

Senate Report, 2021-01-20

Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place remotely on January 20, 2021.

The meeting began with Dean Eidelman presenting a memorial tribute for Dr. Clifford Kirk Osterland and Senator Engle-Warnick presenting a memorial tribute for Dr. Barbara Nichols.

Senate adopted the minutes of the Senate meetings of December 2, 2020 https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/final_senate_minutes_dec.2_2020.pdf and December 15, 2020 https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/final_senate_minutes_dec.15_2020.pdf, the report of the Steering Committee https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/02_report_of_the_senate_steering_committee_5.pdf and the agenda https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/00_senate_agenda_jan.20_2021_-_web.pdf.

In her remarks from the Chair, Principal Fortier noted that the overnight curfew recently implemented by the Quebec government is meant primarily to discourage private gatherings; it has not meant much change to McGill's operations, which were already functioning under the restrictions applying to red zones. The Principal met recently with Quebec's Minister of Higher Education, Danielle McCann, and indicated that McGill needs a clear commitment on the New Vic project; the government is actively discussing the file, but has not set a date for providing us with more specific information. In response to a question from a student Senator regarding plans for spring convocation, the Principal responded that a decision will be made and communicated by the end of the month.

Senate approved the 502nd report of the Academic Policy Committee https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/05_d20-30_502nd_apc_report.pdf.

Senate received for information the annual report of the Senate Committee on Libraries https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/06_d20-31_committee_on_libraries.pdf. Associate Provost Buddle noted that the report, which is for the 2019-2020 governance year, does not capture fully the role played by the Library during the pandemic, for instance with regard to the implementation of Study Hubs. Dean Cook indicated that the Fiat Lux project is advancing apace, as is the project to build an off-site storage facility; the latter is currently expected to be completed by the fall of 2022.

As its final items of business, Senate received for information the annual report of the Advisory Council on the Charter of Students' Rights https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/07_d20-32_advisory_council_annual_report.pdf and the latest Report of the Board of Governors to Senate https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/08_d20-33_board_report_to_senate_january_2021.pdf.

The next Senate meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 24, 2021. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

Regards,
Your librarian Senate reps,

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