

Senate Report, 2021-02-24

Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place remotely on February 24, 2021.

The meeting began with Dean Lennox presenting memorial tributes for Professors David Ryan and William Purdy. Senate adopted the minutes of the last Senate meeting [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/final\\_senate\\_minutes\\_jan.20\\_2021.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/final_senate_minutes_jan.20_2021.pdf), the report of the Steering Committee [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/01\\_report\\_of\\_the\\_senate\\_steering\\_committee.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/01_report_of_the_senate_steering_committee.pdf) and the agenda [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/00\\_senate\\_agenda\\_feb.24\\_2021\\_-\\_web.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/00_senate_agenda_feb.24_2021_-_web.pdf).

In her remarks from the Chair, Principal Fortier indicated that the Quebec government has given McGill the green light to increase in-person activities on campus, and is encouraging the University to do so; an email on this subject has been sent out to the University community by Provost Manfredi and V.-P. Beauchamp. In anticipation of the upcoming federal and Quebec budgets, McGill and its university partners have been advocating for updated measures to restart Canada's economy post-pandemic. The Quebec government, in recognition of the difficulties which students have been experiencing due to the pandemic, has just announced that a "bourses de persévérance" bursaries program is being set up; the details will be forthcoming.

Following the Principal's remarks, several Senators asked questions about the planned increase of on-campus activities, notably regarding such points as whether on-campus classes and exams will be mandatory. Deputy Provost Labeau indicated that the present stage of the planning involves developing various high-level scenarios which prioritize core academic activities, i.e. teaching and research. As the fall semester gets closer, it will become possible to work out more precisely the timing and the details of these activities; this will depend on the conditions which prevail at the time. The Principal added that a number of town halls will be conducted to discuss this topic with the University community.

There being no formal written questions, the next item on the agenda was an open discussion on the student academic experience during COVID-19, which was prefaced by an interim report on the subject by the Committee on Student Services [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/03\\_d20-34\\_open\\_discussion.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/03_d20-34_open_discussion.pdf).

Senate approved the 503rd report of the Academic Policy Committee, which included a set of revisions to the Regulations Concerning the Investigation of Research Misconduct and a set of revisions to the Regulations on Graduate Student Supervision [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/04\\_d20-35\\_503rd\\_apc\\_report\\_to\\_senate.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/04_d20-35_503rd_apc_report_to_senate.pdf).

Senate approved the report of the Senate Nominating Committee [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/05\\_d20-36\\_nominating\\_report.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/05_d20-36_nominating_report.pdf). This item included:

- The appointment of Natalie Waters, Emily MacKenzie and Ann Marie Holland to the University Tenure Committee Senate Pool.

- A set of revisions to the terms of reference of the Senate Steering Committee, to ensure their alignment with the Guidelines for the Review of Questions and Motions which were adopted in November 26, 2019, and with the revised Senate Standing Rules of Procedure which were adopted on November 18, 2020.

- The establishment of a Working Group to Review the Joint Board Senate Committee on Equity's Terms of Reference.

- Provost Manfredi gave the second of the three annual presentations to Senate on planning for the next McGill budget [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/06\\_d20-37\\_budget\\_planning\\_fy22\\_report\\_ii.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/06_d20-37_budget_planning_fy22_report_ii.pdf).

As its final items of business, Senate received for information the annual reports of Student Life and Learning [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/07\\_d20-38\\_sll\\_report.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/07_d20-38_sll_report.pdf) and of the Ombudsperson for Students [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/08\\_d20-39\\_ombudsperson\\_report.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/08_d20-39_ombudsperson_report.pdf).

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

Regards,  
Your librarian Senate reps,

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