

Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place remotely on December 2, 2020.

The meeting began with Dean Lennox presenting a memorial tribute for Professor Emeritus John Crawford. Senate adopted the minutes of the last Senate meeting [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/final\\_senate\\_minutes\\_nov.18\\_2020.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/final_senate_minutes_nov.18_2020.pdf), the report of the Steering Committee [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/02\\_report\\_of\\_the\\_senate\\_steering\\_committee\\_3.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/02_report_of_the_senate_steering_committee_3.pdf) and the agenda [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/01\\_senate\\_agenda\\_dec.2\\_2020\\_web.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/01_senate_agenda_dec.2_2020_web.pdf).

Further to the report of the Steering Committee, which outlined the reasons for which a proposed motion to extend the availability of the Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory (S/U) option for courses in the Fall 2020 term had not been accepted, Senator Frizzle indicated that the motion had been revised and that he wished to move it from the floor of Senate. Secretary-General Rogowska noted that the text of the motion had been received a few minutes before the start of today's meeting and that it should be referred to the Steering Committee, after which a special meeting of Senate could be called. A number of Senators spoke on the matter, and it was agreed to return to this subject under the final item of today's agenda, which deals with Other Business.

In her remarks from the Chair, Principal Fortier indicated that Montreal remains a red zone under the Quebec government's classification levels for the pandemic. There have been very few cases at McGill, with none on the campuses themselves and just two cases in residence. Preparation work for the Winter 2021 semester is ongoing, as is planning for the Fall 2021 semester; the latter is not likely to look like Fall 2019, but it is not likely to look like Fall 2020 either. Senator Kiester commented that, while there have been no confirmed cases on campus, the absence of testing means that we have no way of knowing whether there is any asymptomatic spread. The Principal noted that this is a good point; she added that contact tracing is conducted by public health authorities whenever a case is identified. Senator Labeau remarked that asymptomatic cases have a low risk of translating into asymptomatic transmission in the absence of significant interpersonal contacts.

There were no items under the agenda point for formal questions. Senate approved proposed revisions to Calendar of Academic Dates for 2020-2021 [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/04\\_d20-23\\_academic\\_dates\\_2020-21.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/04_d20-23_academic_dates_2020-21.pdf). Under these revisions, which apply to all faculties except the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, and the Faculty of Dentistry, classes for the Winter 2021 term will begin on January 7, with an associated adjustment being made to the Final Examination period.

The report on the financial state of the University for 2019-2020 [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/05\\_d20-24\\_financial\\_state\\_of\\_the\\_university.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/05_d20-24_financial_state_of_the_university.pdf) was presented by V.P. Beauchamp and Associate V.P. Tinmouth. This was followed by Provost Manfredi's presentation of two budget documents: the FY2021 Final Budget [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/06\\_d20-25\\_final\\_fy21\\_budget.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/06_d20-25_final_fy21_budget.pdf) and Budget Planning Report I for FY2022 [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/07\\_d20-26\\_budget\\_planning\\_fy22\\_report\\_i.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/07_d20-26_budget_planning_fy22_report_i.pdf).

Dr. Cameron Charlebois presented the annual report of the Senate Committee on Physical Development for 2019-2020 [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/08\\_d20-27\\_scpd\\_annual\\_report.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/08_d20-27_scpd_annual_report.pdf). Regarding the closure in May 2019 of the Macdonald Stewart Library Building for the duration of a major renovation project,

Senator Richard inquired whether the line "Project initiation is pending" meant that the renovation work had not yet started. Dr. Charlebois answered that the report covers the 2019-2020 period, but that the work has now begun.

Senate received for information the report on the 2020 Joint Board-Senate Meeting [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/09\\_d20-28\\_jbsm\\_annual\\_report.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/09_d20-28_jbsm_annual_report.pdf). Under the agenda item for Other Business, Senate returned to the discussion of the revised motion on the S/U option, for which two possibilities existed: referring the motion to the Steering Committee, which reviews written questions and motions to determine their suitability, or voting under section 15 of the Senate Standing Rules of Procedure to decide whether or not to suspend the rules and allow the motion to be introduced from the floor. A motion to suspend the rules was voted on and defeated. The revised motion on the S/U option will be referred to the Steering Committee.

The next regularly scheduled Senate meeting will be held on January 20, 2021.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

Regards,  
Your librarian Senate reps,

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