



Minutes

Tuesday, April 20, 2021 20-21:09

Minutes of the meeting of Senate held on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 2:30 p.m. via the Zoom Conferencing Application.

PRESENT

Alli, Babatunde	Grignon, Chantal	Richard, Marc
Arseneault, Louis	Hastings, Kenneth	Riches, Caroline
Bartlett, Joan	Hébert, Terence	Riddle-Merritte, Leela
Beauchamp, Yves	Jorgensen, Jan	Robillard, Martin
Bedjanian, Tatiana	Karaminassian, Roubina	Rohrbach, Petra
Beech, Robin	Kemme, Bettina	Ronholm, Jennifer
Breau, Sébastien	Kiester, Lucy	Rose, Jessica
Brûlé-Champagne, Emile	Kirk, Andrew	Ruge-Murcia, Francisco
Campbell, Angela	Komarova, Svetlana	Salameh, Samer
Cook, Colleen	Kouchakji, Kristi	Salmasi, Kamal
Crago, Martha	Krishnamurthy, Srinivasan	Saumier, Geneviève
Cumming, Julie	Labeau, Fabrice	Sekhon, Harmehr
Cummings, Beth	Lach, Lucyna	Shariff, Shaheen
Czemann, Nancy	Laywine, Alison	Shrier, Alvin
Daryanani, Darshan	Leckey, Robert	Snider, Laurie
Deschenes, Jean	Lennox, Bruce	Sparks, Tabitha
Dorval Courchesne,	Loftus, Mary Lynne	Sroka-Fillion, Nathalie
Noémie-Manuelle	Low, Bronwen	Stephens, David
Drouin, Susan	Manfredi, Christopher	Tessier, Adrienne
Earle, Jemark	Nalbantoglu, Josephine	Theodore, David
Eidelman, David	Ndao, Momar	Tureli, Ipek
Elbourne, Elizabeth	Nicell, Jim	Vallée, Jean-Sébastien
Emami, Elham	Nilson, Laura	Voudouris, Nellie
Engle-Warnick, Jim	Nycum, Gillian	Weil, Carola
Eperjesi, Debbie	Nystrom, Derek	Weinstein, Marc
Faraj, Samer	Osiecki, Sophie	Willie, Bettina
Fortier, Suzanne	Perepichka, Dima	Winer, Laura
Frizzle, Brooklyn	Quitoriano, Nathaniel	Yalovsky, Morty
Fronda, Michael	Rassier, Dilson	Yang, Mu Rong
Geitmann, Anja	Ravenscroft, Brenda	Zorychta, Edith
Gonnerman, Laura	Reev, Joella	

REGRETS: Bob Babinski, Jacqueline Bede, Dahlia Dias, Gael Eakin, Eleanor Elstein, Maiya Rachel Geddes, Jacques Hurtubise, Arnav Manchanda, Jeffrey McKenzie, Michael Meighen, Ram Panda, Addy Parsons, Haoyi Qiu, Shaainee Ramnawaz, Eran Shor, Narendra Subramanian, Krishna Uttamchandani, Manon Vennat, Tracy Webb.

1. Welcoming Remarks

The Chair welcomed Senators to the ninth Senate meeting of the 2020-21 governance year. In light of the evolving situation regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19), the meeting was held virtually via the Zoom conferencing application. The Chair highlighted the guidelines for remote participation, which had been shared with Senators, noting that they were developed to enhance meeting effectiveness in a virtual format, while respecting the Senate Rules of Procedure. She mentioned that the audio portion of the Senate meeting was being livestreamed and the recording would be accessible until the approval of the meeting minutes.

2. Memorial Tributes

Senator Eidelman read the following memorial tribute for Professor James McNutt, which Senate subsequently unanimously endorsed:

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of Dr. James McNutt, Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders at McGill University, who dedicated his career to advancing knowledge and treatment of childhood speech disorders.

Dr. McNutt completed his Bachelor of Science at the State University of Pennsylvania, his master's of education in Speech Pathology/Audiology at Pennsylvania State University and his doctoral degree in Speech Pathology/Audiology at Kent State University. He arrived at the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders (then called the School of Human Communication Disorders) at McGill in 1976 following a position at Syracuse University. He was one of our university's first two tenure track professors in Speech-Language Pathology. Between 1979 and 1988 he was administratively responsible for the Speech/Language Pathology section of the School. In a review of the Speech/Language Pathology program in 1985 an external reviewer stated that it was "one of the best programs in Canada and likely North America." Over the years, before retiring in 2001, Dr. McNutt took active steps to ensure the program grew and thrived. In fact, he arranged a key telephone call to the then Minister of Education, Claude Ryan, to secure the budget for a specially-funded set of four faculty positions in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology at McGill. These positions provided necessary and exciting growth for the School during what were otherwise lean years at McGill.

Dr. McNutt was dedicated to his students in the Master's (Applied) program and supervised 31 research projects for those students, many of whom have fond memories of his accessible and caring ways. One, who is now an Associate Dean (Research) at Western University, remembered that he helped launch her career in the field by taking the time to meet with her when she was a grade 9 student to discuss careers in Speech-Language Pathology. He was in many ways the heart of the department who played a jovial Santa Claus at holiday time and arranged ice fishing events for hardy students each winter.

A number of Dr. McNutt's joint research projects with students and colleagues helped to provide a basis for the understanding of childhood speech disorders in French-speaking children of Quebec. Furthermore, he provided diagnostic and intervention consultation services to English School Boards in rural Quebec. This work provided scores of children with the help that they might not otherwise have been able to obtain. In doing so, he also provided education to teachers in rural schools and coaching to parents of children struggling with speech and language difficulties. It was his time spent driving the back roads of Claude Ryan's rural riding of Argenteuil that gave him the idea to arrange for someone in the School to speak to the Honorable Mr. Ryan. He quite simply copied down the telephone number of his riding office while he was on the road driving to a small school in that part of the province.

In 1991, James McNutt was elected as a Fellow of the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association, the premiere professional body in the world.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Dr. McNutt's partner, Shelley Conture, and to his children and their partners, to his grandchildren, as well as to his other family members, his friends, and former colleagues and all those whose lives he touched. He will be greatly missed.

Senator Engle-Warnick then read the following memorial tribute for Professor Baldev Raj Nayar, which Senate subsequently unanimously endorsed:

With great sadness, we announce the passing of Baldev Raj Nayar, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, on February 9, 2021, at the age of 89 years.

Nayer was born October 26, 1931, in Saro Chak, India (presently Pakistan). At the age of 16, his family migrated to New Delhi, India during the Partition. Nayar embarked on various forms of employment in order to take care of his mother and four brothers and sisters – as a railway clerk, as a typist (having put himself through secretarial school), and later, due in large part to his skills of English which he had cultivated on his own, as a secretary at the American Embassy in India.

Working for his BA and MA degrees, primarily through correspondence school, Nayar earned a scholarship to the University of Chicago's PhD program in political science, where he focused on India. While attending university, he continued financially to support his mother and siblings back home.

At the University of Chicago, he met his future wife, Nancy Ann Skinner. Together, they spent a year in India where Nayar completed research for his PhD dissertation. That work would become the first of his 20 books, *Minority Politics in the Punjab*. Published by Princeton University Press, it received the Watumull Prize in 1966.

Nayar joined McGill in 1964, as an assistant professor in McGill's political science department, where he swiftly earned associate and then full professor status. He taught in the Leacock Building for 30 years, and his publishing record spans 50 years. He retired

from full-time teaching in 1991 and was immediately awarded the status of Professor Emeritus.

“His works have been very influential for generations of scholars of South Asia and India,” recounts his former colleague, Professor T.V. Paul, with whom he co-authored *India in the World Order* (2003). “He was one of the rare Indian scholars who combined political economy, comparative politics and security studies.”

Nayar’s final book, published in his 88th year of life, was his autobiography, a moving account well reflected in its title: *Overcoming Tragedy: The Story of One Refugee Before and After the Partition of the Punjab* (2019).

Nayar’s dedication to his scholarship was only surpassed by his love and devotion to his family. He will be dearly missed by Nancy Ann Nayar, his wife of 60 years, and his three daughters. He was also the beloved grandfather of five. He also leaves behind his sister and brother. He will be missed by members of his extended family, as well as his many colleagues and friends.

Nayar was exceedingly proud of his long career at McGill University. As his former colleague Filippo Sabetti observed, “Baldev excelled in teaching, research and collegiality. But I remember him, most of all, as a wonderful and caring human being. His life showed that it is possible to overcome tragedy and still retain a positive view of humanity. Truly, Baldev was a role model for many of us in social science and humanities here and abroad. May his example continue to inspire and guide us.”

Senators Riddle-Merritte and Daryanani then read the following memorial tribute for the victims of the COVID-19 pandemic, which Senate subsequently unanimously endorsed:

Over the past year, the McGill Community, including Members of this Senate, have experienced numerous challenges caused by COVID-19 itself, as well as the various hardships, whether mental, financial and social, that have arisen from it. Further, McGill students, alumni and faculty who have worked at the front line of this pandemic alongside other health care workers, have made sacrifices to protect our community at large. Together, we have lived through how the virus, stay-at-home measures like the curfew and quarantine, as well as heightened racism and xenophobia have impacted our day-to-day in how we work and learn, and in how we comfort and connect with friends and family.

While some of us have found new ways to adapt and build resilience that should be celebrated, finding time to mourn can at times feel rushed in our new virtual world. For many, the end of the pain and loss caused by COVID-19 will extend well beyond the pandemic itself. The effects will be long-standing, and likely generational. Nonetheless, each of these experiences of grief are deserving of appropriate respect. As Members of this Senate, we have a shared obligation to prioritize the wellbeing of our community.

We dedicate now this tribute to the Community members who have passed away in the past year, as well as their families. We are beholden to our health care heroes, we will remember the lives of our departed loved ones, and we will support our fellow community members who have been in mourning while navigating this remote pandemic year. To honour the lives of students, professors, family and friends of the McGill Community lost to the COVID-19 pandemic, we now invite you, the Members of this House, to hold one minute of reflection in silence and solidarity.

The tribute was followed by a minute of silence.

3. Report of the Steering Committee

(20:21-09)

Senate received the Report of the Steering Committee (20-21:09).

Item 1. Approval of Minutes of Senate – March 24, 2021 meeting.

Item 2. Approval of Confidential Minutes – March 24, 2021 meeting.

Item 3. Speaking Rights. Speaking rights were requested for Dr Richard Martin, Executive Director, Analysis, Planning, and Budget, for item IIB1 (Presentation on McGill University Budget 2021-2022); Mr. Glenn Zabowski, Associate Dean of Students, for item IIB4.2 (Proposed Revisions to the University Student Assessment Policy); and Ms. Cara Piperni, Director, Scholarships & Student Aid, for item IIB5.2 (Scholarships and Student Aid Annual Report).

Item 4. Approval of the Agenda.

Item 5. Review of Questions and Motions. One question and two motions were submitted for the April 2021 meeting of Senate. The question was included on the Senate agenda. The first motion concerned a minute of silence and was included on the Senate agenda as a memorial tribute. The second motion concerned a statement of commitment to equity and required more consultations, which could be undertaken by the Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity.

Item 6. Follow-up on Open Discussions. Further to a suggestion by Senator Hastings at the March 24, 2021 Senate meeting, the Steering Committee agreed to implement a regular practice of providing updates to Senate on the outcomes of open discussions.

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the Report of the Steering Committee.

4. Business Arising from the March 24, 2021 Minutes

There was none.

5. Chair's Remark

The Chair began her remarks by providing an update on the situation at McGill in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. She mentioned that the curfew in Montreal was rolled back to 8:00 p.m. and reminded Senators of the inter-provincial travel restrictions to Ontario. She stated that all in-person Tier-2 academic activities were cancelled until further notice and that study hubs and on-campus flex spaces would continue to be available for individual use. She shared that a second virtual Town Hall took place earlier that day to update the community on the planning for Fall 2021.

Regarding government relations, the Chair spoke about the federal and provincial budgets, which were tabled on April 19th and March 25th respectively. She stated that the federal budget was an ambitious budget that proposed more than \$101B in new spending aimed at getting the country through the pandemic and stimulating the economic recovery in the longer term. The Chair highlighted some of the items concerning the university sector, noting that significant investments were made in life sciences, genomics, artificial intelligence, student support, and upskilling and reskilling measures for Canadians. With respect to the provincial budget, the Chair indicated that spending on universities would increase by 5.5% over last year. She highlighted that the government announced approximately \$670M in funding over five years for Cégeps and universities to improve student retention and graduation rates and that the *Plan québécois des infrastructures* (PQI) envelope for universities allocates \$4.5B for infrastructure and \$0.3B for information technologies over a period of 10 years.

Regarding external relations, the Chair reported that the inaugural cohort of the McCall MacBain Scholars had been announced. She shared that 20 scholars, including three from McGill, would begin their master's or professional degrees at McGill in the fall, noting that 735 Canadian students applied.

Regarding community relations, the Chair reported that the Bicentennial Celebrations were launched on March 31st with a conference on food security (the first instalment in the Bicentennial Conference Series), followed by a one-hour celebration hosted by McGill graduate Laurent Duvernay-Tardif and current student Heleena De Oliveira. She then reported that 10 finalist teams have been selected in the impact200 Bicentennial Sustainability Challenge, noting that the winners would be announced in November.

The Chair concluded her remarks by giving highlights of the kudos circulated prior to the meeting. She congratulated Ms. Chloë Ryan (Mechanical Engineering undergraduate student), Senator Quitoriano (Department of Mining and Materials Engineering) and the members of the Green Labs Initiative at The Neuro on receiving this year's Catalyst Awards for Sustainability. She shared that PhD student Trevor Cotter, first-place winner of the Three Minute Thesis (3MT), would advance to the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) Eastern Regional Finals and that PhD students Auriane Canesse, first-place winner of the *Ma thèse en 180 secondes* (MT180) competition, would advance to the *Association canadienne-française pour l'avancement des sciences* (ACFAS) MT180 national finals. The Chair congratulated the recipients of the Principal's Prize for Public Engagement through Media: the Quebec Network of Junior Pain Investigators, Ms. Susan Mintzberg (PhD candidate in the School of Social Work),

Professor Debra Thompson (Department of Political Science), Professor Don Sheppard (Department of Microbiology and Immunology), and Professor Matthew Oughton (Department of Medicine). She also congratulated the winning student teams of this year's Dobson Cup competition and reported that McGill was recognized as one of Canada's Greenest Employers by Mediabase Canada for a fourth consecutive year.

SECTION II

Part "A" –Questions and Motions by Members

1. Question Regarding the Delivery of the Fall 2020 Term

Senators Kirk and Earle submitted the following question:

Whereas on February 24th, 2021 Senate held a very engaged Open Discussion on the Student Academic Experience which considered the importance of student well-being and was informed by the results of several recent surveys of student wellness and academic preparedness, and whereas some consensus emerged from discussion groups regarding lessons learned and strategies for the future, the next steps as a result of this discussion are unclear.

Since a considerable amount of time and thought goes into the preparation of open discussions at Senate, and given that Senate invested approximately 70 person-hours in the discussion it is desirable that this deliberation leads to action.

- 1) What plans are there to review the outcomes of the discussion?
- 2) Is there a plan to inform Senate of the impacts of the Open Discussion on university operations that relate to Student Academic Experience?

Senator Manfredi provided the following written response prior to the Senate meeting:

Thank you, Senators Kirk and Earl, for your question concerning the recent Open Discussion on the Student Academic Experience. As a result of this discussion, changes were implemented within Student Services to adjust available programming and in-person appointments. Likewise, discussion outcomes have, and continue to inform planning for the Summer and Fall 2021 terms. In preparation for the coming year Student Services also released earlier in April a university-wide survey to further explore and assess the student experience, and have partnered with Montreal Public Health to initiate a further survey of undergraduate students on mental health. The Provost's Office also completed a survey of instructors in the Winter term, to learn about experiences from remote teaching, and to set the stage for adjusting strategies as we look to the delivery of our programs for the Fall 2021 term and beyond. Results from this survey are currently being analyzed, and summary findings will be available soon.

The University will continue to refine its response to student needs and concerns as planning for the coming Summer and Fall terms continues to develop, and as we become

more certain of the possible modes of teaching and service delivery that may be implemented in light of public health directives. A fuller report on the outcomes of the Open Discussion and subsequent surveys of both students and instructors, and on the implementation of the University's response to the needs, concerns and opportunities identified therein, will follow with the start of the new academic year in September 2021.

Part "B" –Motions and Reports from Organs of University Government

Open Session

1. Presentation on McGill University Budget 2021-2022 (D20-47)

Senator Manfredi delivered the final of three presentations concerning the FY2022 University budget, for Senate's information. He reminded Senators that the circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic led to the approval by the Board of Governors of a provisional budget plan in April for FY2021, followed by a final budget in December, with an anticipated deficit of \$13.1M. He reported that based on January 31, 2021 actuals and commitments, on financial information collected from units at the end of February, and on historical trends, a FY2021 deficit estimated at \$6.3M was being forecast. He indicated that the cost savings would allow the University to make a one-time payment to eligible employees whose merit/performance-based salary increases were deferred from June 1, 2020 to December 6, 2020. Regarding FY2022, Senator Manfredi stated that there was continued COVID-driven uncertainty impacting all primary revenue sources (Quebec government funding, tuition and fees, and sales of goods and services). To deal with the many unknowns, he indicated that assumptions for the main revenue sources and expenses were established using three scenarios (pessimistic, realistic, optimistic) and a \$15M contingency was included. He stated that the FY2022 budget would be presented to the Board of Governors for approval and contained an anticipated unrestricted fund deficit of \$9.8M. Regarding enrolment projections, he highlighted that student full-time equivalents (FTEs) were projected to decrease by 2% in FY2022 largely due to decreases in the Bachelors population. He ended his presentation with an overview of the major assumptions with respect to revenues and expenses and the budget risk mitigation measures as well as a summary of the revenue and expenses.

Senator Riddle-Merritte asked for clarification regarding the restriction of contractual obligations (which was listed under the budget risk mitigation measures) and for an update on the Workday integration issues mentioned in the presentation. Senator Manfredi stressed that the contractual obligations were not employment obligations, noting that they mainly concerned obligations with external suppliers. Senator Manfredi then stated that the issues with Workday have been mitigated to a large extent. He indicated that there was a team in place to resolve the remaining issues and any others that may arise. Senator Rose asked for more details on the nature of the issues with Workday that would cause uncertainty in the budget and asked for an estimate of the cost. Senator Manfredi responded that there were no costs as the issue concerned the University's ability to estimate costs. He explained that different reports need to be generated as reporting moved from Banner to Workday.

Senator Hastings stated that the retroactive payment of the deferred merit amounts was very much appreciated. He mentioned that academic staff and non-academic staff worked hard to deliver high-quality education during a very difficult year and this measure was a tangible recognition of their essential contributions to the University.

Regarding the enrolment assumptions (lower planned intake of new regulated students and higher planned intake of new deregulated students at the undergraduate level; higher planned intake of new students for non-thesis programs and lower planned intake of new students for thesis programs at the Master's level), Senator Elbourne asked if there were quotas for deregulated students and inquired about the implications on out-of-province Canadian students and on thesis MA students. Senator Manfredi responded that Quebec students must represent 50% of first-cycle (undergraduate) and second-cycle (master's level, non-research) students (and would increase to 55% by 2026-2027). As such, he stated that increasing the number of international students would lead to a decrease in the number of Canadian students. He explained that the targets were set based on the enrolment numbers of previous years. For example, he mentioned that targets for Masters thesis programs were overachieved in FY2021 and would therefore be lowered for FY2022. He indicated that international students in non-thesis Masters programs were deregulated further to the changes to the funding formula made in 2019, noting that it should not affect enrolment of non-international students.

Senator Faraj asked for more information regarding the Endowment revenue. Senator Manfredi indicated that the revenue was from short-term investment income, noting that the Endowment is a restricted fund and supports specific activities identified by donors.

Senator Tessier asked if there had been an increase in applications from historically underrepresented groups and if the number of students from underrepresented groups was anticipated to increase in the coming year. Senator Manfredi indicated that he was unaware of the breakdown of applicants by categories, noting that the applicants would need to self-identify as members of those groups. He stated that increasing the number of Indigenous and Black students was a priority.

2. 504th Report of the Academic Policy Committee

(D20-48)

Senator Manfredi presented this report for Senate's consideration. The report contained six new teaching programs and proposed revisions to the definitions of non-degree credit programs for Senate's approval.

Senator Saumier asked how the non-thesis M.A.s being proposed in the Faculty of Arts would be funded. Senator Manfredi responded that the programs were only deregulated for international students and clarified that Quebec and Canadian students, as well as students from exempt countries such as France, were funded by the provincial government.

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the creation of the proposed M.A. in Digital Humanities; Non-Thesis (45 cr.); the M.A. in International Development; Non-Thesis (45 cr.), the M.A. in Gender, Sexuality, Feminist and Social Justice Studies

(45 cr.) and the M.A. in Gender, Sexuality, Feminist and Social Justice Studies; Non-Thesis (45 cr.).

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the creation of the proposed B.Com.; Major in Business Analytics (69 cr.).

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the creation of the proposed B.Com.; Major in Retail Management (69 cr.).

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the proposed revisions to the definitions of a Certificate, a Diploma, a Graduate Certificate and a Graduate Diploma.

3. Report of the Senate Nominating Committee (D20-49)

Senator Manfredi presented this report for Senate’s consideration. The report contained recommendations to fill upcoming vacancies on Committees arising from University Regulations.

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the recommendations contained in the Report of the Senate Nominating Committee (D20-49).

4. Policy Revisions

4.1 Proposed Revisions to the Policy on Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law (D20-50)

Senator Campbell presented this item for Senate’s information. She stressed that the revisions to the *Policy on Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law* were developed through a broad and extensive consultation process led by a working group whose composition was set by the Policy. She presented an overview of the most significant changes to the Policy and noted that when the Policy would be presented for approval next month, it would include a definition of the term “discrimination” indicating that it refers to “discrimination prohibited by law.”

Senator Faraj expressed concern about the definition of harassment as what would constitute vexatious behaviour was subjective and unclear. Senator Campbell indicated that the language used was the same as in employment legislation. She stressed that there are five elements in the definition that must be present for a behaviour to constitute harassment, and as such, the definition was not overly broad. Senator Richard commented that there was a typo in the definition (a dash instead of a comma) that, once corrected, should remove any concerns.

In response to Senator Riddle-Merritte’s question regarding to which unit the Office for Mediation and Reporting (OMR) would report, Senator Campbell responded that it would report to the Office of the Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic). Senator Daryanani asked if the OMR would be an internal or third-party office. Senator Campbell responded that the OMR would be a consolidation of resources that already exist within the University. She explained that it would be composed of McGill employees, including the Senior Equity and Inclusion Officer

and an Assessor, but it would also send some reports to the external firm investigating cases filed pursuant to the *Policy against Sexual Violence*.

Senator Lach asked how allegations by students working in hospitals and integrated university health and social services centres (CIUSSS) would be addressed. Senator Campbell stated that it would depend on the nature of the Respondent's appointment, noting that Respondents would be subject to McGill policies if they hold McGill appointments. In response to Senator Lach's question on whether privacy laws would prevent the University from notifying the affiliated institution, Senator Campbell indicated that Legal Services would need to advise on the particular case.

4.2 Proposed Revisions to the University Student Assessment Policy (D20-51)

Senator Beech presented this item for Senate's information. He indicated that instead of amending sections of the existing University Student Assessment Policy (USAP), the entire policy was redrafted. He then called on Senator Winer and Mr. Zabowski (co-chairs of the Working Group to review the USAP) to present an overview of the new document. Senator Winer mentioned that extensive consultations on the USAP would take place over the summer and next academic year with a view of presenting the new policy to Senate for approval in Winter 2022. Mr. Zabowski indicated that the goals of the revisions included not over-legislating; ensuring that assessment was focused on individual student learning; and creating a less exam-centric framework that provides opportunities for multiple forms of assessment. He highlighted that key changes included providing a clear path for accountability in cases where the USAP was not being respected, describing the conditions when the assessment scheme in the course outline may be changed; and allowing assessments to be due up to the last day of the semester including the final exam period. Senator Labeau added that the discussions regarding planning for the Fall 2021 term would inform further revisions to the USAP.

Senator Fronda expressed concern that, as drafted, the revised USAP was more exam-centric as the only restriction was on final examinations, leading to the possibility that other evaluations could be worth 100%. He suggested reviewing this more closely to avoid creating loopholes that would disadvantage students.

Regarding the requirement that students must receive some graded feedback before the University's official course withdrawal deadline, Senator Kirk suggested specifying whether this referred to the withdrawal with refund deadline or the withdrawal without refund deadline. Mr. Zabowski clarified that it referred to the withdrawal without refund deadline, which is normally in early November for the Fall term and in March for the Winter term.

Senator Cummings noted that the current USAP contains certain exceptions for final examinations within the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences and for clinical evaluations and suggested that further consultations be carried out with health professions programs as similar exceptions may be needed in the revised policy.

Senator Elbourne stated that the add/drop period causes complications and in certain courses, discussion sections cannot be scheduled until the end of the add/drop period. She suggested that

discussions take place between units and the administration on how to mitigate the complications and think about possibly shortening the add/drop period.

Senator Salmasi asked for clarification regarding the provision in the guiding principles indicating that distribution of grades in any course, examination or other academic assessment is not predetermined. Mr. Zabowski responded that there should not be a fixed number of A grades or C grades in a course.

Senator Saumier asked if the provisions that have been removed from the USAP would be put into a separate set of guidelines or left up to faculties. Mr. Zabowski responded that it would be up to faculties to create guidelines within the framework provided. Senator Winer added that a lot of the details are already covered by other University policies.

Senator Rose asked how support to faculty to develop effective, meaningful, and sustainable assessment and feedback strategies would be put into practice. Senator Winer indicated that the support would be at multiple levels and would include providing infrastructure and tools that would support instructors in conducting different forms of assessment as well as providing them with education and training.

Senator Lach commented that if a student misses an assessment due to illness, the practice in certain programs is to add the value of the assessment to the final examination. She asked if this practice would be able to continue, as it would result in the final examination being worth more than 75% of the final grade. Mr. Zabowski responded that this could be discussed further, noting that if a student agreed to a particular accommodation, it would be permitted. Senator Lach stated that some direction on what instructors could do in those circumstances would be helpful. Regarding students who missed an assessment due to registering for a course during the add/drop period, Senator Lach commented that the Policy indicates the obligations of faculty (i.e. provide alternate arrangements) but does not mention what students must do.

Senator Quitoriano asked for more information regarding the provision that students who have already submitted an assessment or attended an exam, and who subsequently wish to request an accommodation must do so before the end of the course. Senator Winer explained that ideally, accommodations should be requested prior to the assessment. However, she stated that students should have a recourse if they become ill during an assessment. Senator Quitoriano then commented that students in co-op courses often deliver a presentation when they return from their placements and asked if this practice would be able to continue under the revised USAP. Mr. Zabowski indicated that the USAP Working Group is planning to review such practices, noting that they should be able to continue if they are working well.

Senator Faraj commented that students unhappy with their grades would request third party re-reads and expressed concern that grading could be subjective and that the reviewer would substitute his own expectations for those of the instructor. Mr. Zabowski, indicated that the student would be required to consult with the instructor of the course before requesting a re-read, noting that many issues could be resolved at that level. He explained that there should be a briefing with the reviewer as to the grading criteria. Senator Winer stressed that the reviewer's

mandate would be limited to verify whether the criteria for the assignment were appropriately applied.

Senator Frizzle commented that the revisions would improve conditions for staff and students. Senator Frizzle then thanked the USAP working group for all their hard work and indicated that they look forward to continuing the discussion over the next year.

5. Annual Reports

5.1 Research and Innovation

(D20-52)

Senator Crago presented this report for Senate's information. She highlighted some of the COVID-19 initiatives at McGill, including the COVID-19 Immunity Task Force (CITF), the Canadian COVID Genomics Network (CanCOGeN) and the *Biobanque Québécoise de la COVID-19* (BQC-19), and mentioned that many other researchers in the University have received COVID-19 rapid response grants. She then provided an overview of McGill's performance in major funding programs and progress in areas related to innovation and partnerships in FY2019 and mentioned that McGill received \$3.2M in license revenue.

5.2 Scholarships and Student Aid

(D20-53)

Senator Labeau presented this report for Senate's information, in accordance with the Terms of Reference of the Committee on Enrolment and Student Affairs. The report provided a summary of the need-based financial aid provided to undergraduate and graduate students, as well as the scholarships and awards for undergraduate students during the 2019-2020 academic year. Senator Labeau highlighted that there was an increase in McGill's student assistance programs, but overall, the volume of need-based student assistance and undergraduate awards decreased by 3.1% compared to last year, due to reduced government student financial aid.

6. Report of the Joint Senate Steering and Board Executive Committees Meeting

(D20-54)

The Chair presented this report for Senate's information. She reported that on March 25, 2021, the Senate Steering Committee and the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors met to select a topic for the 2021 Joint Board-Senate meeting, which will be held on November 11, 2021. It was noted that, following a review of topics, members agreed to focus the general topic of the joint meeting on the theme of "The Execution of McGill's Mission in a Post-Pandemic World."

7. Other Business

There being no other business to deal with, on a motion duly proposed and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

END

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