



(March 16, 2010 meeting, in preparation for Senate Meeting, March 24, 2010)

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SENATE

The minutes of the meeting of February 10, 2010 have been circulated. It is recommended that they now be considered for approval.

2. SPEAKING RIGHTS

The Senate Steering Committee recommends speaking rights for Professor William Foster and Me. Line Thibault for item IIB2 (Policy on the Conduct of Research) and item IIB3 (Responsible Use of McGill Information Technology Resources).

3. CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

Steering Committee recommends that Senate enter into Confidential Session for discussion of item one, the Confidential Report of Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee (D09-50)

4. INFORMATION ITEM

Steering Committee provides the following written report to Senate from the Secretary-General on the annual tenure meetings:

In accordance with Section 5.60 of the “Regulations Relating to the Employment of Academic Staff” and Section 3.60 of the “Regulations Relating to the Employment of Librarian Staff”, members of the Departmental Tenure Committees, University Tenure Committees, University Tenure Committee for Recruitment, tenure candidates, the MAUT President, and other interested parties were invited to a meeting to discuss general criteria and the operation of the tenure system. Three meetings were held, two on January 28, 2010, at the downtown campus and one on February 11, 2010 on Macdonald campus.

At the first meeting on January 28, the Secretary-General, and Provost welcomed all present and provided the agenda for the meeting. He then introduced the Principal, Professor Heather Munroe-Blum.

Professor Munroe-Blum stressed the importance of the tenure process and how the process reflects McGill’s high standards and discipline. She emphasized that both teaching and research are critically important in the tenure evaluation. She said that the members of our academic community are essential to making McGill the great university that it is and she reaffirmed the full support of the senior administration with the tenure process.

The Provost, Professor Anthony C. Masi, delivered a presentation about the meaning of tenure, tenure's privileges and responsibilities and tenure decisions. He stated that the granting of tenure is the most important decision that is made by the University.

At all three meetings, the Associate Provost (Policies and Procedures), Professor William Foster provided an extensive presentation dealing in depth with the substantial and procedural issues of the tenure process of particular importance to candidates.

5. INFORMATION ITEM

Potential Topic for the 2010/2011 Joint Board/Senate Committee

The Senate Steering committee proposed the topics of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and Academic Planning White Paper Review for consideration at the Joint Steering/Executive meeting on March 22, 2010.

6. INFORMATION ITEM

A request by the *McGill Daily* to post the proceedings and deliberations of the meetings of February 10, March 24, April 28, and May 19 while they are taking place was referred to the Senate Steering committee for consideration and report back to Senate. After careful consideration, the Senate Steering committee decided to deny the request for the following reason:

the blanket nature of the request to post the proceedings of the entire Senate meeting is inconsistent with the intent and spirit of the resolution to amend the Standing Rules of Procedure, passed by Senate at its January 20, 2010 meeting.

The Steering committee acknowledged the possibility of posting the proceedings for specific agenda items where this would help inform the University Community about a substantive issue without constraining free and open discussion in Senate. The Senate Steering Committee endorsed greater student engagement in Senate processes. Students should be reminded that Senate meetings are, for the most part, held in open session and they are welcome to attend. The Senate Steering committee indicated a willingness to consider additional means of facilitating and supporting student engagement in Senate.

Present: Professor Heather Munroe-Blum (Chair), Professor Anthony Masi, Mr. Gregg Blachford, Professor David Covo, Professor Richard Janda, Professor Bernard Robaire, Ms. Rebecca Dooley, Mr. Jonathan Nordland, Mr. Stephen Stropole (Secretary)

Regrets: Professor Kohur GowriSankaran, Ms. Dahlia Elshafie