

Memorandum

Office of the Principal and Vice-Chancellor

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TO: Senate

FROM: Professor Christopher Manfredi, Interim Principal and Vice-Chancellor

SUBJECT: Report of the 2022 Joint Board of Governors-Senate Meeting

DATE: December 7, 2022

DOCUMENT #: D22-23

ACTION REQUIRED: ☒ INFORMATION ☐ APPROVAL/DECISION

ISSUE The report of the Joint Board of Governors-Senate Meeting held on November 10, 2022, is presented for information.

**BACKGROUND
& RATIONALE**

Article 6.3.9.1 of the Statutes of McGill University states:

The Senate and Board of Governors shall hold an annual joint meeting in the fall term. At this meeting, the Principal, the Provost, the Deputy Provost, and the vice-principals, as appropriate, shall present for discussion matters they consider relevant to the University's mission for the ensuing year.

On November 10, 2022, members of the Board of Governors and members of Senate met to discuss following topic: *Experiential Learning at the Local, National, and International Levels*. Appendix A provides a report of the meeting.

**PRIOR
CONSULTATION**

N/A

**SUSTAINABILITY
CONSIDERATIONS**

The Joint Board of Governors-Senate Meeting takes place annually and provides a sustainable framework for both University governing bodies to discuss topics relevant to the University's mission.

**IMPACT OF
DECISION AND
NEXT STEPS**

The report will be presented to the Board of Governors on December 15, 2022.

**MOTION OR
RESOLUTION
FOR APPROVAL**

This item is presented for information.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Report of the Joint Board of Governors-Senate Meeting of November 10, 2022

Report of the Joint Board-Senate Meeting of November 10, 2022

The Chair welcomed the Senators, members of the Board of Governors, and guests attending the joint meeting, and reminded participants that the annual joint meeting provides an opportunity for Senators and members of the Board of Governors to discuss important issues and topics of central importance to the University. He reminded attendees that the topic of this year's meeting is *Experiential Learning at the Local, National, and International Levels*, and that a significant portion of the meeting will be dedicated to roundtable discussions.

The Chair reminded participants that the theme of the 2021 Joint Board-Senate meeting was *The Execution of McGill's Mission in a Changing World*, and mentioned that the report of the 2021 meeting had been included as part of this meeting's documents. It was noted that the report also provides updates related to several previous joint meeting topics.

The Principal greeted attendees and highlighted the importance and relevance of the meeting's topic. Professor Fabrice Labeau then addressed participants, and provided context for the three Key Themes relating to this year's topic. He shared video testimonials from students, who had participated in initiatives involving experiential learning. The three Key Themes were as follows:

- a) *Recognizing experiential activities;*
- b) *Breaking down barriers to experiential activities; and*
- c) *Experiential activities as community service.*

Following the presentations, attendees engaged in roundtable discussions on the following questions relating to the Key Themes, which had been circulated prior to the meeting:

- a) *What types of Experiential opportunities should the University promote, fund, and recognize?*
- b) *How do we remove barriers to access to Experiential opportunities?*
- c) *Should McGill focus on service to local or global communities with these Experiential opportunities?*

Tables were assigned a specific question (a, b, or c) to address during their discussions. Each table was asked to select a discussion leader to facilitate the exercise, and a rapporteur to present a brief overview of key points discussed following the exercise. Tables 1, 2, and 3 discussed question a, while tables 4, 5, and 6 discussed question b. Tables 7, 8, 9, and 10 discussed question c.

Following discussions, rapporteurs shared the comments and ideas that arose at their table with respect to their assigned question. A brief summary of the concepts that emerged from the tables' discussions is provided below.

- Participants felt that private sector experiential learning opportunities should be further explored, notably through alumni connections.
- Participants valued the concept of experiential learning as a means to engaging in community service.
- Participants felt it was important that the learning outcomes of experiential learning opportunities be clearly defined.
- Participants noted that, co-op opportunities were valuable. It was reported that further support should be provided to UO students, perhaps in the form of a coaching system, or alumni mentorship.
- It was reported that there may exist unintended barriers to entry for experiential learning opportunities. Participants favoured the creation of additional 'bridges to entry.'
- It was noted that certain students may be more, or less, receptive to internship opportunities for a variety of reasons. Participants favoured tutelage resources for CV management, and the installation of an 'internship fair' to raise awareness of inclusive opportunities for all students, particularly those who are LGBTQ2S+, or living with disabilities.
- Participants strongly favoured supporting service to local and global communities with respect to experiential learning opportunities, with options based on the needs and wants of students. It was noted that French language support would benefit those seeking opportunities locally.
- Participants favoured providing financial support to assist with direct costs associated with experiential learning opportunities. The value of digital experiences was underscored, as well as the furthering of the University's connection to local communities.
- EDI initiatives were raised as possible pathways to paid, entrepreneurship opportunities. It was noted that there would be value in encouraging francophone connections, and allowing parents/guardians to act as mentors.

Post-meeting feedback provided by attendees was generally positive. Comments will be taken into account in the planning of future Joint Board of Governors-Senate meetings.