

Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place on Wednesday, February 19, 2020.

The meeting began with memorial tributes being presented by Dean Eidelman for Professor Kenneth Morgan and by Dean Lennox for Professor Ronald Melzack. Senate adopted the minutes of the last Senate meeting (https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/final_senate_minutes_jan.15.2020.pdf), the report of the Steering Committee (https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/02_report_of_the_senate_steering_committee_2.pdf) and the agenda (https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/01_senate_agenda_feb.19.2020.pdf).

In her remarks from the Chair, Principal Fortier indicated that McGill is monitoring closely the situation relating to COVID-19. Public health officials currently assess the public risk in Canada as being low. On the topic of government relations, the Principal noted that the next Quebec budget is expected to be tabled on March 10; the Bureau de coopération interuniversitaire has been discussing with the government the need for significant new funding for Quebec universities. No date has yet been announced for the next federal budget, but it is expected to be later than usual. This year's McGill24 fundraising event will take place on March 11th. The Board of Governors recently approved the reappointment of Dean Nalbantoglu (Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies) for a five-year term ending on June 30, 2025, and the extension for an extra two years of the term of Dean Cook (Libraries) until August 31, 2022.

Under the agenda point for formal questions, a question regarding the University Student Assessment Policy was submitted by Senator Mecabô; the answer was provided by Deputy Provost Labeau (https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/04_qa_-_student_assessment_policy.pdf).

Associate Provost Campbell presented for information the report of the Provost's Working Group on Salary Equity (https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/05_d19-32_ase_working_group_report.pdf). Senate adopted the 497th report of the Academic Policy Committee, which was also presented by Professor Campbell. The approved APC report (https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/06_d19-33_497th_apc_report.pdf) included a motion to create the proposed School of Biomedical Sciences, to create the proposed School of Medicine, and to rename the Faculty of Medicine to the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences. Senator Robaire suggested that the impact of these changes be reviewed within three years, with a report on the review being presented to Senate; Professor Campbell indicated that this suggestion will be taken back to APC.

Also adopted as part of the APC report was a motion to approve a proposed Cumulative or Stackable Master's as a new pathway towards acquiring an existing Master's Degree, allowing a number of graduate certificates in a given discipline to accumulate 45 credits. This would give better access to higher education to clientele that would not necessarily consider pursuing graduate studies, and would be attractive for working professionals seeking additional credentials.

Associate Provost Campbell presented the report of the Senate Nominating Committee (https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/07_d19-34_nominating_report.pdf), which was adopted. This included a proposal to revise the terms of reference of APC, whereby the committee's Vice-Chair would be the Associate Provost (Teaching & Academic Programs) rather than the Associate Provost (Policies, Procedures and Equity) as is currently the case.

Deputy Provost Labeau presented an update (https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/08_d19-35_naming_committee_memo.pdf) on the process to rename the McGill Men's Varsity Teams. In response to a question from Senator Richard, Deputy Provost Labeau indicated that two potential date ranges are being contemplated for the announcement of the name eventually chosen: either by the end of the current semester, or sometime during the summer prior to the start of the 2020-2021 sports season.

Four annual reports were presented for information:

- Enrolment and Strategic Enrolment Management (2019-20), presented by Deputy Provost Fabrice Labeau (https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/09_d19-36_sem_report.pdf);

- Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (2019), presented by Dean Nalbantoglu (https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/10_d19-37_gps_annual_report.pdf);

- Ombudsperson for Students (2018-19), presented by Professor Dimitrios Berk (https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/11_d19-38_ombudsperson_report.pdf);

- Advisory Council on the Charter of Students' Rights (2018-19), presented by Professor Ada Sinacore (https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/12_d19-30_advisory_council_annual_report.pdf).

As the final agenda item, Secretary-General Rogowska presented for information the Senate Calendar of Dates for 2020-2021 (https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/13_d19-39_senate_meeting_dates_2020-2021.pdf).

The next Senate meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 25, 2020. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

Regards,
Your librarian Senate reps,
Tatiana Bedjanian
Marc Richard
Natalie Waters