

Senate Report, 2023-05-10

Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place on May 10, 2023.

Principal Saini opened the meeting by thanking the Senators whose terms are ending for their service and contributions. Dean Eidelman presented a memorial tributes for Professor Emeritus Charles Scriver.

Senate adopted the minutes of the last Senate meeting

https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/senate_minutes_april_19_2023.pdf, the report of the Steering Committee https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/02_report_of_the_senate_steering_committee_16.pdf and the agenda https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/00_senate_agenda_may_10_2023.pdf. In a point of business arising from the April minutes, regarding the proposed Policy on Academic Freedom, it was indicated that the presentation slides have been added onto the online document for this item https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d22-60_proposed_policy_on_academic_freedom_updated.pdf and that a note to this effect has been added to the minutes.

In his remarks from the Chair, Principal Saini summarized the April 28 announcement by the federal Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, François-Philippe Champagne, of \$1.4 billion in support of 11 large-scale research initiatives through the Canada First Research Excellence Fund, including a \$165 million CFREF grant to McGill to launch a genomic-based RNA therapeutics research effort. The Principal gave an overview of his attendance at the recent U15 and Universities Canada meetings, and discussed the Quebec's Superior Court's ratification on April 20 of an agreement between the Kanien'kehá:ka Kahnistensera (Mohawk Mothers), McGill University, the Société québécoise des infrastructures (SQI), the MUHC, the City of Montreal and the Attorneys General of Quebec and Canada that will allow an archaeological investigation of the former Royal Victoria Hospital site to move forward. Details about the forthcoming Convocation ceremonies, and the Principal's Installation, as well as livestream links for these events, will be sent out soon to the McGill community. Principal Saini congratulated Dr. Lesley Fellows for her appointment as Vice-Principal (Health Affairs) and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, which will begin on August 1, and thanked Dean David Eidelman for his service in this role. The Principal also thanked Dean of Engineering Jim Nicell, who is attending his last Senate meeting in this capacity.

Senate approved the report of the Senate Nominating Committee

https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d22-68_report_of_the_senate_nominating_committee_updated.pdf and the 519th report of the Academic Policy Committee https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d22-69_report_of_the_academic_policy_committee.pdf.

Senate approved the new Policy on the Disclosure of Wrongdoing

https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d22-70_policy_on_safe_disclosure_new_policy_on_the_disclosure_of_wrongdoing_updated.pdf, which replaces the 2007 Policy on Safe Disclosure ("Whistle Blowing"). Senate also approved the new Policy on Academic Freedom, whose text incorporates a number of revisions based on feedback provided at the April meeting of Senate https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/05_d22-71_proposed_policy_on_academic_freedom.pdf.

Senate received the following reports for information:

https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/06_d22-72_biennial_report_on_employment_equity.pdf

https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/07_d22-73_board_report_to_senate.pdf

https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/08_d22-74_annual_report_on_scholarships_student_aid.pdf

https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/09_d22-75_annual_report_of_the_policy_on_safe_disclosure.pdf

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

The next meeting of Senate will take place on September 20, 2023. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

Regards,
Your librarian Senate reps,

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Svetlana Kochkina
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