

Senate Report, 2022-04-19

Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place remotely on April 19, 2022.

The meeting began with Dean Chan presenting a memorial tribute for Professor Emeritus Jean-Louis Goffin, Dean Hunter presenting a memorial tribute for Professor François Ricard, and Dean Eidelman presenting a memorial tribute for Professor Jason C. Young.

Senate adopted the minutes of the last Senate meeting

https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/final_senate_minutes_march_23_2022.pdf, the report of the Steering Committee

https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/02_report_of_the_senate_steering_committee_updated.pdf and

the agenda https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/01_senate_agenda_april_19_2022_updated.pdf

In her remarks from the Chair, the Principal noted that the Quebec government had been planning to lift mask restrictions this month but subsequently decided to continue with this measure for now. McGill had already decided, prior to the government's change of course, to maintain the wearing of masks until the end of the semester. Spring Convocation ceremonies will be held in person on the lower field of the downtown campus and at Macdonald Campus from May 26 to June 3. The in-person celebrations for students who graduated during the pandemic and whose Convocation ceremonies were held virtually are expected to take place starting on June 6 and ending on June 14. Also forthcoming will be Installation ceremony for Chancellor John McCall McBain.

The federal budget was tabled on April 7; it includes some investments in the university sector, but not what was initially planned. The government had told universities ahead of time to lower their expectations. The recent Quebec budget contains significant increases for the university sector, which is very welcome news for Quebec universities in general, and it includes a McGill-specific allocation of funding for the New Vic project.

Quebec has introduced proposed legislation on academic freedom. The bill has some good points, but some of its aspects are problematic. It may result in large increases in processes and bureaucracy, and these processes are potentially subject to ministerial interference. McGill, along with Quebec's other universities, is looking closely at this bill and will be making its views known to the government.

Under the agenda item for written questions, Senators Levey and Tureli submitted a question regarding the Administration's response to SSMU's Palestine Solidary Policy; the answer was provided by Deputy Provost Labeau
https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/03_question_regarding_administrations_response_to_the_ssmus_palestine_solidary_policy.pdf.

Senate approved the 511th report of the Academic Policy Committee

https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/04_d21-49_511th_apc_report_to_senate.pdf and the report of

the Senate Nominating Committee https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/05._d21-50_nominating_report.pdf .

Senate received for information a presentation on the McGill University budget for FY2023 https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/06._d21-51_fy2023_budget_planning_report_iii.pdf and the McGill University staffing report for 2022 https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/07._d21-52_mcgill_university_staffing_report_2022.pdf .

Deputy Provost Labeau presented for information and comments the proposed Policy on Assessment of Student Learning, which is intended to replace the current University Student Assessment Policy https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/08._d21-53_revisions_to_the_policy_on_the_assessment_of_student_learning.pdf . The policy will return to Senate in May for decision. The targeted outcome for this project is to have an approved policy by the end of this academic year, with full implementation at the start of the Fall 2024 academic term.

Senate received for information:

- The annual Report on Research and Innovation https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/09._d21-54_annual_vp_research_and_innovation_report_senate_2021.pdf .

- The most recent report of the Ad Hoc Committee on COVID Academic Planning and Policies https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/10._d21-55_report_ad_hoc_advisory_committee_on_covid_academic_planning_and_policies.pdf .

- The report of the Joint Senate Steering and Board Executive Committees meeting https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/11._d21-56_joint_executive-steering_meeting_updated.pdf .

The final agenda item was an open discussion on the CAMSR Report Recommendations and Implementation Plan (2019-2020). It was prefaced by a presentation by Mr. Joel Raby, Chair of the Investment Committee of the Board of Governors, and Ms. Sophie Leblanc, Chief Investment Officer and Treasurer https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/12._d21-57_open_discussion_on_camsr_report_recommendations_and_implementation_plan_2019-2020.pdf .

The next Senate meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 11, 2022. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

Regards,
Your librarian Senate reps,

Houman Behzadi
Lucy Kiester
Marc Richard