



Meeting of April 28, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.  
Webex Conferencing Application

**Present:** Bruno Belzile, Angela Campbell, David Eidelman, Anja Geitmann, Kenneth Hastings, Terry Hébert, Bruce Lennox, Antonia Maioni, Christopher Manfredi (Chair), Momar Ndao, Dilson Rassier, Brenda Ravenscroft, Nellie Voudouris, Madeline Wilson.

**Regrets:** Eleanor Elstein, Joseph Hakim, Josephine Nalbantoglu, Bernard Robaire, Eran Shor.

## **PART II. FOR THE APPROVAL OF SENATE**

### **1. PROPOSED REVISIONS TO SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

#### **1.1 Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee**

##### RECOMMENDATION

*Approve the proposed revisions to the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee Terms of Reference, as presented in Appendix A.*

##### BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

The Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee (HDCC)'s Terms of Reference were last reviewed in 2009.

As a good governance practice, terms of reference of committees should be reviewed periodically. The current review focused on ensuring current practices were reflected in the Terms of Reference and clarifying some of the provisions in the document.

Key modifications recommended by the HDCC include the following:

- Adding language to highlight the confidential nature of the Committee's work;
- Updating the Committee's terms of reference to include a more complete listing of the Committee's responsibilities;
- Adding the revocation of honorary degrees to the Committee's area of responsibility and providing details concerning the implementation of this responsibility in the Committee's Guidelines. (Based on the Guidelines, in such situations, the Committee Chair would form and convene an ad hoc sub-committee composed of the Principal and three to five members of the Committee, to consider the matter and to advise the Committee accordingly.)
- Expressly mentioning that the University Registrar and Executive Director, Enrolment Services, or delegate will serve as a resource person to the Committee.

##### PRIOR CONSULTATION

Enrolment Services; Legal Services, HDCC, Senate Nominating Committee



**Honorary Degrees and  
Convocations Committee  
Terms of Reference**

**I. MANDATE**

The Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee ("Committee") is a Standing Committee of Senate. Its mandate is to recommend to Senate outstanding individuals for the conferral of McGill honorary degrees, the highest honour that the University can bestow. It shall also advise on convocations matters as required.

Individuals nominated for honorary degrees have lifetime records of outstanding scholarly, scientific or artistic achievement, or of exceptional contributions to the public good through professional or philanthropic activity, that make them worthy candidates and position them to contribute to McGill's reputation and distinction both at home and internationally.

The Committee shall meet in closed session and all matters related to individuals nominated for honorary degrees shall be treated in strict confidence by the Committee.

**II. SPECIFIC AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

The Committee shall:

1. Solicit, receive and review nominations for the conferral of honorary degrees from the Faculties, from individual members of the McGill community, from members of Senate, from the McGill Alumni Association and from members of the broader community;
2. Select candidates for the conferral of honorary degrees and submit them to Senate for approval;
3. Recommend the particular honorary degree that should be awarded to each candidate submitted to Senate for approval;
- ~~4. Develop guidelines for the selection of candidates for McGill honorary degrees and submit them to Senate for approval;~~
4. Recommend to Senate the revocation of an honorary degree in situations where maintaining the honorary degree would be prejudicial to the University's reputation and/or found to be in contradiction to the University's mission or values.
5. Receive ~~and~~ review and recommend to Senate for approval nominations from the Principal's Advisory Committee for the conferral of the McGill University Medal for Exceptional Academic Achievement (The McGill Medal);

6. Receive, review and recommend to Senate for approval nominations from the Adjudication Committee for the Lifetime Achievement Award for Leadership in Learning for the conferral of the Lifetime Achievement Award for Leadership in Learning;

7. Approve, on behalf of Senate, dates for convocation ceremonies;

6-8. Advise Senate and the appropriate administrative unit of the University as required, appropriate on convocation matters;

9. Develop guidelines, as necessary, for the purpose of operationalizing its mandate;

7-10. Meet at least twice a year (in closed session).

### III. COMPOSITION

#### *Composition:*

The Committee shall be composed of 14 members, as follows:

- ~~The~~ Chancellor (Chair of the Committee), *ex officio*
- ~~The~~ Principal and Vice-Chancellor, *ex officio*
- ~~The~~ Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic), *ex officio*
- ~~The~~ Chair of the Board or delegate, *ex officio*
- ~~The~~ A University Co-Marshal, *ex officio*
- ~~The~~ President of the McGill Alumni Association ~~or delegate~~, *ex officio*
  
- Six representatives of Senate, to be nominated by the Senate Nominating Committee and appointed by Senate to reflect the breadth of the University
- One graduate student
- One undergraduate student

The Secretary-General (~~Committee Secretary~~) shall serve as Secretary and governance advisor to the Committee.

The University Registrar and Executive Director, Enrolment Services, or delegate, shall serve as a resource person.

Source: Senate Minute 102, January 27, 1960  
Senate Minute 11, September 30, 1987  
Amendment: Senate Minute 118, May 3, 1995  
Senate Minute 8, May 24, 2000  
Senate Minute IIB4.2, May 20, 2009



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