



Memorandum

Secretariat

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TO: Senate

FROM: Professor Suzanne Fortier, Principal and Vice-Chancellor

SUBJECT: Report of the Joint Senate Steering and Board Executive Committees Meeting

DATE: April 17, 2019

DOCUMENT #: D18-63

ACTION REQUIRED: INFORMATION APPROVAL/DECISION

ISSUE A report on the Joint Senate Steering and Board Executive Committees meeting is presented for information.

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE Article 6.3.9.1 of the Statutes of McGill University provides that the Senate and the Board of Governors shall hold an annual joint meeting in the fall term where the Principal, the Provost, the Deputy Provost, and the vice-principals, as appropriate, shall present for discussion, matters they consider relevant to the University’s mission for the ensuing year.

On March 28, 2019, the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors and the Senate Steering Committee met to select a topic for the 2019 Joint Board-Senate meeting, which will be held on November 14, 2019.

The Committees agreed to focus the general topic of the joint meeting on the following question: How Can McGill be a Model of an Open and Connected University? The Committees agreed that the development of the topic should be guided by potential themes to be explored in the context of preparing the program and background materials for the joint meeting. Please see Appendix A for details.

PRIOR CONSULTATION Members of the Board of Governors and of Senate were asked to suggest potential topics in the evaluation form distributed at the last Joint Board-Senate meeting.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS Sustainability factors will inform development of the theme.

IMPACT OF DECISION AND NEXT STEPS A working group will be struck to prepare background materials.
The Joint Board-Senate meeting will take place on November 14, 2019.

**MOTION OR
RESOLUTION
FOR APPROVAL**

This item is presented for information.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Report of the Joint Senate Steering and Board Executive
Committees Meeting of March 28, 2019

**Report of the Joint Senate Steering and
Board Executive Committees Meeting of March 28, 2019**

A joint meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors and the Senate Steering Committee took place on March 28, 2019 to set the topic of the annual Joint Board-Senate meeting, scheduled for November 14, 2019. Based on the conversation at this meeting, the topic selected is:

How Can McGill be a Model of an Open and Connected University?

This topic was chosen based on the Committee's discussion of a proposal received from Henry Mintzberg, Professor in the Desautels Faculty of Management, and his daughter Susan Mintzberg, PhD candidate, McGill School of Social Work.

The proposal focused on the perception of universities as closed-off or inaccessible to the greater community, juxtaposed against a model of universities as collaborative, connected and responsive to the world beyond their walls.

The Committees found value in exploring this topic in the context of the University's Strategic Academic Plan, which has established a vision of a 21st century university that is open, connected and purposeful. Some of the core ideas of our Academic Plan are to make McGill University:

- Open to new ideas, other ways of looking at the world, and new ways of doing things
- Connected to its local and global community
- Connected across disciplines and sectors

The Committees discussed possible questions that could be addressed in the context of developing the topic. These include:

- How do we define openness and connection among our own internal stakeholders?
- What incentives do we have/should we have to encourage more connections across disciplines and sectors?
- How can we promote stronger collaboration between McGill, industry partners and the greater community?
- How can we ensure that feedback loops are complete, so that we can receive valuable input from the greater community?

A working group will be established to develop the program and prepare materials for the joint meeting. A part of the program will be dedicated to a presentation by Professor Mintzberg and Ms. Susan Mintzberg.