-Chairs, Professors Bruce Lennox and Nandini Ramanujam.

Three annual reports for 2016-2017 were presented for Senate's information: the report on Scholarships and Student Aid, presented by Deputy Provost Dyens (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/10._d17-56_scholarships_and_student_aid_annual_report.pdf); the report from Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, presented by Dean Nalbantoglu (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/11._d17-57_gps_annual_report_1.pdf); and the report on Enrolment and Strategic Enrolment Management, presented by Deputy Provost Dyens and Senator Anna Walsh, Interim University Registrar (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/12._d17-58_enrolment_and_sem_annual_report.pdf). This was followed by the report from the Board of Governors to Senate, which was presented by Senator Gael Eakin, Representative of the Board of Governors to Senate (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/13._d17-59_report_from_bog_to_senate.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 Thursday, April 19, 2018. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

Regards,
Your librarian Senate reps,

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