

Senate Report 2021-04-20

Colleagues,

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

The meeting began with Senator Eidelman presenting a memorial tribute for Professor James McNutt and Senator Engle-Warnick presenting a memorial tribute for Professor Baldev Raj Nayar, and with Senators Riddle-Merritte and Daryanani presenting a minute of silence and reflection dedicated to the friends and families of the McGill community who have lost loved ones to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Senate adopted the minutes of the last Senate meeting (not yet posted), the report of the Steering Committee [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/02\\_report\\_of\\_the\\_senate\\_steering\\_committee\\_er.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/02_report_of_the_senate_steering_committee_er.pdf) and the agenda [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/00\\_senate\\_agenda\\_april\\_20\\_2021\\_-\\_web.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/00_senate_agenda_april_20_2021_-_web.pdf).

In her remarks from the Chair, Principal Fortier noted the new pandemic-related restrictions announced by the Quebec government on April 6. A great deal of preparation for the fall semester has been done; town halls have been held on the planning work which is underway and on the indicators which are being tracked. The Principal provided an overview of the federal budget tabled on April 19 and the Quebec budget tabled on March 25; more information will be forthcoming as the two budgets are studied in greater detail. On the federal side, there are lots of additional investments to stimulate a strong economic recovery. Measures to support the university community include large investments in research and innovation (notably in the life sciences) and in strategic areas such as A.I., as well as support for students. The Quebec budget is a good one for higher education; it includes increased investments in higher education, as well as infrastructure funds.

Under the agenda point for formal questions, Senators Kirk and Earle posed a question regarding outcomes of Senate Open Discussions; the answer was provided by Provost Manfredi [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/04\\_senate\\_question\\_and\\_response\\_re\\_open\\_discussion.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/04_senate_question_and_response_re_open_discussion.pdf).

The Provost gave a presentation on the McGill University budget for 2021-2022 [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/05\\_d20-47\\_budget\\_presentation.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/05_d20-47_budget_presentation.pdf). The FY2022 budget will be presented to Board of Governors for approval on 22 April 2021.

Senate approved the 504th Report of the Academic Policy Committee, which included proposed revisions to the definitions of non-degree credit programs [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/06\\_d20-48\\_504th\\_apc\\_report\\_to\\_senate.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/06_d20-48_504th_apc_report_to_senate.pdf). Senate also approved the report of the Senate Nominating Committee, which included the nomination of Anna Dysert for reappointment as Chair of the Committee on Student Grievances [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/07\\_d20-49\\_nominating\\_report.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/07_d20-49_nominating_report.pdf).

Proposed revisions to the Policy on Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law were presented to Senate for information [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/08\\_d20-50\\_harassment\\_policy\\_draft\\_revisions.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/08_d20-50_harassment_policy_draft_revisions.pdf). The document is expected to return to Senate for approval next month. Also presented for information were proposed revisions to the University Student Assessment Policy [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/09\\_d20-51\\_usap\\_draft\\_revisions.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/09_d20-51_usap_draft_revisions.pdf). There will be a full year of consultation within the McGill community, after which the document will return to Senate for approval, tentatively in Spring 2022.

Senate received for information the annual reports on Research and Innovation [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/10\\_d20-52\\_ri\\_annual\\_report.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/10_d20-52_ri_annual_report.pdf) and on Scholarships and Student Aid [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/11\\_d20-53\\_student\\_aid\\_annual\\_report.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/11_d20-53_student_aid_annual_report.pdf).

As the final item of business, Principal Fortier presented the report of the Joint Senate Steering and Board Executive Committees meeting [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/12\\_d20-54\\_joint\\_executive-steering\\_meeting.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/12_d20-54_joint_executive-steering_meeting.pdf). The topic of the next annual meeting of the Board of Governors and Senate, to be held on November 11, 2021, will be "The Execution of McGill's Mission in a Post-Pandemic World."

The next Senate meeting will be held on May 12, 2021. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

Regards,  
Your librarian Senate reps,

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