

Senate Report 2020-11-18

Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place remotely on Wednesday, November 18, 2020.

The meeting began with Dean Maioni presenting a memorial tribute for Professor Mario Bunge, and Dean Lennox presenting memorial tributes for Professors Henry Reiswig and Venamamalai Seshadria.

Senate adopted the minutes of the last Senate meeting [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/final\\_senate\\_minutes\\_oct.21\\_2020.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/final_senate_minutes_oct.21_2020.pdf), the report of the Steering Committee [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/report\\_of\\_the\\_senate\\_steering\\_committee\\_updated.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/report_of_the_senate_steering_committee_updated.pdf) and the agenda [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/01\\_senate\\_agenda\\_nov.18\\_2020\\_web.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/01_senate_agenda_nov.18_2020_web.pdf).

In her remarks from the Chair, Principal Fortier indicated that the Administration is actively exploring the possibility of adjusting the starting date of the Winter semester. As is described in Part B of the Steering report (see the link above), a motion to extend the 2020-2021 winter holiday break by one week was received from Senators Frizzle, Kouchakji, Tessier, Low, and Nystrom, and was discussed at a special meeting of the Senate Steering Committee earlier today. The motion was not approved for submission to Senate for the reasons outlined in the Steering report, notably given the anticipation that a proposal for Senate's consideration will be presented by the Registrar at the next Senate meeting, which will be in two weeks on December 2. Consultations on the matter are under way, and the impacts of the potential trade-offs are being assessed. Deputy Provost Labeau provided additional information on the subject; he noted that the trade-offs under various scenarios are similar to the ones pertaining to the creation of a Fall Reading Break, as described in detail in today's agenda item on the Calendar of Academic Dates for 2023-24.

Three questions were discussed under the agenda point for formal questions. Senators Frizzle and Daryanani posed a question regarding the withdrawal of an Emeritus designation, which was answered by Provost

Manfredi [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/03a\\_qa\\_re\\_withdrawal\\_of\\_emeritus\\_designation.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/03a_qa_re_withdrawal_of_emeritus_designation.pdf). Senators Frizzle, Daryanani and Parsons posed a question regarding the Principal's Message on Academic Freedom and Inclusiveness, which was also answered by Provost

Manfredi [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/03b\\_qa\\_re\\_message\\_on\\_academic\\_freedom\\_and\\_inclusiveness.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/03b_qa_re_message_on_academic_freedom_and_inclusiveness.pdf). Senators Kouchakji, Parsons and Daryanani posed a question regarding the naming of the Men's Varsity

Team [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/03c\\_qa\\_re\\_mens\\_varsity\\_team\\_name.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/03c_qa_re_mens_varsity_team_name.pdf); the answer was Deputy Provost Labeau, and it was also noted that yesterday's announcement of the new name had attracted much interest from the press.

Senate approved the 501st report of the Academic Policy Committee [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/04\\_d20-15\\_501st\\_apc\\_report.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/04_d20-15_501st_apc_report.pdf) and received for information the APC annual report for 2019-2020 [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/05\\_d20-16\\_apc\\_annual\\_report\\_2019-20\\_0.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/05_d20-16_apc_annual_report_2019-20_0.pdf). It also approved the report of the Senate Nominating Committee [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/06\\_d20-17\\_nominating\\_report.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/06_d20-17_nominating_report.pdf).

Senate approved a two-part motion pertaining to the Calendar of Academic Dates for 2023-24 and proposed revisions to dates for 2021-22 and 2022-23 [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/07\\_d20-18\\_calendar\\_of\\_academic\\_dates.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/07_d20-18_calendar_of_academic_dates.pdf). This will allow for a Fall Reading Break while maintaining contact hours in the Fall semester. The document includes a Fall Reading Break implementation plan, which was presented to Senate for information.

Senate approved a set of proposed revisions to the Standing Rules of Procedure Governing the Proceedings of the Senate of McGill University [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/08\\_d20-19\\_senate\\_standing\\_rules.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/08_d20-19_senate_standing_rules.pdf). These proposed revisions had been presented to Senate last month both as a notice of motion and to obtain feedback from Senators.

Senate also approved a set of revised terms of reference for the Faculty of Dentistry Faculty Council [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/09\\_d20-20\\_faculty\\_council\\_for\\_dentistry.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/09_d20-20_faculty_council_for_dentistry.pdf).

As the last two items of business, Senate received for information the annual reports for 2019-2020 on the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/10\\_d20-21\\_code\\_student\\_discipline\\_report.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/10_d20-21_code_student_discipline_report.pdf) and from the Committee on Enrolment and Student Affairs [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/11\\_d20-22\\_cesa\\_annual\\_report.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/11_d20-22_cesa_annual_report.pdf).

The next Senate meeting will be held on December 2, 2020. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

Regards,  
Your librarian Senate reps,

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