

Senate Report, 2022-05-11

Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place on May 11, 2022.

The meeting began with Dean Eidelman, on behalf of Provost Manfredi who could not attend the meeting, noting that this would be the last meeting of Senate chaired by Principal Fortier. Dean Eidelman reviewed some of the highlights of the Principal's term of office, and congratulated and thanked her for her accomplishments at McGill.

Dean Hunter presented a memorial tribute for Professor Emeritus Myron Echenberg, and Dean Eidelman presented memorial tributes for Professor Emeritus Gordon Watters and Professor Richard Murphy.

Senate adopted the minutes of the last Senate meeting

https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/senate_minutes_april_19_2022.pdf, the report of the Steering Committee https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/02_report_of_the_senate_steering_committee_13.pdf and the agenda https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/01_senate_agenda_may_11_2022_0.pdf.

In her comments from the Chair, Principal Fortier thanked the outgoing members of Senate for their service. Spring Convocations will soon take place, as will the Installation ceremony for Chancellor John McCall McBain and the in-person celebrations for students whose Convocation ceremonies were held virtually during the pandemic. The Principal noted the recent appointments of Professor Celeste Pedri-Spade, who will begin serving as McGill's first Associate Provost (Indigenous Initiatives) on September 1, 2022, and of Professor Lisa Shapiro, who will begin serving as Dean of the Faculty of Arts on October 1, 2022.

Prime Minister Trudeau and Premier Legault, as well as a number of federal and provincial ministers and Moderna executives, were at McGill on April 29 to announce that Moderna will build a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in the Montreal area to produce messenger RNA vaccines, as well as vaccines for influenzas and other illnesses. Consultations are being conducted by the Quebec government on its proposed legislation on academic freedom, Bill 32. Thus far, no groups have supported the bill. There are many concerns about the bill, and McGill and BCI have been making representation to the government on this subject.

The Principal gave a brief update on the Fiat Lux project; Vice-Principal Beauchamp, who could not be present at Senate today, will provide a more detailed report in the fall. The project is making good progress. The Board of Governors has approved the construction of a remote storage facility which will liberate some library space at the downtown campus; the proposed library renovation designs are presently moving through the approval processes required by the City of Montreal and the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications.

Senate approved the 512th Report of the Academic Policy Committee

https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/03_d21-58_512th_apc_report_0.pdf. This included the updated Policy on Assessment of Student Learning and revisions to the Policy on the Study and Care of Animals.

Senate approved revisions to the Terms of Reference of the Council of the Faculty of Arts

https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/05_d21-60_revisions_to_the_terms_of_reference_of_the_council_of_the_faculty_of_arts.pdf. Also approved was the proposed Calendar of Academic Dates for 2024–2025, 2025–2026, and 2026–2027

https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/06_d21-61_proposed_calendar_of_academic_dates_for_2024-2025_2025-2026_and_2026-2027_0.pdf.

Senate received for information the final report of the Ad Hoc Committee on COVID Academic Planning and Policies https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/07_d21-62_ad_hoc_advisory_committee_on_covid_academic_planning_and_policies.pdf.

Senate also received for information the following items:

- The annual report of the Committee on Staff Grievances and Disciplinary Procedures https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/08_d21-63_annual_report_on_staff_grievances_and_disciplinary_procedures.pdf.

- The annual report for the Policy on Safe Disclosure https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/09_d21-64_annual_report_of_the_policy_on_safe_disclosure.pdf.

- The annual report on Scholarships and Student Aid https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/10_d21-65_annual_report_on_scholarships_student_aid.pdf.

- The latest report from the Board of Governors to Senate https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/11_d21-66_report_from_the_board_of_governors_to_senate.pdf.

As its final item of business, Senate moved into confidential session to consider the report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee.

The next Senate meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 21, 2022. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

Regards,
Your librarian Senate reps,

Houman Behzadi
Lucy Kiester
Marc Richard