

Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place remotely on Tuesday, September 22, 2020.

The meeting began with Dean Eidelman presenting a memorial tribute for Dr. Hugues Barbeau. Senate adopted the minutes of the last Senate meeting ([https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/final\\_senate\\_minutes\\_may\\_13\\_2020.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/final_senate_minutes_may_13_2020.pdf)), the report of the Steering Committee ([https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/02\\_steering\\_report.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/02_steering_report.pdf)) and the agenda ([https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/01\\_senate\\_agenda\\_sept\\_22\\_2020\\_-\\_web.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/01_senate_agenda_sept_22_2020_-_web.pdf)).

In her remarks from the Chair, Principal Fortier thanked everyone who has been working hard over the summer to prepare for the fall semester under the present unusual circumstances. Consideration is already being given to the subject of the winter semester, and information on the subject will be communicated in the coming weeks. Regarding government relations, the Principal indicated that this year there has once again been a substantial increase in funding from the province for the maintenance of McGill's physical plant, which is welcome news in view of the age of many of our buildings. The Principal also mentioned last week's launch of McGill's Campus Outaouais, which will enable students to complete a four-year undergraduate medical education in French; this is in addition to the McGill residency programs and clerkships already offered in French in the region.

Under the agenda point for formal questions, responses were provided to two questions which had been deferred from the March 2020 meeting: one concerning athletics facility improvement ([https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/04a\\_senate\\_question\\_re\\_athletics\\_facility\\_improvement.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/04a_senate_question_re_athletics_facility_improvement.pdf)) and one concerning harm reduction and substance use ([https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/04b\\_senate\\_question\\_re\\_harm\\_reduction\\_and\\_substance\\_use.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/04b_senate_question_re_harm_reduction_and_substance_use.pdf)).

Provost Manfredi presented the two-part 499th report of the Academic Policy Committee ([https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/05a\\_d20-01\\_part\\_a\\_499th\\_apc\\_report.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/05a_d20-01_part_a_499th_apc_report.pdf) and [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/05b\\_d20-01\\_part\\_b\\_499th\\_apc\\_report.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/05b_d20-01_part_b_499th_apc_report.pdf)). The report was presented for information; none of the items required approval from Senate. Regarding the last item in Part B, a number of Senators requested more information on the rationale for not extending the availability of the Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) option for all courses in the fall 2020 term, in a manner akin to that instituted at the end of the winter 2020 term. Deputy Provost Labeau responded that the absence of grades on transcripts has long-term consequences, for instance on eligibility for scholarships and employer evaluation of candidates, and he noted that the situation which was being faced in March is very different from the one being faced now.

Senate approved a set of proposed revisions to the terms of reference of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee ([https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/06b\\_d19-50\\_part\\_ii\\_hdcc\\_tor.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/06b_d19-50_part_ii_hdcc_tor.pdf)). This item had been deferred from the May 2020 Senate meeting. Senate also approved the appointments recommended in the report of the Senate Nominating Committee ([https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/06a\\_d20-02\\_nominating\\_report.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/06a_d20-02_nominating_report.pdf)).

As its final items of business, Senate received for information the 2019-2020 annual reports on Investigation of Research Misconduct ([https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/07\\_d20-](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/07_d20-)

[03 research misconduct annual report.pdf](#)), on the Policy on Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law ([https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/08\\_d20-04\\_harrassment\\_policy\\_annual\\_report.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/08_d20-04_harrassment_policy_annual_report.pdf)), and of the Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity ([https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/09\\_d20-05\\_jbsce\\_annual\\_report\\_0.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/09_d20-05_jbsce_annual_report_0.pdf)).

The next Senate meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 21, 2020. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

Regards,  
Your librarian Senate reps,

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Marc Richard