

Senate Meeting Report, 2019-02-20

Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place on Wednesday, February 20, 2019.

The meeting began with Dean Eidelman presenting a memorial tribute for Professor Edward Arthur Meighen and Dean Ravenscroft presenting a memorial tribute for Professor Daryl Robert Gibson.

Senate adopted the minutes of the last Senate meeting

(https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/final_senate_minutes_jan_16_2019.pdf), the report of the Steering Committee (https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/2_report_of_the_senate_steering_committee_31.pdf) and the agenda (https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/1_senate_agenda_feb_20_2019.pdf).

In her comments from the Chair, Principal Fortier outlined her email of January 30, 2019, to the McGill community on next steps regarding the name of the men's varsity teams. She will communicate by the end of this academic term her decision regarding whether to change the Redmen name. The Principal invited Senators who wish to state their views on this matter to contact her office or the Secretariat to arrange to do so. Pre-budget meetings have been held with the Quebec Premier and with the Ministers of Finance and of Education. The government has indicated that education is its number one priority; the case was made to the government that all the levels of the educational system are important and that universities should not be forgotten. A historic gift of \$200 million to McGill was announced on February 13; it will establish the McCall MacBain Scholarships for outstanding graduate students.

Under the agenda point for formal questions, Senators Shor, Wilson and Mikkelson submitted a question regarding Board-Senate collaboration on divestment, which was answered by Secretary-General Rogowska

(https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/question_and_response_re_board-senate_collaboration_on_divestment.pdf), and Senators Wilson and Buraga submitted a question regarding Senate Steering Committee documents, which was likewise answered by the Secretary-General

(https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/question_and_response_re_steering_document_confidentiality.pdf).

Senate adopted the 490th report of the Academic Policy Committee (https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/5_d18-41_490th_apc_report.pdf).

The next agenda item concerned proposed revisions to the *Policy against Sexual Violence*

(https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/6_d18-42_policy_against_sexual_violence_revisions.pdf). The two items in the package -- the draft of the revised Policy itself (Appendix A) and a new set of Procedures for the Investigation of Reports of Sexual Violence (Appendix B) -- were presented for information by Associate Provost Campbell; it is planned that the Policy will return to Senate in March for approval. Senator Larson asked whether graduate students, acting either as invigilators or as informal supervisors of other students, would be regarded as teaching staff; Professor Campbell responded that the Policy applies to all members of the University community, regardless of status.

Associate Provost Campbell also presented for information proposed revisions to the *Policy on Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law* (https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/7_d18-43_harassment_policy_revisions.pdf). The changes are relatively minor; notably, they involve the removal of references to sexual harassment from the Policy, given that sexual harassment will be dealt with under the revised *Policy against Sexual Violence*. The revisions are scheduled to return to Senate in March for approval.

Provost Manfredi and Mr. Kakwiranó:ron Cook, Special Advisor, Indigenous Initiatives, presented an update

(https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/8_d18-44_update_on_calls_to_action_-_indigenous_task_force.pdf) on responses to the Calls to Action of the *Report of the Provost's Task Force on Indigenous Studies and Indigenous Education*. Professor Dimitrios Berk, Ombudsperson for Students, presented the annual report of the Ombudsperson for Students for 2017-2018 (https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/10_d18-46_ombudsperson_report.pdf).

A presentation of the McGill University Staffing Report for 2017-2018 (https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/9_d18-45_staffing_report.pdf) was scheduled for the February meeting of Senate, but on a motion from Senator Robaire this item was tabled until the March meeting to allow more time for questions.

The next Senate meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 27, 2019. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

Regards,
Your librarian Senate reps,

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