

Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place on Wednesday, December 5, 2018.

Senate adopted the minutes of the last Senate meeting

([https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/senate\\_minutes\\_final\\_nov.21\\_2018.pdf](https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/senate_minutes_final_nov.21_2018.pdf)), the report of the Steering Committee ([https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/2\\_report\\_of\\_the\\_senate\\_steering\\_committee\\_29.pdf](https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/2_report_of_the_senate_steering_committee_29.pdf)) and the agenda ([https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/1\\_senate\\_agenda\\_dec.5\\_2018.pdf](https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/1_senate_agenda_dec.5_2018.pdf)). As a point of business arising from the minutes of the last meeting, Secretary-General Rogowska noted that the revised *Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures* is expected to be presented to Senate for adoption in January 2019 rather than at today's meeting, in order to allow adequate time for consideration of the feedback received from Senators.

In her comments from the Chair, Principal Fortier reported that she and Vice-Principals Arseneault and Beauchamp recently met Quebec's new Minister of Finance, Eric Girard. The meeting was a good and cordial one, and McGill's points were well received. Secretary-General Rogowska provided an update on the Centraide campaign, indicating that about 70% of this year's target has thus far been reached.

The annual report on the financial state of the University ([https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/4\\_d18-23\\_financial\\_state\\_of\\_the\\_university.pdf](https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/4_d18-23_financial_state_of_the_university.pdf)) was presented by V.-P. Beauchamp. This was followed by the first of three projected reports to Senate this year on budget planning for 2019-2020 ([https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/5\\_d18-24\\_budget\\_planning\\_report\\_i.pdf](https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/5_d18-24_budget_planning_report_i.pdf)), which was presented by Provost Manfredi.

Senate approved the report of the Senate Nominating Committee ([https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/6\\_d18-25\\_nominating\\_report.pdf](https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/6_d18-25_nominating_report.pdf)), which was presented by the Provost, and the appointment of two new Assessors under the *Policy on Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law* ([https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/7\\_d18-26\\_appointment\\_of\\_harassment\\_assessors.pdf](https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/7_d18-26_appointment_of_harassment_assessors.pdf)), which was presented by Associate Provost Campbell. Senate also approved the consolidation of the *Sustainability Policy* (2010) and the *Environmental Policy* (2002) into a single revised version of the *Sustainability Policy* ([https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/8\\_d18-27\\_consolidation\\_sustainability\\_and\\_environmental\\_policy.pdf](https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/8_d18-27_consolidation_sustainability_and_environmental_policy.pdf)). During his presentation of this item, V.P. Beauchamp noted that an additional objective, 2.1.1.J, will be part of the policy; it will pertain to the aim of being in conformity with international declarations to which McGill is a signatory.

The report of the Ad Hoc Senate Committee on Teaching Staff-Student Intimate Relationships ([https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/9\\_d18-28\\_ad\\_hoc\\_committee\\_report.pdf](https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/9_d18-28_ad_hoc_committee_report.pdf)) was presented for information by Ms. Julie Lassonde, Senior Equity and Inclusion Officer and Chair of the Ad Hoc Senate Committee. Prior to opening the floor for discussion, Principal Fortier noted that any recommendations for policy changes arising from the report would go through the usual governance approval channels, such as the Academic Policy Committee (APC).

Senator Buraga asked how decisions were made within the Ad Hoc Committee. Ms. Lassonde responded that each Committee member would need to agree with what was in the report, and that the Committee gradually worked towards this during the course of its activities; this required compromise. The Committee did not need to get to a vote. Senator Wilson stated that the student members of the Committee advocated for a full ban on relationships between teaching staff and students, and asked why the report did not recommend such a ban. Ms. Lassonde indicated that the Committee had heard a variety of views on this subject from the McGill community and that the Committee had not reached a consensus on a full ban. Senator Dunn noted that an article in the current issue of the *McGill Tribune* offers a contrary view regarding consensus within the Committee. Ms. Lassonde responded that she had not gotten an expression of specific disagreement or a request for a minority report.

Associate Provost Campbell remarked that this issue is a difficult and important one, and added that a recent review by Concordia University of its own policies had concluded that a full ban was not legally possible. She expressed the view that consensus does not mean the lowest common denominator, but rather something that everyone can buy into. She drew attention to the fact that the report is for information, and that a large committee on which students have a strong presence is currently reviewing the *Policy Against Sexual Violence*. Senator Zuberi commented that the report focuses on teaching staff and does not mention employees in other categories, including those who work with students; he wondered if staff in non-teaching categories should be included. On this point, Senator Richard noted that Bill 151, *An Act to*

*Prevent and Fight Sexual Violence in Higher Education Institutions*, applies beyond teaching staff; it states that an institution's policy to prevent and fight sexual violence "must also include a code of conduct specifying the rules that a person who is in a teaching relationship with or a relationship of authority over a student must comply with if the person has an intimate relationship, such as an amorous or sexual relationship, with the student."

The last item on the agenda was the annual report of the Senate Committee on Libraries (2017-2018), which was presented by Associate Provost Oxhorn (<https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/10. d18-29 libraries annual report.pdf>). Senator Buraga asked a question pertaining to the projected timeline of the Fiat Lux Building Project; Dean Cook responded that current plans are for the doors to open about five to six years from now.

The next Senate meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 16, 2019. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

Regards,  
Your librarian Senate reps,

Tatiana Bedjanian  
Marc Richard  
Natalie Waters