



(April 12, 2016 meeting, in preparation for Senate meeting of April 20, 2016)

## **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SENATE**

The minutes of the Senate meeting of March 23, 2016 were circulated to the Steering Committee, and the Steering Committee provided feedback, which was incorporated in the minutes. It is recommended that they now be considered by Senate for approval.

## **2. APPROVAL OF CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF SENATE**

The Steering Committee reports that it has reviewed the confidential minutes of the meeting of March 23, 2016 and has approved them on behalf of Senate. These minutes are not published or circulated but are available for perusal by Senators in the Secretariat.

## **3. RECOMMENDATION OF SENATOR NICELL AS CHAIR OF SENATE FOR THE APRIL 20, 2016 MEETING**

The Principal will be participating in the Business Higher Education Roundtable in Toronto on April 20, 2016. Therefore, selecting a replacement Chair for this meeting is required. The Steering Committee recommends Senator Nicell serve as Chair for the April 20, 2016 Senate meeting.

## **4. SPEAKING RIGHTS**

The Senate Steering Committee requests speaking rights for Professor Ghyslaine McClure, Associate Provost (Budget & Resources), and Mr. Real Del Degan, Interim Director (Office of the Budget) for item IIB1 (Proposed McGill University Budget 2016-17) and for Mr. Glenn Zabowski, Associate Dean of Students, for item IIB5 (Further Revisions to the University Student Assessment Policy).

## **5. SENATE QUESTIONS**

The Senate Steering Committee received a question from Senator Sobat concerning the McGill-owned building that houses the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in Canada (PIASC). Due to the building's deteriorating condition, it is to be vacated by June 1, 2016 and PIASC will need to find another location for its operations. The four part question asked for, inter alia, (a) the engineering report on the building at 3479 Peel Street, (b) whether the University would consider extending the move-out date of the PIASC, (c) whether the University is willing to meet with the PIASC to discuss alternate spaces, and (d) the University's plan for the building.

The Senate Steering Committee observed that the nature of the question, dealing specifically with building and space issues, was a matter falling more within the Board's purview than Senate's, and would best be referred to the Vice-Principal (Administration and Finance).

Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic) Christopher Manfredi pointed out that the PIASC is an independent organization, not an academic unit of McGill University, and has no formal affiliation with McGill. There are no academic programs linked to the PIASC. Polish is not taught at McGill. The PIASC may host events of interest to the McGill community and it does maintain a library. McGill has accepted to house certain PIASC library materials, deemed important for a research collection, at the McGill University Library. While it has occupied space in a McGill building since 1943, this has been a goodwill arrangement on the part of McGill. The University has previously discussed with the PIASC, in 2002 and again in 2009, the matter of its moving out of the current space.

In the above context, the Senate Steering Committee deemed the question to be not of general interest to Senate and encouraged Senator Sobat to refer the question to the Vice-Principal (Administration and Finance) and request a written response.

The Senate Steering Committee received a question from Senators Mills and Toccalino regarding safety on McTavish and Peel Street sidewalks. The question was deemed to be not of general interest to Senate and Senators Mills and Toccalino were encouraged to refer their questions directly to the Vice-Principal (Administration and Finance) and request a written response.

## **6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Steering Committee has reviewed the Agenda for the present meeting and recommends it for approval.

**Present:** Professor Suzanne Fortier (*Chair*); Professors Kalle Gehring, David Harpp, Daniel Jutras, Christopher Manfredi, Bernard Robaire, Mr. Devin Mills, Ms. Chloe Rourke, Mr. Stephen Strople (*Secretary*).

**Regrets:** Professors Daniel Bernard and Nigel Roulet.