



(May 10, 2018 meeting, in preparation for Senate meeting of May 16, 2018)

## **PART I**

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

The minutes of the Senate meeting of April 19, 2018 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. SPEAKING RIGHTS**

The Steering Committee requests speaking rights for:

- Professor Shaheen Shariff, Chair of the Ad Hoc Panel to Conduct a Campus Study of Sexual Violence, for item IIB3 (Update on the Implementation of the Policy against Sexual Violence); and
- Professor Nandini Ramanujam, Co-Chair of the Principal’s Task Force on Respect and Inclusion in Campus Life, for item IIB4 (Final Report from the Principal’s Task Force on Respect and Inclusion in Campus Life).

### **3. CONFIDENTIAL SESSION**

The Steering Committee recommends that Senate hold a confidential session for discussion of item IIB10, Report of Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee (D17-76).

### **4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

## **PART II**

### **1. REVIEW OF QUESTIONS AND MOTIONS**

Following the Senate Steering Committee’s suggestions to Senator Mikkelson with respect to his motion regarding divestment from the fossil fuel industry, an updated motion was submitted by Senator Mikkelson and considered by the Committee at its May meeting.

The Committee had a lengthy discussion on the motion and a variety of viewpoints were shared. Notably, the Committee debated, again, the question of the motion’s admissibility in light of the division of responsibilities established for the Senate and the Board of Governors within the Statutes. It was recognized that the question of divestment was within the purview of the Board and that the Board considered the matter based on its own processes and mechanisms. It was also considered that the Statutes enable the Senate to make “such representations, through the Principal, to the Board

of Governors as may from time to time become necessary or desirable, touching any claims and needs of the University or any part thereof” (section 6.3.8 of the Statutes).

After much discussion, the Committee accepted the motion for submission to Senate but asked that Senate’s reflection on the matter take into account the following question:

Given the division of responsibility set for the Board of Governors and the Senate by the Statutes, does Senate, in the context of its academic mandate, think it necessary or desirable to express an opinion on a matter that has been considered by the Board in line with its authority and based on processes and mechanisms that it has established?

**Present:** Suzanne Fortier (*Chair*); Nicholas Dunn, Kenneth Hastings, Terry Hébert, Isabelle Oke, Marc Richard, Edyta Rogowska (*Secretary*), Nigel Roulet.

**Regrets:** Angela Campbell, Christopher Manfredi, Jim Nicell.