

Senate Report, 2023-10-18

Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place on October 18, 2023.

The meeting began with Dean Lennox presenting memorial tributes for Professor Emeritus John F. Harrod and Professor Emeritus Ishtar Zawadski, and with Dean Yargeau presenting a memorial tribute for Professor Patrick Selvadurai.

Senate adopted the report of the Steering Committee

https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/01_report_of_the_senate_steering_committee_23-24_02.pdf, the minutes of the September 2023 meeting of Senate https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/senate_minutes_september_20_2023_updated.pdf and the agenda https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/00_senate_agenda_october_18_2023_updated.pdf.

In his comments from the Chair, Principal Saini spoke about the conflict in Israel and Gaza, a subject which he addressed in his recent email to the McGill community. He noted that the situation is an extremely difficult one involving great suffering and loss of life, and he called upon everyone to be extra considerate towards each other during the weeks ahead. He also discussed the measures impacting university financing which were announced by the Quebec government, a topic about which he has provided additional information to the McGill community by email. McGill is deeply disappointed by the government's new policy, and is actively exploring various means to ensure that McGill remains accessible. The latest Maclean's Magazine ranking of Canadian universities has been released, and for 19th consecutive year McGill ranked first in the medical / doctoral universities category.

Senate approved the report of the Senate Nominating Committee

https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-07_report_of_the_senate_nominating_committee.pdf, and received for information the report of the Academic Policy Committee https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-08_report_of_the_academic_policy_committee.pdf.

Provost Manfredi presented an update on the Strategic Academic Plan

https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-09_update_on_the_strategic_academic_plan_cover_memo.pdf. He noted the launch of a new website (www.mcgill.ca/strategic-academic-plan) which showcases achievements with respect to the commitments expressed in the S.A.P.

Associate Provost Buddle presented an update on New Models of Academic Program Delivery

https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-10_update_on_new_models_of_academic_program_delivery.pdf. Some of the approvals arising from the recommendations will return to Senate in the spring of 2024 for consideration and approval for longer than the current one-year approval.

Secretary-General Rogowska presented the notice of the annual Joint Board of Governors-Senate meeting, which will be held on November 14, 2023 https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-11_notice_of_joint_board_of_governors-senate_meeting_november_14_2023.pdf. The theme for this year's discussion will be "Building on McGill's Record of Excellence for the Third Century: Challenges and Opportunities Ahead."

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

The next meeting of Senate will take place on November 15, 2023. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

Regards,
Your librarian Senate reps,

Houman Behzadi
Svetlana Kochkina
Marc Richard