

Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place on Wednesday, April 17, 2019.

Senate adopted the minutes of the last Senate meeting (https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/final_senate_minutes_march_27_2019.pdf), the report of the Steering Committee (https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/02_report_of_the_senate_steering_committee.pdf) and the agenda (https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/01_senate_agenda_april_17_2019.pdf).

In her comments from the Chair, Principal Fortier discussed her decision, which was announced to the McGill community last week, to discontinue the use of the Redmen name for McGill's men varsity teams. A consultative process for choosing a new name is being set up under Deputy-Provost Labeau; the details of the process will be communicated in the months ahead.

Under the agenda point for formal questions, Senators Huang, Shapiro and Zuberi posed a question regarding support for students and alumni in light of Bill 21; the response was provided by Provost Manfredi (https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/question_and_response_re_bill_21.pdf).

Senate held its second Open Discussion of the academic year, on the the topic of The Future of the Master's Degree. Background information was provided in this document: https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/05_d18-55_open_discussion.pdf.

The annual report from Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies for 2017-2018 was presented by Dean Nalbantoglu (https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/06_d18-56_gps_annual_report.pdf).

Provost Manfredi presented a report on the University budget for 2019-2020 (https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/07_d18-57_budget_presentation.pdf). Due in part to changes in the provincial funding formula for universities, McGill is on track to finish the current fiscal year with a nearly balanced budget rather than with the larger deficit which had been projected: the current forecast for the deficit is \$0.6M, in contrast with the FY2019 budgeted deficit of \$15.4M.

A report on the University Master Plan was presented by Provost Manfredi, V.-P. Beauchamp and Dr. Cameron Charlebois, Executive Director, Campus Planning and Development (https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/08_d18-58_university_master_plan.pdf). The report includes a link to the draft Master Plan document itself (https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/mcgill_university_master_plan_reduced.pdf). Several major new development projects may serve as triggers for the reassessment and potential repurposing of nearby existing buildings and for the improvement of the surrounding open spaces; these trigger projects include Fiat Lux (a new vision for the Library); Wilson Hall (to accommodate repatriated Arts departments); Sustainability Systems and Public Policy at 687 Pine (the RVH site); a new Research and Teaching Pavilion on the Powell site; and two developments at the Macdonald Campus: a new Research and Innovation Pavilion and a new facility for Athletics.

Provost Manfredi presented the 492nd report of the Academic Policy Committee (https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/09_d18-59_492_apc_report.pdf), which was approved. Regarding the proposal to establish a Diploma in Commercial Cannabis at the Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, it was noted that the proposal refers to the ethical, medical and legal aspects of the commercial cannabis industry, but makes no mention of any consultations with the Faculty of Medicine or the Faculty of Law, and does not indicate where the program will find its teaching staff. Provost Manfredi indicated that the program will be self-funded.

Senate approved the report of the Senate Nominating Committee (https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/10_d18-60_nominating_report.pdf). Senate received and endorsed the report of the Committee on the Rights of Senate on an alleged breach of Senate confidentiality relating to a motion from the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee which was presented to Senate on October 24, 2018 in confidential session (https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/11_d18-61_committee_on_the_rights_of_senate.pdf).

Senate received for information the annual report on Scholarships and Student Aid for 2017-2018, which was presented by Deputy Provost Labeau (https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/12_d18-62_scholarships_and_student_aid.pdf). Principal Fortier presented for information the report of the Joint Senate Steering and Board Executive Committees meeting (https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/13_d18-63_report_of_the_joint_executive-steering_meeting.pdf), which recommends the following topic for the 2019 Joint Board-Senate meeting to be held on November 14, 2019: How Can McGill be a Model of an Open and Connected University?

As the final item of business, Secretary-General Rogowska presented the Senate Calendar of Dates for 2019-2020 (<https://mcgill.ca/senate/senate-2018-2019/senate-meeting-documents-2018-2019/april-17-2019>).

The next Senate meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 15, 2019. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

Regards,
Your librarian Senate reps,

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