

Senate Report, 2022-03-23

Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place remotely on March 23, 2022.

The meeting began with Dean Lennox presenting a memorial tribute for Professor Emeritus Adi Eisenberg, Dean Emami presenting a memorial tribute for Professor Emeritus Mervyn Gornitsky, and Dean Hunter presenting a memorial tribute for Professor Ngo Van Long.

Senate adopted the minutes of the last Senate meeting https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/final_senate_minutes_february_16_2022.pdf, the report of the Steering Committee https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/02_report_of_the_senate_steering_committee_12.pdf and the agenda https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/00_senate_agenda_march_23_2022_-_web_updated.pdf.

In her remarks from the Chair, Principal Fortier indicated that most public health measures are in the process of being removed by the Quebec government. Out of precaution and prudence, what will remain in place for now at McGill is the wearing of masks when people are gathered in large groups. Convocations this year are expected to be in person; also being planned are celebratory events for graduates whose convocations took place during the first two years of the pandemic. Regarding the recent occupation of the McCall MacBain Arts Building and the incidents of vandalism which took place, the Principal noted that people who are involved in protests are expected to respect properties. Principal Fortier referred to the recent statement from the Provost on the situation in Ukraine, which was emailed to the members of the McGill community, and to the concern and suffering being experienced by many people at McGill due to this situation. The new Quebec budget was tabled the day before the Senate meeting; it features a 5.2% increase in direct funding to universities. The funding is distributed across several envelopes, so it will take some time to analyze fully the details of the budget. The date of the upcoming federal budget has not been announced, but it is likely to be tabled in April.

Senate approved parts A, B and C of the 510th report of the Academic Policy Committee:

https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/03a_d21-41_510th_apc_report_part_a.pdf

https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/03b_d21-41_510th_apc_report_part_b.pdf

https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/3c_d21-41_510th_apc_report_part_c.pdf

Regarding part A, which includes revisions to the Guidelines for Developing a Service Portfolio section of the Regulations Relating to the Employment of Tenure Track and Tenured Academic Staff, the Provost noted that these revisions constitute the first step of a two-step exercise. Work will now begin

on the second step, which will involve revising the portfolio guidelines in the Regulations Relating to the Employment of Librarian Staff.

Provost Manfredi presented the second budget planning report for the 2022-2023 fiscal year <https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/05. d21-43 budget planning report ii fy2023.pdf>.

Senate received for information the most recent report of the Ad Hoc Committee on COVID Academic Planning and Policies <https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/06. d21-44 covid ad hoc.pdf>, the annual report from Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies <https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/07. d21-45 annual report from graduate and postdoctoral studies.pdf>, the most recent report from the Board of Governors to Senate <https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/08. d21-46 report from the board of governors to senate.pdf> and a list of the Senate meeting dates for the next academic year <https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/09. d21-47 senate meeting dates 2022-2023.pdf>.

As its final items of business, Senate moved into confidential session to consider the report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee, which consisted of a recommendation for the McGill University Medal for Exceptional Academic Achievement.

The next Senate meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 19, 2022. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

Regards,
Your librarian Senate reps,

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Marc Richard