

Senate Report 2021-09-22

Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place remotely on Wednesday, September 22, 2021.

The meeting began with Dean Eidelman presenting memorial tributes for Dr. Kresimir Krnjevic and Dr. John Burgess. Senate adopted the minutes of the last Senate meeting [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/senate\\_minutes\\_may\\_12\\_2021.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/senate_minutes_may_12_2021.pdf), the report of the Steering Committee [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/02\\_report\\_of\\_the\\_senate\\_steering\\_committee\\_-\\_updated.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/02_report_of_the_senate_steering_committee_-_updated.pdf) and the agenda [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/00\\_senate\\_agenda\\_sept\\_22\\_2021\\_-\\_web.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/00_senate_agenda_sept_22_2021_-_web.pdf).

In her remarks from the Chair, Principal Fortier provided a brief update on the return to campus; she indicated that enrolment figures are about the same as they were last year. Regarding the recent federal election, she noted that the Liberal platform includes commitments to support fundamental research and innovation. The Quebec government has approved the dossier d'opportunité for the New Vic project, which is now transitioning to the next stage, the dossier d'affaires. Regarding Bill 76, which is now in the consultation stage, McGill will be meeting with Minister Jolin-Barrette and will be writing letters to him, to the Premier and to the Minister of Education. McGill submitted a brief to the Commission scientifique et technique indépendante sur la reconnaissance de la liberté académique dans le milieu universitaire (also known as the Cloutier Commission), which conducted hearings over the summer; the Commission's report is expected in late 2021. On the subject of university rankings, the Principal reported that McGill has advanced by a few spots in the Shanghai and QS rankings and has dropped by a few spots in the Times Higher Education ranking.

Principal Fortier concluded her remarks by encouraging the members of the McGill community to visit the web page describing the planned activities for September 30th, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation: <https://www.mcgill.ca/indigenous/national-day-truth-and-reconciliation>. The Principal then called upon Senator Daryanani, who presented a statement on the upcoming National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and invited Senate to observe a moment of silence.

Senate approved the report of the Senate Nominating Committee ([https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/04\\_d21-01\\_nominating\\_report\\_part\\_ii\\_0.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/04_d21-01_nominating_report_part_ii_0.pdf)), which included a number of appointments to committees as well as proposed revisions to the terms of reference of the Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity, which will become the McGill Committee on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDIC).

Senate moved briefly into closed session to consider the report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee. Upon return to open session, Senate approved a two-part motion regarding academic planning and policies in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/06\\_d21-06\\_motion\\_re\\_academic\\_planning.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/06_d21-06_motion_re_academic_planning.pdf). The motion urged the implementation of further COVID-19 prevention measures to enhance the safety of McGill's teaching and learning physical spaces, and approved the establishment of an Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on COVID Academic Planning and Policies. The documentation for the motion included draft terms of reference for the Committee; these will now go to the Senate Nominating Committee for further development, and will return to Senate for approval, along with membership recommendations, at a special meeting of Senate which will be held on Monday, October 4.

As its final items of business, Senate received for information the annual reports of the Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/07\\_d21-02\\_jbsce\\_report.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/07_d21-02_jbsce_report.pdf), on the Investigation of Research Misconduct [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/08\\_d21-03\\_research\\_misconduct\\_report.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/08_d21-03_research_misconduct_report.pdf) and of the Committee on Student Services [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/09\\_d21-04\\_css\\_report\\_0.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/09_d21-04_css_report_0.pdf).

The next Senate meeting will be the special one to be held on October 4, and the next regular meeting of Senate will be held on Wednesday, October 20.

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

Regards,

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