

SENATE
McGILL UNIVERSITY

08-09:04

Minutes of a meeting of Senate held on Wednesday December 3, 2008 at 2:30 p.m. in the Robert Vogel Council Room (Room 232), Leacock Building.

PRESENT:

Aitken, Ellen	Labban, Margaret
Algieri, Stefano	Lasko, Paul
Allison, Paul	Levin, Richard I.
Bartlett-Esquillant, Gillian	Ling, Andrew
Bishop, Alexandra	Low, Bronwen
Blachford, Gregg	Lowther, David
Boss, Valentine	Madramootoo, Chandra
Boulet, Benoit	Martin, James G.
Bray, Dorothy	Masi, Anthony C.
Burgoyne, John Ashley	McLean, Donald (<i>Chair</i>)
Butler, Ian	McSweeney, Kerry
Cooke, Rosemary	Mendelson, Morton J.
Covo, David	Moore, Timothy
Dear, Judy	Neilson, Ivan
DeGuise, Alexander	Oxhorn, Philip
Dourley, Barbara	Pelletier, Johanne (<i>Secretary</i>)
Dyck, Alexander	Perumal, Nandita
Everett, Jane	Peterson, Kathryn
Ezzy-Jorgensen, Frances	Pierre, Christophe
Fox-Decent, Evan	Potter, Judith
Fried, Gerald	Ragan, Christopher
Gehr, Ronald	Richard, Marc
GowriSankaran, Kohur	Robaire, Bernard
Grant, Martin	Roy, François R.
Grütter, Peter	Saroyan, Alenoush
Gulamhussein, Faizel	Schmidt, Janine
Harpp, David	Steinhauer, Karsten
Hebert, Johanne	Tallant, Beverlea
Hendren, Laurie	Thérien, Denis
Hobbins, John	Todd, Peter
Honoroff, Zach	Turner, Kathleen
Ismail, Ashraf	Van Eyk, Helen
Jonsson, Wilbur	Wade, Kevin
Karmouty, Harry	Wilkinson, Nadya
Kasirer, Nicholas	Wolfson, Christina
Kirby, Torrance	Zannis-Hadjopoulos, Maria
Kreiswirth, Martin	Zorychta, Edith
Kurien, John	

REGRETS: Jake Barralet, David Brackett, Roshi Chadha, Claudio Cuello, Vaughan Dowie, Steve Jordan, Christopher Manfredi, Heather Munroe-Blum, Gary Pেকেles, H  l  ne Perrault, Richard Pound, Enrica Quaroni, Robert Rabinovitch, Michael Smith, Marc Weinstein.

The Chair welcomed all to Senate.

SECTION I

1. Resolution on the death of Dr. Annette Herscovics

The following resolution on the death of Dr. Annette Herscovics was read by Dr. Richard I. Levin, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, and adopted unanimously by Senate.

The McGill Faculty of Medicine mourns the passing of Dr. Annette Herscovics, a distinguished colleague and highly esteemed scholar of the Rosalind and Morris Goodman Cancer Centre at McGill, where she pursued, with extraordinary commitment, research into the disease that took her life, cancer.

Dr. Herscovics earned both her BSc in biochemistry, with first-class honours, as well as her PhD at McGill. She began her teaching career in our Department of Anatomy in 1967, before joining Harvard Medical School, where she became a member of its Faculty of Medicine. Dr. Herscovics returned to McGill in 1981 to continue her life's work in research and in teaching the next generation to carry on the remarkable legacy she has left in her passing.

A member of the Council of Physicians, Dentists and Pharmacists at the Montreal General Hospital, and an elected Fellow of The Royal Society of Canada, Dr. Herscovics became a world authority in the field of glycobiology in relation to cancer and other diseases. Her insight into this fundamental process significantly contributed to the development of new treatments and the betterment of patient care.

Having suffered difficult times herself, Dr. Herscovics knew the difference a helping hand could make. She never hesitated in coming to the aid of others and will be remembered as a truly caring mentor and educator.

2. Report of the Steering Committee

The report of the Steering Committee (08-09:04) was received.

Item 1. Approval of Minutes of Senate. On motion duly proposed and seconded, the minutes of the meeting of November 5, 2008, were approved.

Item 2. Chair of Senate. On motion duly proposed and seconded, Dean McLean was approved as Chair for the December 3, 2008 meeting.

Item 3. Speaking Rights. Senate, on motion duly proposed and seconded, granted speaking rights to Professor Mary MacKinnon for item IIB2 – 405th Report of the Academic Policy Committee (D08-19), and to Professor William Foster for item IIB7 – Annual Report on Policy on Safe Disclosure (D08-23) and item IIB8 – Annual Report on the Policy on Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law (D08-24).

Item 4. Committee of the Whole. On motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate agreed to move into Committee of the Whole for 30 minutes, for discussion of item IIB4 (Report on Budget Considerations, D08-21).

Item 5. Exam Rescheduling. Steering Committee requested that the Deputy Provost speak to the arrangements for exam rescheduling for December 8, 2008, the day of the provincial election. Deputy Provost Mendelson responded that the approximately 100 exams originally scheduled for that day will be held on December 7. Only a small number of more than 6,000 students affected have indicated that they cannot write their exams on December 7 and will therefore seek accommodation. He noted that the change to the exam schedule will cost about \$10,000. In answer to a question about Sunday transit schedules, he said that the Macdonald campus shuttle bus would be running and that information could be added to the exam schedule.

Item 6. Minutes of October 15, 2008. Steering Committee requested that the Provost speak to a correction in the Senate minutes of October 15, 2008. Provost Masi responded that, concerning a question that arose from the report of the Academic Policy Committee, the information regarding major and specialization is recorded on the student's transcript but only the degree is listed on the diploma. The minutes have been corrected to reflect this.

Item 7. Update on Canada Revenue Agency Treatment of Post-Doctoral Stipends. Steering Committee requested that the Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies provide an update in the matter of postdoctoral fellows and federal income taxes. Dean Kreiswirth responded that McGill's consultations have led the University to the decision to issue postdocs the T2202A form as in the past. However, it will be up to Revenue Canada in reviewing the tax return to decide whether to exempt a postdoc from federal income taxes. He added that McGill believes that fellowships for postdocs should be eligible for the "educational deduction" and intends to advance this position, working with other universities.

Item 8. Confidential Session. On motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate agreed to move into Confidential Session for consideration of item IIB1 (Confidential Report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee, D08-18).

3. Chair's Remarks

Dean McLean provided an update on the University's annual Centraide campaign, noting that while the goal of \$295,000 had not yet been reached, it was hoped that money would continue to come in at a strong pace over the coming month.

4. Adoption of the Agenda

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

SECTION II

PART "B" – MOTIONS AND REPORTS FROM ORGANS OF UNIVERSITY GOVERNMENT

1. Confidential Report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee (D08-18)

Senate moved into confidential session to discuss the Confidential Report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee (D08-18) (this minute is not published or circulated but is attached to the permanent minutes of Senate as Appendix "A").

2. 405th Report of the Academic Policy Committee (D08-19)

The Provost presented the Report of the Academic Policy Committee (D08-19). In response to a question from Professor Robaire regarding the definition of an institute versus that of a centre, Professor Masi indicated that the name “institute” normally suggests interdisciplinarity and the combination of research and graduate teaching. However, APC is looking carefully at nomenclature because there are entities at the University that do not meet that test.

I. For Approval

D. Creation of New Units/Name Changes/Reporting Changes

1) Faculty of Arts

Proposal to create an Institute for the Study of International Development (Appendix A)

The establishment of an Institute for the Study of International Development would remedy the fragmentation that currently exists in teaching and research in the interdisciplinary field of Development, would provide a home for graduate and undergraduate studies and would help McGill faculty members take better advantage of funding opportunities. The Centre for Developing-Area Studies (CDAS), created in 1963, would be subsumed in the proposed Institute.

Several Senators suggested the involvement or potential involvement of Faculties other than Arts, including Science, Education and Medicine, should be encouraged and noted. Professor Oxhorn, who is the director designate, noted that this interfaculty collaboration is already beginning to take place.

In answer to a question from Professor Boulet regarding assignment of budgets, the Provost replied that the matter should be handled in or across Faculties but could be dealt with in the Faculty compacts.

Item ID1, Proposal to create an Institute for the Study of International Development, was approved and recommended to the Board of Governors for approval.

2) Desautels Faculty of Management

Proposal to create the Marcel Desautels Institute for Integrated Management (Appendix B)

The Institute will support the Faculty's efforts to embed integrative thinking into its curriculum and make it an enduring element of how it defines itself. The Institute's mandate will be to develop management thinking that is cross-functional and that encourages students to focus on the whole business enterprise. The name of the proposed Institute has been approved as per the University's Naming Policy.

In response to Mr. Gulamhussein, the Provost noted that the Institute had already held its official launch, noting that this happened before Senate approval due to scheduling issues. He added that such timing issues will be better taken into consideration in the future.

Item ID2, Proposal to create the Marcel Desautels Institute for Integrated Management, was approved and recommended to the Board of Governors for approval.

3. Report of the Senate Nominating Committee (D08-20)

Professor Moore presented the Report of the Senate Nominating Committee.

I. For the approval of Senate

Item 1, Appointments to Senate Standing Committees and Appointments to Committees Arising from University Regulations, was approved. (New appointments underlined below.)

Committee on Student Grievances Membership (3-year renewable terms)

Professor Spencer Boudreau (Education), Chair – 2011
Professor Nathan Friedman (Science) – 2009
Professor Elizabeth Elbourne (Arts) – 2010
Professor Ronald Gehr (Engineering) - 2011
Professor Bruce Minorgan (Music) - 2010

Professor Wendy Adams (Law) – Assessor – 2009
Professor Colleen Sheppard (Law) – Assessor – 2009

Two undergraduate student members:

Ms. Barbara Dourley
Mr. Faizel Gulamhussein

Two graduate student members:

Mr. Samer Atallah
Ms. Johanna Devaney

Ms. Patricia Wood, secretary

Appeal Committee on Student Discipline and Grievances Membership (3-year renewable terms)

Professor Grazyna Wilczek (Science) – 2011 (Chair)
Professor Walter Mushynski (Medicine) – 2009
Professor Alfred Jaeger (Management) – 2009
Professor Mihriban Pekguleryuz (Engineering) – 2010
Professor Frédéric Charbonneau (Arts) - 2011

Two undergraduate student members:

Mr. Andrew Ling

Mr. Carl-Eric Bouchard

Two graduate student members:

Ms. Panayiota Papadopoulos

Mr. Jason Dean

Ms. Patricia Wood, secretary

University Tenure Committee for Recruitment Membership (3-year terms)

Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

Professor Hosahalli Ramaswamy (Food Science and Agricultural Chemistry) – 2010

Professor Timothy Geary (Parasitology) [alternate] – 2010

Faculty of Arts

Professor Elisabeth Gidengil (Political Science) - 2011

Professor Robin Yates (East Asian Studies) [alternate] - 2011

Faculty of Dentistry

Professor Gary Bennett - 2011

Professor Fernando Cervero [alternate] – 2011

Faculty of Education

Professor Theodore Milner (Kinesiology & Physical Education) – 2011

Professor Andrew Large (School of Information Studies) [alternate] – 2011

Faculty of Engineering

Professor Richard Munz (Chemical Engineering) – 2011

Professor Jorge Angeles (Mechanical Engineering) [alternate] - 2011

Faculty of Law

Professor François Crépeau – 2011 (term to begin January 1, 2009; Professor Stephen Smith to remain as member until December 31, 2008)

Professor Margaret Somerville [alternate] – 2010

Desautels Faculty of Management

Professor Samer Faraj – 2011

Professor Alain Pinsonneault [alternate] – 2009

Faculty of Medicine

Dr. David Goltzman (Medicine) – 2011

Dr. James G. Martin (Medicine) [alternate] – 2011

Schulich School of Music

Professor Stephen McAdams – 2009

Professor Wieslaw Woszczyk [alternate] - 2011

Faculty of Religious Studies

Professor Katherine Young – 2010
Professor Maurice Boutin [alternate] – 2010

Faculty of Science
Professor David Ronis (Chemistry) – 2010
Professor Oliver T. Coomes (Geography) [alternate] – 2011

University Libraries
Me. Daniel Boyer (Nahum Gelber Law Library) - 2011
Mr. Louis Houle (Schulich Library of Science and Engineering) [alternate] – 2010

Ms. Anne-Marie Bruneau, secretary

II. For the information of Senate

The addition of a graduate student member to the University Admissions Committee was noted.

4. Presentation on Budget Considerations (D08-21)

As agreed Senate moved into Committee of the Whole for discussion of Item IIB4, “Presentation on Budget Considerations”. Notes for the Committee of the Whole are attached to these minutes as Appendix A.

5. Notice of Motion to Amend the Charter of Students’ Rights (Articles 10.2 and 15) (D08-22)

The notice is presented to Senate as required under the Charter. The motion will be presented to Senate for approval in January 2009.

6. Presentation by the Trenholme Director of Libraries

Ms. Schmidt made a presentation on programs of the McGill libraries and trends affecting university libraries more broadly.

Professor Robaire asked about the Google initiative to digitalize the library collections. Ms. Schmidt responded that digitalization has begun in Rare Books but noted that this is not being done under the Google initiative.

Professor Tallant mentioned the delay of about a month before staff have access to the library system following retirement. Mr. Hobbins noted that this occurs because staff cards are disabled at the time of retirement. Vice-Principal Roy said that it should be possible to prevent this from happening.

In response to a question from Professor Moore, Ms. Schmidt said that many scientific societies have given away their publishing rights and the work has been taken up by expensive publishers, which results in an increase in journal prices. Professor Kirby asked whether the cost of journals is related to the use of them, which was reflected in the presentation. Ms. Schmidt said the two are not connected and noted that the figures regarding use were compiled to help determine what the University gets for the money it spends on journals.

Mr. Deguise asked whether there are training programs for library employees. Ms. Schmidt responded that while much training is provided, it is hard to keep up with the changes in the field.

Regarding open-access publishing, Ms. Schmidt said that while the Libraries are encouraging it, she does not know the number of McGill staff who are publishing in this way.

Professor Butler asked whether it is possible to access on-line journals at other universities. Ms. Schmidt responded in the negative. She noted that interlibrary loans have not dropped off.

7. Annual Report, Policy on Safe Disclosure (D08-23)

The Provost presented the first annual report, covering the year ending October 31, 2008.

8. Annual Report, Policy on Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law (D08-24)

The Provost presented the report and answered questions. In response to Mr. Neilson on the matter of formal resolution of complaints, he said that he does not agree that discipline on matters outside the policy runs counter to the idea of the policy.

Professor Foster spoke to questions raised by Ms. Wilkinson on awareness of the policy and support provided to complainants going through the process. He said that while the policy was well publicized when it was adopted, more could be done to get the word out. On the matter of support, he said the policy lays this out.

In response to a question from Mr. Hobbins, Professor Foster confirmed that a complainant may choose an advisor from any sector of the University community.

9. Senate Committee Annual Reports

9.1 Academic Policy Committee (D08-25)

Presented by the Provost, as Chair, for information. In response to a suggestion from Professor Tallant, it was agreed that the membership list should in future indicate what constituency each member represents.

9.2 Committee on Libraries (D08-26)

Presented by the Provost, as Chair, for information.

9.3 Committee on Student Discipline (D08-27)

Presented by Dean Everett, as committee secretary, for information. Professor Tallant raised the same point regarding the membership list as with APC (D08-25).

9.4 University Admissions Committee (D08-28)

Presented by the Deputy Provost, as Chair, for information. Ms. Wilkinson asked about the project to consider supplemental information in applications. Professor Mendelson

said this is currently only a pilot project with one cohort of students in the Desautels Faculty of Management.

9.5 University Committee on Scholarships and Student Aid (D08-29)

Presented by the Deputy Provost, as Chair, for information. In response to a question about what portion of loans are paid back, he said he does not have the information but that it would be good to have it. He noted that some loans are converted to bursaries. In response to a question about raising the grade threshold for scholarship renewal, he said that it is expected to reduce the number of students whose scholarships are renewed. He noted that the University is trying to fund more non-renewable entrance scholarships.

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

**Committee of the Whole
Presentation on Budget Considerations**

Chair: Dean Don McLean

The Provost made a first presentation on budget consideration for 2009-2010. (D08-21).

Following the presentation, Senators asked questions and made comments.

Mr. Hobbins asked about expected increase in federal indirect costs funding and about the numbers for administrative and support staff at the University. On the matter of indirect costs, the Provost noted that the calculation is tied to research funding but added that there could be changes to the federal program, which could increase the percentage of total research dollars funded. On the second question, he said that he will present a Staffing Report to Senate in January, in conjunction with the Vice-Principal (Administration and Finance). In response to subsequent questions on non-academic staff, the Provost noted that they experienced a sharper decline in numbers than did academic staff in the lean years. He said that the majority of the increase in non-academic staff numbers in recent years has occurred among management staff, rather than clerical or technical staff. He noted that within Faculties, the growth in management staff has been consistent with the growth in academic staff.

Professor Wade asked about plans for undergraduate student enrolment. The Provost said that the University is looking for growth in targeted areas where there is capacity rather than for absolute growth.

In response to Professor Grutter, the Provost agreed that a ratio of 5:1 of graduate students to tenure track faculty is ambitious. In terms of space needed to achieve this, the University is looking at strategic acquisition and use. Ms. Wilkinson said she is concerned about overcrowded classrooms. The Provost said this issue is one the University has recognized.

The Provost said that the issue of work being downloaded to academics, raised by Professor Saroyan, is one the University must work on.

Mr. Gulamhussein said he likes the idea of more summer classes and asked whether that is being considered at the University-wide level. The Provost responded that McGill is not looking at an official third semester. He noted that 90% of summer students are already registered at McGill and do not represent an additional revenue stream for the University – the goal is therefore to attract non-McGill students for the summer.

In response to Professor Robaire, the Provost said that McGill believes that the deregulation of foreign student fees will mean that McGill will be able to determine what it charges foreign students and will thus be able to cover the cost of educating them.

Dean Kasirer asked whether the University should review its commitment to reduce the deficit to zero. The Provost noted that this was a requirement imposed on all Quebec universities by the provincial government.

Dean Kasirer also asked about the impact of endowment performance on the University's operating budget during this difficult economic period. The Provost said that a fairly conservative investment strategy means that McGill does not at this time expect to have to cover any endowment payouts from the operating budget.

In response to Mr. Ling, the Provost said the current financial crisis is likely to have some impact on student mobility.

Mr. Dyck and Ms. Labban asked for further information regarding fee deregulation. In response, the Provost reiterated that the University will be advocating for deregulation of international tuition fees in disciplines other than those listed, and that international graduate students would remain unaffected.

Professor Wade asked whether postdoctoral fellows will be considered in the goal of 5 research students per tenure-track faculty member. The Provost said that Quebec requires that they be registered as graduate students but provides no funding for them. Most of them come on the basis of department research programs. They could be entered in the ratio calculation but they should not be considered a major factor.