

## Senate Meeting Report 2024-03-20

Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place on March 20, 2024.

The meeting began with memorial tributes being presented by Dean Yargeau for Professor Emeritus Radoslav Zuk and by Senator Hickman for Professor Monica Popescu.

Senate adopted the report of the Steering Committee

[https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/02\\_report\\_of\\_the\\_senate\\_steering\\_committee\\_23-24\\_07.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/02_report_of_the_senate_steering_committee_23-24_07.pdf), the minutes of the February 2024 meeting of Senate

[https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/senate\\_minutes\\_february\\_14\\_2024.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/senate_minutes_february_14_2024.pdf), and the agenda

[https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/00\\_senate\\_agenda\\_march\\_20\\_2024.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/00_senate_agenda_march_20_2024.pdf). In a point of business arising from the February meeting, it was noted that an addition has been made to page 9 of the minutes giving the composition of the Faculty Engagement Consultative Group. It was also mentioned that the point on pages 11 and 12 of the minutes regarding a minimum stipend policy would be addressed at today's meeting under the agenda item for the annual report on Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

In his comments from the Chair, President Saini noted the recent announcement that Mr. Pierre Boivin has been appointed as the twenty-first Chancellor of McGill University, for a three-year term starting July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2027. He then addressed the subject of the challenging climate on campus, a topic he has also discussed in emails he has sent to the McGill community. The Administration is aware of reports of doxing, which is unacceptable. The Provost has mandated a review of this matter, which will be carried out by Associate Provost Campbell and Deputy Provost Labeau over the coming weeks and months. President Saini also discussed the legal challenge which McGill has launched against two measures which the Quebec government announced in December: tuition increases for Canadian students from outside Quebec studying in undergraduate and professional master's programs; and changes to the funding model for international students studying in undergraduate and professional master's programs. He noted that French courses will not be mandatory for students under the francisation measures announced by the government, which effective fall 2025 require English-language universities to have 80% of their undergraduate students from outside Quebec reach a level 5 (intermediate) proficiency in French by the time they graduate. The 80% target, whose meaning is misunderstood, is an obligation imposed on the University, not on students; there is no requirement for an individual student to reach any particular level of French proficiency, and this is not a precondition for students to graduate.

A written question regarding the elimination of Floor Fellows was submitted by Senator Garofalo; the response was provided by Deputy Provost Labeau [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-48\\_question\\_and\\_response\\_regarding\\_the\\_elimination\\_of\\_floor\\_fellows.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-48_question_and_response_regarding_the_elimination_of_floor_fellows.pdf).

Senate approved the report of the Senate Nominating Committee

[https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-49\\_report\\_of\\_the\\_senate\\_nominating\\_committee.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-49_report_of_the_senate_nominating_committee.pdf), the first part of which dealt with the establishment of an Ad hoc Committee to Review the Composition of Senate and the approval of its terms of reference. Such a review is required by Article 6.1.4 of the Statutes to be undertaken at least once every ten years. The Nominating Committee will present recommendations at the April meeting of Senate for the appointment of Senate's representatives on this committee.

Senate conducted an open discussion on the topic of Developing, Fostering, and Consolidating Meaningful Research Collaborations between the Social Sciences, Humanities, and Health Sciences

[https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-50\\_open\\_discussion.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-50_open_discussion.pdf).

A proposed Policy on Student Safety Abroad was presented to Senate for information, and will return to Senate in April for consideration [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-51\\_proposed\\_policy\\_on\\_student\\_safety\\_abroad.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-51_proposed_policy_on_student_safety_abroad.pdf). The proposed policy is intended to replace the current International Mobility Guidelines.

The Provost presented the second of the three annual reports to Senate on budget planning [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-52\\_budget\\_planning\\_2024-2025\\_report\\_ii.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-52_budget_planning_2024-2025_report_ii.pdf). The announcements made in December by the Quebec government have introduced a high level of uncertainty with respect to revenue expectations.

Senate received three reports for information:

[https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-53\\_report\\_of\\_the\\_board\\_of\\_governors.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-53_report_of_the_board_of_governors.pdf)

[https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-55\\_annual\\_report\\_on\\_enrolment\\_and\\_strategic\\_enrolment\\_management.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-55_annual_report_on_enrolment_and_strategic_enrolment_management.pdf)

[https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-56\\_updated\\_annual\\_report\\_on\\_graduate\\_and\\_postdoctoral\\_studies.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-56_updated_annual_report_on_graduate_and_postdoctoral_studies.pdf)

Senate also received a list of Senate and Senate Committee meeting dates for 2024-2025

[https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-54\\_senate\\_and\\_senate\\_committee\\_meeting\\_dates\\_2024-2025.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-54_senate_and_senate_committee_meeting_dates_2024-2025.pdf).

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 April 18, 2024 (exceptionally, on a Thursday rather than on a Wednesday). If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

Regards,  
Your librarian Senate reps,

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