

Senate Report, 2023-09-20

Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place on September 20, 2023.

The session was opened by Principal Saini, after which memorial tributes were presented by Dean Fellows for Professor Emeritus Eugene Outerbridge and by Dean Lennox for Professor Emerita Marta C. Bunge and for Professor Wilbur Jónsson.

Senate adopted the report of the Steering Committee

https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/01_report_of_the_senate_steering_committee_2.pdf, the minutes of the May 2023 meeting of Senate

https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/senate_minutes_may_10_2023.pdf and the agenda

https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/00_senate_agenda_september_20_2023.pdf. On a point of business arising from Senator Hébert's earlier inquiry regarding the practice of the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre (RI-MUHC) of labelling McGill professors as personal employers, Principal Saini responded that the RI-MUHC is making good progress on resolving this issue. Provost Manfredi relayed information from the Institute's Director indicating that the RI-MUHC has examined the practices which are followed elsewhere and is moving to adopt an operating model similar to the one used at the CHUM, perhaps as soon as in the next one to two months.

In his comments from the Chair, Principal Saini discussed the University's response to the report on asbestos-related closures at Macdonald Campus and noted the two town halls for McGill community members on this subject scheduled for September 22. Preliminary McGill enrolment figures for this year are comparable to those from last year; the final figures will be communicated once they are available. With regard to government relations, McGill will host an advocacy day in Ottawa in November to highlight the importance of improved funding for universities, and McGill will also make a pre-budget submission along the same lines. On the Quebec side, the Principal has met several ministers and McGill is making good progress towards helping the government understand its position. On the subject of community relations, Principal Saini discussed this year's Indigenous Awareness Weeks, which are under way, and the upcoming edition of the annual Homecoming event. McGill ranked 70th in the latest Shanghai ranking (up from 73rd last year) and 30th in the QS ranking (up by 1 spot).

The Principal then discussed forthcoming plans to develop a 25-year vision for the University; this exercise will launch during the fall. Regarding the more immediate future, Principal Saini gave a presentation on his priorities for 2023-2024 https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/principals_presentation_to_senate.pdf.

Senate adopted the report of the Senate Nominating Committee

https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-01_report_of_the_senate_nominating_committee.pdf and received the report of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee

https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-02_report_from_edic.pdf. Associate Provost Pedri-Spade presented the draft Terms of Reference for the Indigenous Advisory Council Steering Committee

https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-03_presentation_on_call_to_action_51_indigenous_advisory_council.pdf.

The latest report to Senate from the Board of Governors https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-04_report_of_the_board_of_governors_to_senate.pdf was presented to Senate for information, and for discussion of the section of the report dealing with a title change which was contemplated by the Board at its

meeting of August 31, 2023. The proposal would involve amending the University Statutes to change the title of Principal to President (and thus the title of Vice-Principal to Vice-President, and the titles for assistant and associate vice-principals to assistant or associate vice-presidents). The Board it is expected to consider the matter for approval at its meeting of October 5, 2023.

The two final items of business were the presentation of the following 2022-2023 annual reports to Senate:

Committee on Enrolment and Student Affairs

[https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-05)

[05 annual report of the committee on enrolment and student affairs cesa.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-05)

Committee on Student Services

[https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-06)

[06 annual report of the committee on student services.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-06)

The next meeting of Senate will take place on October 18, 2023. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

Regards,

Your librarian Senate reps,

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