

Senate Meeting Report, 2018-09-12

Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place on Wednesday, September 12, 2018.

The meeting began with congratulations being offered by Dean Lennox, on behalf of Senate and the Faculty of Science, to Principal Fortier for her recent appointment as an Officer of the Order of Canada. Memorial tributes were presented by Dean Lennox for Professor Emerita Virginia Douglas and by Dean Cook for Librarian Emerita Anastassia Khouri-Frankman.

Senate adopted the minutes of the last Senate meeting ([https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/senate\\_final\\_minutes\\_may\\_16\\_2018.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/senate_final_minutes_may_16_2018.pdf)), part 1 of the report of the Steering Committee ([https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/2\\_report\\_of\\_the\\_steering\\_committee\\_0.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/2_report_of_the_steering_committee_0.pdf)) and the agenda ([https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/1\\_agenda\\_senate\\_sept\\_12\\_2018.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/1_agenda_senate_sept_12_2018.pdf)).

In her remarks from the Chair, Principal Fortier thanked everyone who worked to make Orientation Week a great success. She addressed the subject of the recent diplomatic incident involving Saudi Arabia and Canada which led to the recall of Saudi Arabian students, including many medical residents and fellows; everyone is relieved by the subsequent reversal of the decision.

This year's Shanghai ranking of universities has been released; McGill is ranked 70th in the world, as opposed to 67th last year. Other rankings are expected to be published soon. Principal Fortier cautioned as usual that these rankings have limitations. The Principal indicated that some thirty students have already registered for the new Bachelor of Education First Nations and Inuit Education program to be given in the Mohawk community of Kahnawà:ke, whose launch by the community and McGill was announced in August.

The Final Report of the Task Force on Inclusion and Respect in Campus Life was released to the McGill community on May 16. It was read by all the members of the senior administration over the summer; events and venues for broader discussions and consultations involving all the members of the community are being planned. The Principal and Secretary-General Rogowska announced that the kick-off of this year's Centraide campaign will be on October 4.

The following agenda item was the presentation by Principal Fortier of part 2 of the report of the Steering Committee ([https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/2\\_report\\_of\\_the\\_steering\\_committee\\_0.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/2_report_of_the_steering_committee_0.pdf)), which dealt with the Committee's review of the motion submitted by Senator Mikkelson on the topic of divestment from fossil fuel. Steering discussed the motion thoroughly at its April and May meetings; it could not come to a decision on whether the motion was appropriate in the context of Senate's academic mandate, but it did come to an agreement that the whole of Senate should express its view on the following question: *Given the division of responsibility set for the Board of Governors and the Senate by the Statutes, does Senate, in the context of its academic mandate, think it necessary or desirable to express an opinion on a matter that has been considered by the Board in line with its authority and based on processes and mechanisms that it has established?*

The question, which was framed as motion for Senate's consideration, was debated and eventually amended by Senate at the request of Senator Gold, who felt that the original formulation was too vague; the amended version, making specific reference to the divestment motion, was voted on and adopted.

Senate then debated the next agenda item, which was the divestment motion itself ([https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/3\\_d17-68\\_senate\\_motion\\_regarding\\_divestment\\_from\\_fossil\\_fuel.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/3_d17-68_senate_motion_regarding_divestment_from_fossil_fuel.pdf)). Senate eventually adopted a proposal to amend the motion to read, "Be it resolved that Senate informs the Board of Governors, through the Principal, that it favours, in principle, a move to divest the endowment from all companies whose primary business is the extraction, distribution, and/or sale of fossil fuels; and from all mutual funds that invest in such companies." The amended motion was voted on and adopted.

Senate approved the report of the Senate Nominating Committee ([https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/4\\_d18-01\\_nominating\\_report.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/4_d18-01_nominating_report.pdf)), which was presented by Provost Manfredi.

As its final items of business, Senate received for information the Annual Report on the Policy on Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law ([https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/6.\\_d18-02\\_harassment\\_report\\_revised.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/6._d18-02_harassment_report_revised.pdf)) and the Annual Report of the Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity ([https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d18-04\\_jbsce\\_annual\\_report\\_2.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d18-04_jbsce_annual_report_2.pdf)), both of which were presented by Associate Provost Campbell, and the Annual Report of the Committee on Student Services ([https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/7.\\_d18-03\\_css\\_annual\\_report.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/7._d18-03_css_annual_report.pdf)), which was presented by Interim Deputy Provost Labeau.

The next Senate meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 24, 2018. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

Regards,  
Your librarian Senate reps,

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