

Senate Report, 2023-04-19

Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place on April 19, 2023.

This was the first meeting of Senate chaired by Principal Deep Saini, who thanked the members of the McGill community for their welcome. The Principal also thanked Professor Manfredi for having served as Interim Principal during the current academic year, and expressed his appreciation to the members of Senate for the important role they play in McGill's collegial governance.

Dean Eidelman presented memorial tributes for Professors Emeriti Hanna Pappius and Robert MacKenzie and for Professor William Novick. Senate adopted the minutes of the last Senate meeting https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/senate_minutes_march_22_2023.pdf, the report of the Steering Committee https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/01_report_of_the_senate_steering_committee_1.pdf and the agenda https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/00_senate_agenda_april_19_2023.pdf. In a point of business arising from the March minutes, regarding a question about the consequences for students who fail to complete the It Takes All of Us training modules, it was confirmed that in such cases students would have a hold placed on their course registration; a note to this effect has been added to the March minutes.

In his remarks from the Chair, Principal Saini noted that the Quebec and federal budgets were both tabled in March. The Quebec budget added \$300M over five years to previously announced investments in universities. The federal budget, by contrast, does not feature new funding in higher education. It is hoped that the recommendations of the Bouchard Report on federal research support will lead to funding increases in this sector.

In the agenda section for written questions, two questions were submitted by Senator Hebert. The first question concerned the practice of labelling McGill professors as personal employers at the RI-MUHC; the answer was provided by Provost Manfredi https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d22-56_question_and_answer_regarding_the_practice_of_labelling_mcgill_professors_as_personal_employers_at_the_ri-muhc.pdf. The second question concerned methods for identifying University Advancement priorities; the answer was provided by Provost Manfredi and Vice-Principal Weinstein https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d22-57_question_and_answer_regarding_the_methods_for_identifying_university_advancement_priorities.pdf.

Senate approved the report of the Senate Nominating Committee https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d22-58_report_of_the_senate_nominating_committee.pdf and the 518th report of the Academic Policy Committee https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d22-59_apc_518th_report.pdf. The APC report included proposed terminology and definitions related to online/blending learning and related subjects, as well as approval and notification pathways relating to blended/hybrid courses; the latter item will be reviewed by Senate in one year.

Associate Provost Campbell presented for information the proposed Policy on Academic Freedom https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d22-60_proposed_policy_on_academic_freedom_updated.pdf. This Policy fulfils the requirements of Bill 32 ("An Act respecting academic Freedom in the university sector"), while also adhering to McGill's Mission

and Principles and to McGill's existing Statement of Academic Freedom. Senate provided a number of suggestions for wording adjustments. The proposed Policy will return to Senate in May for approval.

Secretary-General Rogowska presented for information proposed revisions to the Policy on Safe Disclosure https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d22-61_proposed_revisions_to_the_policy_on_safe_disclosure.pdf. Among the proposed modifications would be a change to the new title "Policy on Disclosure of Wrongdoing." The proposed revisions will return to Senate in May for approval.

Provost Manfredi presented for information an overview of the proposed University budget for 2023-2024 https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d22-62_proposed_university_budget_2023-2024.pdf. Two of the slides -- 2.17. FY2024: Expense Assumptions (1 of 4) and 2.18. FY2024: Expense Assumptions (2 of 4) -- provide important details concerning Academic Salaries and Administrative and Support Salaries respectively, including hiring control measures. The budget will be submitted to the Board of Governors at its April meeting.

Senate received the following reports for information:

https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d22-63_2023_university_staffing_report.pdf

https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d22-64_report_on_the_biennial_results_of_the_student_census.pdf

https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d22-65_report_of_edic.pdf

https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d22-66_report_of_the_joint_executive-steering_committees_meeting.pdf

https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d22-67_annual_report_on_research_and_innovation.pdf

The last Senate meeting of the academic year will take place on May 10, 2023. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

Regards,
Your librarian Senate reps,

Houman Behzadi
Svetlana Kochkina
Marc Richard