

Senate Report, 2021-03-24

Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place remotely on March 24, 2021.

The meeting began with Dean Lennox presenting a memorial tribute for Professor Mario Onyszchuk and Dean Nicell presenting a memorial tribute for Professor Francisco Galiana. Senate adopted the minutes of the last Senate meeting https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/final_senate_minutes_feb.24_2021.pdf, the report of the Steering

Committee https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/02_report_of_the_steering_committee_3.pdf and the agenda https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/00_senate_agenda_march_24_2021_-_web.pdf.

As business arising from the section of the February minutes summarizing the open discussion on the student academic experience, Senator Hastings suggested that open discussions should be followed up at the subsequent Senate meeting by some remarks from the Principal on how the discussion might inform future actions, if it was felt that more defined forward-looking outputs are needed. The Principal responded that while it might not be possible to provide such an analysis just one month after an open discussion, the idea will be considered; she added that it is already the practice to direct the outcomes of open discussions to the attention of the applicable individuals.

In her remarks from the Chair, Principal Fortier noted that it has been a year since the pandemic was declared, and she offered her condolences to the members of the McGill community who have been deeply affected by it. Regarding the preparations for the Fall 2021 semester, the Principal indicated that approximately 2,000 people had participated in the recent Town Hall on the subject. Potential plans are being developed based on scenarios ranging from the optimistic to the pessimistic. Various factors are being monitored closely, and their current evolution suggests that most likely picture for the fall is that we will be dealing neither with the most optimistic nor with the most pessimistic scenarios, but rather with a situation somewhere in-between them. The Principal noted that the next Quebec budget will be tabled on March 25, and the next federal budget on April 19. In their pre-budget representations to the government, a major point of advocacy by the U15 universities has been the well-being of students who have missed opportunities and need support; relaunching the economy is another topic on which very full proposals have been made. Quebec's Minister of Higher Education, Danielle McCann, has just announced the composition of Comité d'experts sur la reconnaissance de la liberté académique, which will be chaired by former Quebec minister Alexandre Cloutier.

There being no formal written questions, the next item on the agenda was the report of the Senate Nominating Committee, which was approved https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/04_d20-40_nominating_report.pdf.

Senate received for information:

- the annual report on the Policy against Sexual Violence https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/05_d20-41_psv_annual_report_updated.pdf

- the annual report on Enrolment and Strategic Enrolment Management https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/06_d20-42_sem_senate_annual_report.pdf

- the annual report on Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/07_d20-43_gps_annual_report.pdf

- the latest report of the Board of Governors to Senate https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/08_d20-44_board_report_to_senate_march_2021.pdf

- a list of the Senate 2021-2022 meeting dates https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/09_d20-45_senate_meeting_dates_2021-2022.pdf

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

The next Senate meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 20, 2021. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

Regards,

Your librarian Senate reps,

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