

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
MEETING OF FACULTY  
Tuesday, 8 April 2025 at 3 p.m.**

**Robert Vogel Council Room (L232), Leacock Building**

**A G E N D A**

Dean Lennox called the meeting to order at 3 p.m., welcoming members to the eighth Faculty of Science Council meeting of the 2024-2025 academic year.

**1. Adoption of Agenda**

Prof. Chmura **moved**, seconded by Prof. Cosa, that the Agenda be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**2. Provost and Executive Vice-President (Academic) Christopher P. Manfredi**

Dean Lennox welcomed the Provost and Executive Vice-President (Academic), Christopher P. Manfredi.

Provost Manfredi thanked Dean Lennox for the invitation and expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to join the Faculty of Science Council. Drawing on his experience as a former Dean of the Faculty of Arts, he noted his longstanding familiarity with the Faculty of Science.

Rather than delivering a formal presentation, the Provost offered brief remarks followed by an open question period.

He addressed the financial challenges facing universities across North America, including McGill. As shared at a recent Senate meeting, the University had completed a \$45 million expenditure adjustment in FY25 and was preparing for FY26. He explained that McGill must reduce the rate of expense growth and increase revenue growth over the next three to five years. While some savings were achieved through voluntary departures, further reductions required involuntary measures, which, although legally and contractually compliant, were difficult for the individuals involved.

The Provost noted that McGill's situation was not unique, citing the Educational Advisory Board's assessment that the current business model for Canadian universities is unsustainable. He attributed stagnating domestic enrollment to demographic shifts and observed that growth through international students had slowed due to global trends and government policy changes.

He emphasized the need to rethink the university's operations, acknowledging discomfort with the term "business model" but underscoring the necessity of aligning expenses and revenues.

To that end, he introduced *Horizon McGill*, a university-wide initiative to review and redesign operational practices. Phase 1 focused on budget adjustment; Phase 2 will examine core processes related to support services and academic delivery. He noted that Vice-Dean David Stephens had agreed to serve as the academic lead for the project.

The Provost reiterated that *Horizon McGill* is not a cost-cutting exercise but a strategic review to support the academic mission. He thanked the Faculty of Science for its

leadership and engagement and emphasized the importance of consultation and community input throughout the process.

He welcomed questions and input from Council members, emphasizing that Horizon McGill would benefit from the expertise of the academic community.

In response to a question, Provost Manfredi acknowledged that some provinces are actively recruiting faculty from the U.S. He stated that McGill is working with other major Quebec research universities and both levels of government to advocate for supportive policies, though federal efforts are currently limited. He noted that McGill is also developing internal proposals to make key strategic investments despite financial constraints. He addressed concerns about recent high-profile faculty departures, emphasizing that most were from disciplines requiring less infrastructure and had been in discussion for some time. He underlined that American universities, particularly at the top tier, remain the most powerful globally, and that McGill and U of T are still highly ranked internationally. He concluded by stressing the importance of creative, visionary strategies to remain competitive.

In reply to Dean Lennox's question—whether Horizon McGill's focus on operating principles and staffing is being developed in parallel with academic programming, or if these elements will be addressed sequentially—Provost Manfredi confirmed that the two will run in parallel. He explained that the Uniform exercise focuses on support services such as HR and finance, which enable academic activity. Academic programming will be addressed separately, with Associate Provost (Teaching and Academic Planning) Christopher Buddle leading work on evaluating small courses and programs, improving classroom and lab space usage, and adjusting scheduling to reduce overflow rooms. A broader, faculty-led review of academic offerings and their delivery is also planned. Manfredi noted the tendency to equate program complexity with rigor, when in fact it often creates confusion. Two working groups—one on academic programs and another on online delivery—are supporting these efforts.

Provost Manfredi also took a moment to express gratitude to Dean Lennox. He thanked Dean Lennox for his exceptional service to the Faculty of Science and to the University in various roles, adding that further thanks would be given on behalf of the entire university.

**3. Minutes of 11 March 2025 S-24-31**

Prof. Zuend **moved**, seconded by Prof. Blanchette, that the Minutes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

**5. Reports of Committees**

**a) Academic Committee S-24-32**

Associate Dean (Academic) Axel Hundemer presented a report on proposals approved at the Academic Committee meeting on 18 March 2025. He noted that, for the second consecutive time, it would be a short report. However, it involved two new courses from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, making it significant.

## I. New Courses:

### Mathematics & Statistics

MATH 266                      Theory & Numerics of Ordinary & Partial Diff. Equations [AC-24-63](#)  
3 credits

Associate Dean Hundemer presented MATH 266, a new course for engineering students, developed as part of a curriculum reform. It will replace an existing course and provide a modern introduction to ordinary and partial differential equations, with additional numerical methods compared to MATH 271, which it will replace in the mechanical engineering curriculum.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Prof. Chmura, that the course be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

MATH 568                      Lie Groups [AC-24-64](#)  
4 credits

Associate Dean Hundemer introduced MATH 568, a higher-level course focused on Lie groups, which play a key role in both pure mathematics and theoretical physics. Previously offered as a topics course, it garnered significant student interest, leading to the decision to make it a permanent part of the curriculum.

Correction: The course proposal for MATH 568 should have stated four credits instead of three.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Prof. Cosa, that the course be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

## 6. Dean's Business

### (i) Announcements

**Bruce: I omitted the student's name from the minutes for confidentiality and in keeping with the sensitivity of the situation. Please let me know if you'd prefer that the name be included.**

#### In Memoriam

Dean Lennox shared the tragic news of the passing of a graduate student in the Faculty of Science, who died by suicide on March 3, 2025. The University was informed on March 29. Once informed, efforts were made to quickly reach out to those most directly affected, and support was provided in collaboration with the Office of the Dean of Students. Support services were made available to members of the department and the broader community, and contact was maintained with the student's family. The Dean emphasized the importance of acknowledging this loss, ensuring access to internal and external resources, and fostering a supportive environment for all members of the community. A printed list of available resources was provided. The Council paused for a moment of reflection in memory of the student.

Associate Dean Nilson acknowledged the importance of making support resources more visible and accessible. She recalled that in the past, such materials would be posted on departmental bulletin boards and suggested doing something similar, encouraging members to take a copy, note the information, and share it within their units. She added that, at the Faculty level, efforts would continue to ensure the information reaches members of the community through targeted communications.

Dean Lennox confirmed that the list would be circulated to all Chairs, Directors, GPDs, and advisors following the meeting. He noted that this type of resource is not always readily available or centralized and emphasized the need to prioritize care not only for the affected family but also for the broader community during difficult times.

**Suggestions:**

1. Include a concise subset of key support resources in course syllabi.
2. Compile essential student support information into a brief, coherent format.
3. Encourage early identification of students in difficulty and direct them to appropriate support services.
4. Increase visibility of support resources to signal institutional commitment to student well-being.
5. Place support resource information in a standard, accessible location on MyCourses.
6. Communicate support resources as a deliberate and consistent institutional practice.

**Budget Update**

Dean Lennox reported that since the last Faculty Council meeting, he visited each department within the Faculty of Science to meet with faculty members and senior administrative staff. These visits served as Q&A sessions focused on the budget submitted on March 7 and formally accepted on March 14. Feedback from departments was similar.

He noted that planning was already underway for the upcoming fiscal years. Although the detailed implications of the Quebec budget remained unclear, projected deficits for fiscal years 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 would need to be revised due to unexpected changes in the government's grant indexation. The University would need to explore new strategies to reduce costs during this period.

Dean Lennox referenced roles assigned within the university related to budget planning, including Vice-Dean Stevens' role as academic lead and the formation of working groups. He co-chaired a group focused on advancement and donor relations, which aimed to align philanthropic contributions with the operational needs of the University to help offset base budget pressures.

He also addressed the broader political and economic context, observing that current global circumstances had created significant instability. He stressed the need for flexibility from both political and institutional leadership, particularly as public expectations would need to shift. As a public university, McGill receives 40% of its funding from the Quebec government and nearly all of its research funding from government sources (approximately 25% provincial, 75% federal), all of which were under strain.

Dean Lennox encouraged members to stay informed and engaged with the evolving situation, noting that simply acknowledging reduced funding was insufficient for identifying solutions. He emphasized that recruitment efforts, particularly for academic refugees, must be approached strategically to ensure alignment with long-term goals and institutional stability.

He proposed initiating strategic academic planning at the departmental level, to be followed swiftly by planning at the faculty level. For example, if McGill were allocated 50 Canada Research Chairs (CRCs), the University should be prepared with clear plans for how those positions would be filled and what contributions the appointees would make. Proactive scenario-building, he suggested, would better position the University than reacting to announcements after the fact.

Vice-Dean Stephens reported that the admissions process was well underway. While the number of offers sent out was slightly behind last year's pace, the number of confirmations received was ahead of last year's figures across all categories — including both domestic

and international students. He estimated that roughly one-fifth of the confirmations had been received so far. Overall, his understanding was that the process was proceeding well in terms of confirmations.

Dean Lennox emphasized the importance of outreach efforts to students who had accepted offers, to ensure they proceeded to register. He noted that the financial penalty for accepting an offer but not enrolling was minimal — approximately \$200 — unlike some American universities that require nearly full payment upon acceptance. As a result, the phenomenon referred to by Enrolment Services as “melt” remained a concern: students who accept their offers but fail to appear in late August. This pattern creates significant challenges for both revenue forecasting and academic planning. However, it was a factor that could be managed, since the Faculty had the ability to engage directly with those students.

He then asked Vice-Dean Stephens to confirm the total U0 and U1 enrolment from the previous year. Vice-Dean Stephens responded that total U0 and U1 enrolment last year came in at approximately 1,400 students. He noted that while the number of confirmed offers this year was currently just over 300, the Faculty remained early in the process, and the target remained consistent at around 1,400 confirmed enrolments.

Vice-Dean Stephens confirmed that international applications were up by 76% compared to the previous year. The number of offers made to international students was slightly higher than last year, and the yield, or confirmation of offers, appeared to be ahead of last year’s pace, with estimates of 102–103% of last year’s figures.

While the overall number of international applications had decreased somewhat, the applicant pool remained strong. The Faculty continued to see a favourable application-to-registration ratio—11:1 two years ago, and 10.7:1 last year. Vice-Dean Stephens noted the importance of carefully managing these ratios to avoid complacency.

### **2025 Convocation Ceremonies**

**Date:** 30 May 2025 (morning and afternoon)

#### **Key Highlights:**

- An honorary doctorate speaker will be featured in the afternoon session, though the identity has yet to be announced. The speaker is expected to be a prominent researcher with an important message.
- The stage party sign-up is open for both the morning (Life Sciences) and afternoon (Physical Sciences) ceremonies. Faculty members are encouraged to participate, with a particular emphasis on filling the Life Sciences session, which has been under-populated in previous convocations.
- This is a special convocation, as it marks the graduation of students who entered during the challenging period of remote learning. Many students did not have the chance to attend in-person classes, making this cohort particularly notable for their resilience and dedication.

### **(ii) Kudos**

Dean Lennox congratulated the following Faculty members recognized for their exceptional achievements, noting that such honours reflect the strength and impact of research within the Faculty of Science.

### **Canada Research Chair Renewals:**

This month, four Science researchers have had their Canada Research Chairs renewed. The recipients include:

- **Andrew Hendry** (Biology)
- **Thomas Brunner** (Physics)

- **Yajing Liu** (Earth and Planetary Sciences)
- **Nicolas Cowan** (Physics and Earth and Planetary Sciences), who was also the recipient of the Arthur B. McDonald Fellowship from NSERC.

#### **2025 Dorothy Killam Fellowship**

**Simon Caron-Huot** (Physics) has been awarded a 2025 Dorothy Killam Fellowship, a prestigious honour bestowed by the Killam Trusts to only eight researchers nationwide. This fellowship offers up to two years of relief from teaching and administrative duties, enabling recipients to pursue groundbreaking research that could significantly benefit Canadians. McGill's Faculty of Science has the largest share of these awards nationwide.

#### **President's Prizes for Public Engagement through Media:**

- **Jérôme Waldispühl and Attila Szantner** from the School of Computer Science: Recognized for innovative use of digital platforms in computational biology, engaging 5 million people globally in genomics matching—a prime example of citizen science.
- **Eclipse Task Force in Physics:** A large-scale event held in collaboration with the Trottier Space Institute and involving 100 students, attracted around 20,000 participants on the Lower Field and Reservoir. The event successfully raised funds for the classes.
- **Andy Gonzalez** (Department of Biology): Awarded the inaugural "Changemaker Award" for his significant contributions to biodiversity research, particularly in collaboration with the IPCC. He has led impactful global conferences and brought an influential data analytics group to McGill.

### **7. Science Undergraduate Society (SUS) Report**

President-Elect Eliot Bergeron reported on behalf of SUS President Amelia Whitcomb.

The SUS Executive team for 2025–2026 has been elected and will begin their terms on May 1. Transition efforts are underway, with the team preparing exit documents and scheduling meetings to ensure a smooth handover.

All SUS fee renewal questions passed by referendum this term, with changes taking effect in Fall 2025.

The annual SUS Appreciation Night (SUSANs) was held on March 24, with approximately 250 attendees from SUS departmental councils, clubs, committees, and staff. The event celebrated the accomplishments of the year.

The VP Academic is compiling course overlap data to offer student perspectives on content originality across faculty courses.

The SUS-AUS Graduation Ball took place on April 4 and welcomed over 1,000 graduating students from the Faculties of Science and Arts. The VP Internal and her team were commended for organizing a safe and enjoyable celebration.

Outgoing President Whitcomb extended her thanks to colleagues for a meaningful year of collaboration and expressed enthusiasm for the incoming President, Eliot Bergeron.

Dean Lennox thanked President-Elect Bergeron for the report and acknowledged the SUS as a valued partner of the Faculty. He commended the organization for consistently advocating for student interests and needs.

### **8. Science Equity and Climate Committee**

Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson reported on the Science Equity and Climate Committee (SECC). The final formal meeting of the year took place on 18 March 2025, with an informal meeting planned for later in April to allow for open discussion and connection-building among members.

At the March meeting, members received an update on the revisions to the McGill Policy on Harassment and Discrimination, presented by Diane Dechief, Senior Faculty Lecturer, Office of Science Education. The revised policy is expected to go to Senate next week and will be publicly available thereafter.

Incoming SUS President Eliot Bergeron shared plans for a new undergraduate student report focused on learning and academic assessment methods. The aim is to identify student-perceived best practices and provide faculty with actionable feedback.

Director Marcy Slapcoff, from the Office of Science Education, gave an update on TA training programming. The committee discussed forming a working group to broaden participation and expand this science-specific training, which complements existing university-wide offerings and supports a positive climate for working and learning.

Members also explored gaps in student preparation, particularly at the graduate level. Some departments have developed “Grad 101” courses to orient new students, and there was interest in expanding such initiatives across other units. These courses aim to provide foundational knowledge, reduce the burden on supervisors, and ensure consistent information for all incoming students.

Finally, Associate Dean Nilson noted that the committee briefly discussed plans to develop programming on the responsible conduct of research, with further updates to follow.

## 9. Provost’s Action Plan to Address Anti-Black Racism

Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Nilson presented select highlights from McGill’s 2023–2024 annual report, focusing on Theme 1 of the University’s strategic plan: the Student Experience. She noted that the report is organized around five core themes and that student experience consistently serves as the first pillar.

Given the breadth of material, she chose to highlight a few key initiatives grouped into three categories:

1. **Support for current students:** These initiatives included efforts to develop and support Black student associations, funding for events and conference travel for Black students, and broader measures aimed at enhancing the campus experience.
2. **Outreach to prospective students:** While not an official category in the report, Associate Dean Nilson observed a strong emphasis on outreach and mentorship with Black CEGEP students. She also noted the continued success of the *Black Pathway* Program in Medicine, which helps younger students envision a future at McGill in medical studies.
3. **Community-wide initiatives:** Programming for Black History Month served both to celebrate Black history and educate the McGill community. Additionally, a new online module on systemic racism—similar in format to the *It Takes All of Us* module on sexual violence—was implemented. Teaching and Learning Services also continued its work to integrate anti-racism, equity, diversity, and inclusion principles into its offerings for instructors.

She concluded by noting that extracts from other sections of the annual report would be shared at a future meeting.

Dean Lennox commended the ongoing strength and activity within the two impressive portfolios discussed, noting that there has been no plateau in momentum. He attributed this sustained engagement to the dedication of those involved, acknowledging that while initiatives of this nature can sometimes lose steam due to competing demands, no such decline was evident.

He emphasized the strong link between the two thematic areas and underscored the importance of continuing to promote these efforts broadly. “We really need to get on our soapbox and tell people—this is what McGill stands for,” he remarked.

## 10. The New Vic Project Update

Dean Lennox provided a brief update on the New Vic Project. He reiterated, as previously noted in the minutes from two meetings ago, that despite significant cuts to university budgets—particularly capital budgets—the New Vic Project remains unaffected. He clarified that it is a separate, sequestered initiative and not part of the University’s general allocation. The Province of Québec continues to commit \$620 million in funding toward the project.

He reported that the project is progressing, particularly in terms of demolition. The 1950s buildings are now reduced to concrete shells and will be dismantled floor by floor in the coming weeks. He highlighted the sophistication of the demolition process, noting that approximately 70% of all materials are being recovered and reused. This approach stands in contrast to more traditional demolition methods. The recovered materials not only hold value but also contribute positively to the project’s financial bottom line—resale value exceeds the cost of reclamation, making it economically viable.

## 11. Reports of Associate Deans and Vice-Dean

### a) Vice-Dean David Stephens

Vice-Dean Stephens provided two key updates—on undergraduate admissions and the upcoming exam period.

#### **Admissions Update:**

As of the meeting date, there were 476 confirmations, with a target of approximately 1,500, consistent with last year’s numbers. Last year, over 1,500 confirmations resulted in around 1,350 registered students, indicating a strong yield. Yield activities will continue through April and summer, coordinated by the Faculty. Professors have volunteered to provide one-on-one advising to prospective students, and those sessions will roll out in the coming weeks.

#### **Exam and Grade Submission Reminders:**

Vice-Dean Stephens reminded instructors of the **final grade submission deadline: Wednesday, 7 May 2025**. Given this tight timeline, he urged departments to consider internal deadlines at the beginning of that week. The short turnaround is critical for processing grades in time for graduation lists and award decisions.

Instructors can expect more active follow-up this year from Pete and others regarding missing or late grades, including outreach to department chairs. While graduating students’ grades are the top priority, all grades must be submitted on time.

He also advised instructors to use grade codes accurately, noting that certain codes—such as **K (incomplete)**—should only be used in appropriate circumstances and **not** as placeholders for unentered grades. Other commonly misused codes include **J (absent)**, **F (fail)**, and **L (missing)**.



Dean Lennox emphasized the importance of collaboration with the Chief Advisor Pete Barry and noting that the 7 May deadline was non-negotiable. This deadline was critical for graduating students and for those enrolling in summer courses. Given the size of some courses and the volume of grade submissions, the process required considerable attention.

He encouraged departments to provide backup support if instructors were overwhelmed and acknowledged that unforeseen life events could impact grading. However, he stated that reasons such as attending a conference would not be considered acceptable grounds for delaying grade submissions. The process was labour-intensive and manually executed at both the department and Faculty levels, and any delay had a significant impact.

**Clarification of Processes for Off-Campus Academic Activities:**

Vice-Dean Stephens reported on efforts to clarify procedures for students pursuing academic activities off campus, such as internships, study away, exchanges, or research placements. Although the appropriate office to handle these requests is generally clear, students often face confusion about how to access the necessary support or letters.

An ongoing review is examining which components can be managed centrally—such as by the Internships Office—and which must remain faculty-specific. As part of this review, clearer processes and guidance will be communicated to students. Draft documents are already in development to help students identify the appropriate point of contact. The Faculty of Science is actively involved, particularly given student interest in study away opportunities for the upcoming summer term.

**b) Associate Dean (Academic) Axel Hundemer**

**Importance of Timely Grade Submission and Instructor Presence at Exams**

Associate Dean Hundemer added to the discussion on timely grade submissions by emphasizing their impact on scholarships. Associate Dean (Academic) and Josie D'Amico are responsible for scholarship administration, and missing grades can jeopardize the eligibility of otherwise strong candidates due to conflicting deadlines. This can significantly disadvantage students and should be avoided whenever possible.

He also reminded instructors of the importance of being present at their final exams, ideally for the entire duration, and at minimum at the start. Presence is crucial to resolving issues that may arise during the exam. He urged instructors to ensure that the Exam Office has a current and reachable phone number—specifically, one that the instructor will have on their person during the exam, rather than a home or office line.

In cases where an instructor cannot attend due to an emergency, an associate examiner should be designated to be available on-site.

Dean Lennox supported these remarks, noting that the goal is to stabilize the student experience. He stressed that nothing is more destabilizing than errors on an exam that cannot be corrected in real time. Although these are university regulations, he urged all attendees to bring these reminders back to their departments, particularly to department Chairs, as unresolved exam errors are highly disruptive.

**c) Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson**

**Associate Dean Nilson provided several updates:**

- **Graduate Admissions:** As of the meeting date, confirmed offers for Fall 2025 were at 99% of the total confirmations at the same time last year, with both Master's and PhD levels tracking similarly. Compared to final numbers from last year, current confirmations are at 78%, suggesting the Faculty is on track. However, total numbers remain below enrollment targets.

- **Graduate Funding Supplement:** A funding supplement of \$1,500 has been offered to all currently registered MSc and PhD students in the Faculty of Science for the 2024–2025 academic year. This is the third time the Faculty has issued such a supplement. It is provided as a top-up to increase students' take-home pay.
- **Travel Reimbursement Guidance:** Associate Dean Nilson addressed recent questions from supervisors about risks related to U.S. travel for students and potential reimbursement for cancelled conference expenses. A central communication on this topic was recently circulated, stating that reimbursement is handled case by case. Associate Dean Nilson offered to assist anyone seeking clarification.
- **Graduate Student Experience in the Research University (gradSERU):** McGill participated in the gradSERU survey for the first time in March–April 2024, collecting responses from PhD students only. With a 46% response rate University-wide (43% for the Faculty of Science), the survey provides comparative data on graduate student experience across over 30 North American research universities. Initial Faculty-level analysis reveals areas for targeted support. Notably, financial dissatisfaction is common, but a more surprising finding was that many students reported difficulty locating relevant information—a challenge the Faculty hopes to address.

#### **d) Associate Dean (Research) Alanna Watt**

**Strategic Research Plan (SRP):** Associate Dean Watt provided an update on the renewal of McGill's Strategic Research Plan, noting that it is both a public-facing document and an important internal reference for initiatives such as Canada Research Chairs, tenure, and promotion. To ensure that the Faculty of Science was well represented in consultations with the Office of the Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation), five online meetings were held last month with strong participation from departments and units. Those unable to attend were invited to provide input via a survey. Faculty of Science feedback will be summarized and shared with the VPRI office.

Members were encouraged to attend a virtual session titled *McGill's Next Strategic Research Plan*, presented by Associate Vice-Principal (Research) Lara Khoury, on **Wednesday, 30 April 2025, from 9:00–10:00 a.m. on Teams**. The session will explain updates to the SRP and offer a final opportunity to provide feedback. A registration link will be shared with Faculty of Science members later in the week.

Dean Lennox emphasized the importance of inclusion in McGill's Strategic Research Plan renewal. Drawing from his experience with past SRPs, he stressed that the document must be continuously updated to ensure all sectors, including those within the Faculty of Science, are fully represented. He raised concerns that previous SRPs inadequately framed areas like psychology and neuroscience, underscoring the need for broader, more inclusive representation in the current process.

#### **e) Associate Dean (Student Affairs)**

This portfolio is shared between Vice-Dean David Stephens (see item 11(a)) and Associate Dean (Academic) Axel Hundemer (see item 11(b)).

### **12. Reports on Actions of Senate**

#### **– Senator David Stephens: Senate Meeting, 19 March 2025**

The meeting began with two memorial tributes.

In his remarks, the President commented on some provincial and federal political developments, including the implementation of Bill 74 that sets quotas for international students in Quebec.

Main items of business included:

- Small changes to the calendar of academic dates for 2027-2030
- APC report
- The second of three Budget reports
  - University was expected to conclude the 2024-2025 fiscal year with a deficit of \$11.2M
  - The \$45M expense reduction for 2025-26 had been achieved by Units across the University; the 2025-26 budget was up for approval by the Board.
  - Indexation of tuition and fees at 2% would lead to a \$4.5M loss

During this presentation, the Provost confirmed the job losses across McGill that were announced by email earlier in the meeting. There was also some discussion of the UniForum survey: the response rate was 30% overall, with 40% of all Administrative and Support Staff and 20% of all Academic Staff reporting.

The third of Budget report will be presented at the April meeting.

- Report from the Board of Governors
- Annual reports
  - Enrolment and Strategic Enrolment
  - GPS
  - Ombudsperson for students
  - Office of Indigenous Initiatives

That concluded main business, and then Senate moved to confidential session, after which the meeting was adjourned.

### 13. **Members' Question Period**

Later in the meeting, following the earlier *In Memoriam* for the graduate student from the Faculty of Science, Dean Lennox opened the floor to questions. He also noted that an updated contact sheet would be circulated to student services and academic advisors.

He also shared remarks on a recent travel advisory memo, expressing concern about the lack of clarity regarding the country involved and citing U15 guidance that Canadian airports with U.S. customs are safest for international travelers with potentially problematic nationality or place-of-birth markers.

### 14. **Other Business**

There being no other business, Chief Academic Advisor Barry **moved**, seconded by Prof. Cosa, that the meeting be adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

**The motion carried.**