



Minutes

Wednesday, January 19, 2011 10-11:05

Minutes of the meeting of Senate held on Wednesday, January 19, 2011 at 2:30 p.m. in the Robert Vogel Council Room (Room 232, Leacock Building.)

PRESENT

Abaki, Joshua	Grütter, Peter	Newburgh, Zach
Aitken, Ellen	Gyakum, John	Pekeles, Gary
Allison, Paul	Harpp, David	Perrault, H��l��ne
Bishop, Alexandra	Hashimoto, Kyoko	Peterson, Kathryn
Blachford, Gregg	Hebert, Johanne	Possian, Amara
Blom, Randall	Hepburn, Allan	Potter, Judith
Boss, Valentin	Hobbins, Joan	Raz, Amir
Bray, Dorothy	Janda, Richard	Ready, Catherine
Caplan, Eric	Johnson, Juliet	Reid, Matt
Cook, Colleen	Jutras, Daniel	Richard, Marc
Covo, David	Kreiswirth, Martin	Richards, Mike
Cuello, Claudio	Kurien, John	Robaire, Bernard
Cutler, Philip	Kuzaitis, Ruth	Saroyan, Alenoush
Deguisse, Alexandre	Lawson, Tyler	Shaughnessy, Honora
Doucette, Elaine	Leask, Richard	Todd, Peter
Doyle, Andrew	Liu, Simon	Van Eyk, Helen
Dudek, Gregory	Ma, Annie	Van Zyl, Claudette
Everett, Jane	Manfredi, Christopher	Wade, Kevin
Foote, Gordon	Martin, James G.	Wapnick, Joel
Franklin, Keith	Masi, Anthony	White, Lydia
Gillon, Brendan	McCullogh, Mary Jo	Wolfson, Christina
Goldstein, Rose	McDonough, Kevin	Zhang, Ji
Gonnerman, Laura	Mendelson, Morton	Zorychta, Edith
Grant, Martin	Misra, Arun	Strople, Stephen
	Nassim, Roland	<i>(Secretary)</i>

REGRETS: Darin Barney, Gillian Bartlett-Esquillant, James Brophy, Renzo Cecere, Roshi Chadha, Stuart Cobbett, Michael Di Grappa, Brian Driscoll, Hamid Etemad, Evan Fox-Decent, Gerald Fried, Charles Gale, Engelbert Gayagoy, Jacques Hurtubise, Ashraf Ismail, Torrance Kirby, Paul Lasko, Mark Lefsrud, Richard Levin, Peter Li, Christophe Pierre, David Lowther, Chandra Madramootoo, Heather Munroe-Blum, Andrew Piper, Caroline Riches, Renee Sieber, Laurie Snider, Arnold Steinberg, Marc Weinstein, Clare Wilkening.

SECTION I

1. Resolution on the Death of Professor David Edward Woodsworth

The Dean of Arts, Professor Manfredi, rose and read the following death resolution, which was subsequently unanimously approved:

It is with great sadness that we learned of the recent passing of Dr. David E. Woodsworth, Emeritus Professor and former director of the School of Social Work (from 1966-1976). David was director during a very important time for the School, as it successfully introduced one of the first Bachelor of Social Work programs in Canada.

A highly respected academic with degrees from the University of Toronto, Michigan State, and Brandeis University, David was one of Canada's pre-eminent social policy thinkers of his time, publishing a book on social security and national policy and over 15 articles/reports on such topics as: welfare research in the province of Quebec, cultural assumptions in Canada's system of social security, and social welfare policy studies in the US and Europe. David continued to conduct research and publish work well into his 80s including a report on the home care experience of seniors in NDG.

After retiring from McGill, David co-founded the NDG Senior Citizen's Council in 1986 and generously dedicated much time to advocacy work for elderly citizen's rights. David said his volunteer work meant much to him as he felt he was finally doing "real" social work. The NDG Senior Citizen's Council was the first organization looking after the specific interests of seniors in the area and will proudly celebrate its 25th year in 2011 with fond memories of its much-loved founding member, David Woodsworth.

2. Report of the Steering Committee

The report of the Steering Committee (10-11:05) was received.

Item 1. Approval of Minutes of Senate. The Secretary-General noted the more concise format of the minutes, which is an attempt to record deliberations without reiterating information that is already available in the distributed documentation and available in the official record of the meeting. Some senators expressed concern that the compressed format of the minutes might not capture senator's responses to the submitted documentation. Furthermore, absent senators may not receive a fulsome account of the deliberations and thus not be able to develop a complete understanding of the meeting. The Secretary-General clarified that the minutes do summarize the substantive discussion and the summaries of the reports and discussion of items 10 through 14 of the December minutes are coincidentally more extensive than the minutes of these annual reports in the 2009-2010 year. The Secretary-General reminded Senate that omissions or factual errors in the minutes may be corrected at Senate under their regular approval. On motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the minutes of the December 8, 2010 meeting

Item 2. Approval of Confidential Minutes of Senate. On motion duly proposed and seconded, the confidential minutes of the meeting of December 8, 2010 were approved by the Steering Committee on behalf of Senate.

Item 3. Speaking Rights. On motion duly proposed and seconded, speaking rights were granted to Professor Emine Sarigollu for item IIB3 (University Student Assessment Policy).

Item 4. Senate Chair. Senate Steering approved Professor Christopher Manfredi, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, to serve as Chair for the January 19, 2011 Senate meeting.

Item 5. Academic Issues for Senate Discussion. The Senate Steering Committee has decided to allot time on the January and February Senate agendas for discussion of issues that have academic impacts at McGill, but are not part of the normal calendar of business. These items will be for discussion only, and are intended to give Senate an opportunity to voice opinions about issues of academic importance. The topic for the January agenda is Student Mentoring and Advising, and the topic for the February agenda is Technological Innovation in Pedagogy.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

On motion duly proposed and seconded, the agenda was adopted.

SECTION II

PART A – Questions and Motions by Members

None

PART B – Motions and Reports from Organs of the University Government

1. Policy on Cyclical Academic Unit Reviews (D10-32)

The Provost introduced the Policy on Cyclical Academic Unit Reviews for approval, reminding Senate of the discussion at the December meeting. The Policy will meet McGill's objectives of ensuring academic quality while maintaining conformity with the regulations of Conférence des Recteurs et des Principaux des Universités du Québec (CREPUQ), the Quebec Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS). The Provost informed senators that their suggestions presented at the last Senate meeting were incorporated with the revised document. The Associate Provost (Policies, Procedures and Equity) added that suggestions relating to process were not reflected in the policy itself, but they are being incorporated into the procedures, which will take into account issues raised by senators such as the resources available to academic units, and the reporting of the review findings to Senate.

Senators noted a number of issues concerning the implementation of the unit reviews, including:

- departmental resources and the multiple challenges regarding benchmarking for units with multiple programs;

- the need to give departments the opportunity to respond to the preliminary reports of external evaluators before submission as a way of keeping the process collegial and addressing misunderstandings or factual errors;
- the attribution of work to departments of professors holding cross appointments in centres or institutes; and
- the need to make links to general objectives of the University.

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the Policy on Cyclical Academic Unit Reviews (10-32).

2. Reports of the Academic Policy Committee

2.1 425th Report of the Academic Policy Committee (D10-33)

The Provost presented the report of the Academic Policy Committee for approval.

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the proposed name change for the English and French Language Centre to “French Language Centre / *Centre d’enseignement du français*” and so recommended to the Board of Governors.

The Provost invited the Dean of the Desautels Faculty of Management to speak about the exchange agreements noted in the report. Dean Todd told Senate that these agreements were part of a plan to give at least one-third of the Faculty’s students the opportunity to go on exchanges, which they are very close to achieving. These particular exchanges also fulfilled the goal of diversifying the exchanges geographically and partnering with high quality institutions.

2.2 Annual Report of the Academic Policy Committee (D10-34)

The Provost presented the annual report of the Academic Policy Committee (D10-34) for information. In response to expressed disappointment that a report of research matters was not included, the Provost noted that new processes to ensure timely reporting on research to Senate were being developed. On the suggestion of Senate, the Provost indicated that updates on self-funded programs would be included on future reports from the Academic Policy Committee.

3. University Student Assessment Policy (D10-35)

The Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning) introduced the University Student Assessment Policy, noting that it was before Senate for discussion, and that the policy was currently under review by Legal Services. However, the policy was complete in principle, amalgamating a number of existing but separate policies into one document that covers all forms of assessment at McGill. Professor Sarigollu explained the process of the workgroup, which reviewed the 1997 Report of the Workgroup on Exam Security, the 2006 University Exam Regulations, faculty level exam regulations and procedures, policy and resolutions regarding multiple-choice exams, student response systems, and associate examiners, the Student Charter, the Rights of Students with Disabilities, and the Policy for the Accommodation of Religious Holidays and Conflicts for

Final Exams. A document from Teaching and Learning Services concerning procedures will accompany the Policy after it has been approved.

Senators noted that the document made referencing regulations concerning student assessment more convenient, but that individual faculties can have independent regulations that need to be clarified and made more transparent. Professor Sarigollu noted that the Policy allows faculties to develop their own regulations concerning examinations, which is outlined in Section 9.1.2. Senators mentioned varying procedures concerning supplemental and deferred exams, and expressed concern over the ability of individual instructors to make decisions about deferred exams outside the normal framework as proposed in article 3.5.2. The Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning) told Senate that the Policy needed to be clear that instructors have these powers regarding mid-term exams, but not final exams.

4. Discussion about Mentoring and Advising (D10-39)

The Dean of Students introduced the discussion about mentoring and advising, noting the different types of mentoring and advising available at McGill. Regarding academic advising, she told Senate that there are currently professional advisors and instructors who perform academic advising among their other tasks. In addition, there are student peer advisors, who receive training from their faculty. The Dean of Students introduced a new voluntary mentoring program at McGill that would randomly match students with staff. The program would draw mentors from full-time academic staff and managers, and mentees would be undergraduate students. The program will open on February 1, 2011.

Senators discussed the topic at length, noting the following issues:

- defining what constitutes mentoring and advising, and who is best placed to fulfill the roles of mentor and advisor;
- deciding who are the target mentees;
- determining the desired outcomes of mentoring and advising, and whether the models adopted by the University will be measurable against those goals;
- considering issues around the imposition of mentoring on staff and students;
- the implications of mentoring on staff evaluations; and
- the distinction between professional and academic advisors.

5. Annual Report of the Policy on Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law (D10-36)

The Provost presented the Annual Report of the Policy on Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law for information, noting that this is the fourth annual report to Senate of the activities related to the Policy. In response to a question, the Provost explained the formal process regarding the assessment of cases. The Associate Provost (Policies, Procedures and Equity) noted that three cases were not included in the report, but the results of the report would not be substantially different if they were included. Senators agreed to allow the Associate Provost (Policies, Procedures and Equity) to adjust the report to reflect these cases without the need to resubmit the report.

6. Annual Report of the Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity (D10-37)

The Associate Provost (Policies, Procedures and Equity) presented the Annual Report of the Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity, noting that the two main activities of the Committee last year were the Task Force on Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement, and the development of Inclusive Language Guidelines. The proposed Inclusive Language Guidelines were included in the report for Senate's information and would be brought back for further discussion at a future meeting. Senators noted that three of the subcommittees had not reported to Senate, raising questions about their future role. The Associate Provost (Policies, Procedures and Equity) replied that the Committee would be discussing its subcommittees this year and will inform Senate of its recommendations in its next yearly report.

7. Report from the Board of Governors to Senate (D10-38)

Senator Raz presented the Report from the Board of Governors to Senate, highlighting items of particular academic relevance. There were no questions or comments.

8. Other Business

There being no other business to deal with at the meeting, on motion duly proposed and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

END

The complete documents, including presentations at Senate, are kept as part of the official minutes.