

Senate Report, 2023-11-15

Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place on November 15, 2023.

The session began with Senate adopting a motion to have Dean Lennox serve as Acting Chair for the meeting, Principal Saini being unable to attend and having sent his regrets. Memorial tributes were then presented by Dean Fellows for Professor Emeritus Ivan Barry Pless and Professor Pierre Pluye, and by Senator Stephens for Professor Robert Vermes.

Senate adopted the report of the Steering Committee

[https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/01\\_revised\\_report\\_of\\_the\\_senate\\_steering\\_committee\\_23-24\\_03.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/01_revised_report_of_the_senate_steering_committee_23-24_03.pdf), the minutes of the October 2023 meeting of Senate

[https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/senate\\_minutes\\_october\\_18\\_2023\\_23-24\\_02.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/senate_minutes_october_18_2023_23-24_02.pdf) and the agenda

[https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/00\\_senate\\_agenda\\_november\\_15\\_2023.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/00_senate_agenda_november_15_2023.pdf).

Dean Lennox presented the comments from the Chair on behalf of Principal Saini. He outlined the recent meeting at which Principal Saini, Concordia President Carr and Bishop's Principal Lebel-Grenier discussed the Quebec government's announced tuition measures with Premier Legault and Minister of Higher Education Déry. A summary of this meeting has been emailed to the McGill community, which will be kept up to date as the situation evolves. The 2023 Fall Convocation is scheduled for the morning and afternoon of November 20. Following the remarks from the Chair, Dean Geitmann provided an overview of this year's Centraide campaign.

In the section of the agenda for questions and motions, a question regarding communications on the humanitarian crisis in Gaza was submitted by Senators Ben Rejeb, Pastrana Mankovitz, Qureshi, Katchelewa, and Fakih, with a response provided by Principal Saini [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-13\\_question\\_and\\_answer\\_regarding\\_communications\\_on\\_the\\_humanitarian\\_crisis\\_in\\_gaza.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-13_question_and_answer_regarding_communications_on_the_humanitarian_crisis_in_gaza.pdf). The Principal supplemented his written response with a statement which was read by the Acting Chair; the text of the statement will be included in the minutes of the November meeting.

Senate approved the report of the Senate Nominating Committee

[https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-14\\_report\\_of\\_the\\_senate\\_nominating\\_committee.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-14_report_of_the_senate_nominating_committee.pdf). The next agenda item was the report of the Academic Policy Committee

[https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-15\\_report\\_of\\_the\\_academic\\_policy\\_committee.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-15_report_of_the_academic_policy_committee.pdf); Senate approved the recommendations pertaining to the Policy on Research Entities and endorsed the recommendations included in the Subcommittee on Teaching and Learning's report on the use of generative AI.

Senate received for information the report from the Board of Governors to Senate

[https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-16_report_from_the_board_of_governors_to_senate_r.pdf)

[16\\_report\\_from\\_the\\_board\\_of\\_governors\\_to\\_senate\\_r.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-16_report_from_the_board_of_governors_to_senate_r.pdf). The Board has approved amendments to the University Statutes to change of title of "Principal" to "President" and "Vice-Principal" to "Vice-President," and the change is expected to take effect on December 11, 2023 following the statutory 60-day disallowance period by the Governor General of Canada.

The next agenda item was an Open Discussion on the theme of "Planning and Adapting Teaching, Learning, and Assessment as AI Technologies Emerge and Advance" <https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23->

[17 open discussion.pdf](#). Highlights of the discussion will be presented in the minutes of the November meeting.

Senate received for information the following annual reports:

[https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-18 annual report of the academic policy committee.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-18%20annual%20report%20of%20the%20academic%20policy%20committee.pdf)

[https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-19 annual report of the committee on physical development.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-19%20annual%20report%20of%20the%20committee%20on%20physical%20development.pdf)

[https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-20 updated annual report on the code of student conduct and disciplinary procedures.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-20%20updated%20annual%20report%20on%20the%20code%20of%20student%20conduct%20and%20disciplinary%20procedures.pdf)

The annual report of the Committee on Staff Grievances and Disciplinary Procedures ([https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-21 annual report of the committee on staff grievances and disciplinary procedures.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-21%20annual%20report%20of%20the%20committee%20on%20staff%20grievances%20and%20disciplinary%20procedures.pdf)) was deferred to the December meeting of Senate because the Chair of the Committee could not be present at the time for which the report was scheduled for presentation.

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 December 6, 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