

Senate Report, 2022-12-07

Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place on December 7, 2022.

The meeting began with Dean Eidelman presenting a memorial tribute for Professor Emeritus Walter Mushynski. Senate adopted the minutes of the last Senate meeting https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/senate_minutes_november_16_2022.pdf, the report of the Steering Committee https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/01_report_of_the_senate_steering_committee_updated.pdf and the agenda https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/00_senate_agenda_december_7_2022_updated.pdf. As a point of business arising from the minutes, Senator Kirk asked if there would be any follow-up actions to the last meeting's open discussion regarding how we think about and define academic excellence for academic staff. Secretary-General Rogowska responded that the input provided by the open discussion will be considered through the normal processes, as will also be the case for any potential proposals to modify the employment regulations which might arise out of the open discussion.

In his remarks from the Chair, Acting Principal Manfredi reported on two recent ministerial visits to McGill. Mr. André Lamontagne, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, was given a tour of the Macdonald Campus by Dean Geitmann on November 18. Ms. Pascale Déry, the new Minister of Higher Education, visited the downtown campus on November 25. A campus commemoration was held on McTavish Street on December 6 to mark the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women and to honor the 14 women who lost their lives in the École Polytechnique massacre.

The 515th report of the Academic Policy Committee was presented to Senate https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d22-21_apc_report.pdf. It contained one item for approval, a proposal to repeal the current Regulations on Cyclical Academic Unit Reviews and approve the proposed new Regulations on Academic Reviews. The texts of both documents are presented in the appendices to the report, along with an executive summary describing the rationale for the proposal and a summary of the main changes. Senator Kirk inquired about the manner in which the previous meeting's open discussion on academic excellence would fit into the new academic review process. Professor Buddle responded that we are not quite there yet; the new regulation first needs to be field-tested over the next couple of years. Associate Provost Campbell added that the employment regulations would be a place to capture possible changes to which the open discussion might lead, and that she would be starting consultations on this subject later this year. The APC report was approved.

Senate received for information the report of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d22-22_report_of_edic.pdf and the report of the Joint Board of Governors-Senate Meeting https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d22-23_joint_board_senate_report.pdf.

Senate also received for information the following six annual reports:

- Annual Report on the Financial State of the University https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d22-24_annual_report_on_the_financial_state_of_the_university.pdf

- Annual Report of the Committee on Enrolment and Student Affairs
[https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d22-25 annual report of the cesa updated.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d22-25%20annual%20report%20of%20the%20cesa%20updated.pdf)
- Annual Report of the Committee on Physical Development [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d22-26 scpd annual report.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d22-26%20scpd%20annual%20report.pdf)
- Annual Report of the Committee on Libraries [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d22-27 annual report of the committee on libraries.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d22-27%20annual%20report%20of%20the%20committee%20on%20libraries.pdf)
- Annual Report on the EDI Strategic Plan [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d22-28 annual report on the edi strategic plan.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d22-28%20annual%20report%20on%20the%20edi%20strategic%20plan.pdf)
- Annual Report on the Action Plan to address Anti-Black Racism
[https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d22-29 annual report on the action plan to address anti-black racism.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d22-29%20annual%20report%20on%20the%20action%20plan%20to%20address%20anti-black%20racism.pdf)

The New Model of Work project, which is mentioned in the report of the Committee on Physical Development and in the report of the Committee on Libraries, was discussed in connection with both of these documents. Senator Kirk noted that he has heard many concerns about how the pilot project was conducted, such as consent not having been obtained from staff members for participation in this experiment. He hoped that these concerns would be taken on board. Vice-Principal Beauchamp responded that it was a pilot project and that a lot had been learned from it. Senator Richard commented that the phrase "The project will conclude by September 2022" in the report of the Committee on Libraries seems to imply that it was a temporary state of affairs; the phrasing does not adequately describe the actual situation, which is that the implementation of hybrid work arrangements in the units affected by the pilot project stage of the ongoing New Model of Work initiative was completed by September 2022.

The next Senate meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 18, 2023. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

Regards,
Your librarian Senate reps,

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Svetlana Kochkina
Marc Richard