

**Minutes**

Wednesday, February 16, 2022 21-22:07

Minutes of the meeting of Senate held on Wednesday, February 16, 2022, at 2:30 p.m. via the Zoom Conferencing Application.

**PRESENT**

Agtang, Darelle	Emami, Elham	Parsons, Addy
Ahsan, Arshiyah	Eperjesi, Debbie	Perepichka, Dima
Arseneault, Louis	Fortier, Suzanne	Poorhemati, Hossein
Bartlett, Joan	Frona, Michael	Qiao, George
Beauchamp, Yves	Geddes, Maiya Rachel	Quitoriano, Nathaniel
Bede, Jacqueline	Geitmann, Anja	Rassier, Dilson
Beech, Robin	Guyatt, Claire	Ravenscroft, Brenda
Behzadi, Houman	Hébert, Terence	Richard, Marc
Blanchette, Mathieu	Hunter, Mary	Riches, Caroline
Breau, Sébastien	Hurtubise, Jacques	Robillard, Martin
Campbell, Angela	Karaminassian, Roubina	Rodriguez Saenz, Maria
Chan, Yolande E.	Khoury, Lara	Rohrbach, Petra
Chen, Jennifer	Kiester, Lucy	Ronholm, Jennifer
Collins, Paige	Kirk, Andrew	Ruge-Murcia, Francisco
Cook, Colleen	Kouchakji, Kristi	Shariff, Shaheen
Crago, Martha	Labeau, Fabrice	Sroka-Fillion, Nathalie
Cumming, Julie	Lennox, Bruce	Steinhauer, Karsten
Cummings, Beth	Levey, Margaret	Subramanian, Narendra
Czemmel, Nancy	Levy, Jacob	Theodore, David
Daryanani, Darshan	Low, Bronwen	Vachon, Brigitte
Deschenes, Jean	Manfredi, Christopher	Voudouris, Nellie
Dirks, Melanie	Moore, Catriona	Weil, Carola
Downie, Claire	Nalbantoglu, Josephine	Weinstein, Marc
Drouin, Susan	Ndao, Momar	Werber, Joshua
Dworek, Nikulas	Nicell, Jim	Willie, Bettina
Eakin, Gael	Nilson, Laura	Winer, Laura
Eidelman, David	Nycum, Gillian	Yang, Kerry
Elstein, Eleanor	Nystrom, Derek	Zorychta, Edith

**REGRETS:** Bob Babinski, Elizabeth Elbourne, Jim Engle-Warnick, Samer Faraj, Pierre-Luc Girard-Lauriault, Chantal Grignon, Kenneth Hastings, Miranda Hickman, Srinivasan Krishnamurthy, Lucyna Lach, Robert Leckey, Alissa Levine, Saku Mantere, John McCall MacBain, Jeffrey McKenzie, Carla-Elvira Olteanu, Ram Panda, Samer Salameh, Harmehr Sekhon, Eran Shor, Laurie Snider, Ipek Tureli, Jean-Sébastien Vallée, Manon Vennat, Daniel Weinstock, Risann Wright.

## **1. Welcoming Remarks**

The Chair welcomed Senators to the seventh Senate meeting of the 2021-22 governance year. The meeting was held virtually via the Zoom conferencing application.

The Chair mentioned that the Senate Rules of Procedure prohibit the recording of the sound or images, and the communication or posting of Senate deliberations. She indicated 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 Hunter read the following memorial tribute for Professor Michael Brecher, which Senate subsequently unanimously endorsed:

It is with great sadness that we announce that Michael Brecher, BA class of 1946, R.B. Angus Professor of Political Science, Emeritus, Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, passed away peacefully in his sleep on January 16, 2022, at his home in Montreal, at 96 years of age. He had retired from McGill and taken emeritus status only in 2021, after an astonishing 69 years on the University's faculty, which is apparently the longest such service in the University's history. As a scholar of international relations, Michael Brecher was a unique intellectual force. He began his doctoral study on India's foreign policy and Kashmir in 1951, just three years after India's independence and a decade before most of North American political science began to make serious efforts toward the study of India or indeed most of the newly independent states of the world. Both his book on Kashmir and his subsequent political biography of Nehru were among the earliest and most influential such works in political science. And he went on to help found the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute in 1968, promoting scholarly exchange between the two countries. Later in his career, he turned to the study of Israel and international relations of the Middle East, and to the general problem of international crises and conflicts. Through this extraordinary decades-long career, he combined intellectual virtues in a distinctive way, becoming a specialist in two very different regions, and remaining committed to studying individual decisionmakers, discrete historical moments of crisis, and particular countries as well as the broader theories of war and conflict. In 1975, he founded the International Crisis Behaviour Project, which continues today to promote the study of international crises in part by collecting and providing the most comprehensive data about them. He authored, coauthored, and edited 30 books throughout his career, including a three-volume retrospective of his "Intellectual Odyssey" and reflections on the state of his fields of greatest interest published by Palgrave Macmillan 2016-18. His many scholarly contributions were widely honored, including with Rockefeller, Guggenheim, and Killam Fellowships, McGill's Fieldhouse Prize for Excellence in Research and Award for High Distinction in Research, the Lifetime Achievement Award, American Political Science Association's section on Conflict Processes, the presidency of the International Studies Association, and Quebec's Leon-Gerin Prize for the Human Sciences. Michael was a native Montrealer who graduated from and then, after receiving his Ph.D. from Yale, returned as faculty to, McGill's then-unified Department of Economics and Political Science. When

he came back the department as a professor, he joined his brother Irving as a colleague and indeed, for some years, as an officemate. When the department split into two, Michael became a founding member of Political Science and Irving of Economics, and they remained avid conversation partners in the decades to come. In the new Department of Political Science, Michael was a critical figure in the crisis of 1968, and a fierce defender of academic freedom when it was under threat. Michael was a committed teacher, mentor, and advisor to students, many of whom went on to distinguished academic careers themselves, and many of whom collaborated with him on work in one or another of the research agendas he did so much to define. Early in his early work in Israel, he met Eva Danon. They were to be married for 54 years until her passing in 2004. He is survived by his three daughters: Leora Brecher, Diana Brecher and Seegla Brecher, and their husbands Steven Finestone, Eric Robbins and Yossi Dayan. He is also survived by his two grandsons, Adam Finestone and Kobi Finestone, and Kobi's fiancée, Emily Millar. We convey our profound condolences to his family and our deep gratitude for his decades of contributions and service to the discipline, to the department, and to McGill.

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

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of Dr. James M. Fresco, a retired Associate Professor in the Department of Chemistry on Sunday, May 23, 2021, just a few months short of his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. Jim Fresco was born and raised in Yonkers, New York. He obtained his B.A. at New York University (1949), his M.Sc. at Brooklyn Polytechnic University (1956) under the supervision of the Nobel Laureate and McGill graduate Prof. Rudy Marcus, and his Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry from the University of Arizona (1961). He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1944, serving two years as a Sergeant in France and Austria. One of his tasks, while in the South of France, was to tell the German prisoners of war in a camp there that the war was finally over. From 1949 to 1955, he worked for the US Atomic Energy Commission on the analysis of radioactive materials and ion separation processes. Before joining McGill in 1965, he taught Analytical Chemistry at the University of Nevada and Texas Tech University. While at McGill, he served as an Associate Chair of the Department from 1984 until his retirement in 1992. He taught a great many undergraduate students in General Chemistry, Analytical Chemistry and Instrumental Analysis as well as graduate students in spectroscopic methods and other topics. He also was an active researcher in Analytical Chemistry in topics including infrared spectroscopy, electroanalytical chemistry, and solution thermodynamics and kinetics. As important as this work was, along with that of his graduate students, his lasting legacy is associated with his steadfast support of undergraduates as a mentor and advisor. Indeed, he has pioneered the concept of formal advising in the Faculty of Science, a legacy that grows and grows since he informally took this initiative some 50 years ago. After his retirement, Jim loved travelling with friends, enjoyed many outdoor activities including downhill skiing in the Rockies until his early 90's, hiking, and windsurfing. He was a keen historian and an exceptionally good card player. He was a founding member of the Department of Chemistry Poker Club, and in more recent years, the Faculty Club Bridge Club. We extend our heartfelt condolences to Jim's nephew and niece. He will also be sorely missed by his colleagues at McGill and many scientific friends throughout the world.

Senator Eidelman read the following memorial tribute for Professor Emeritus Joseph Milic-Emili, which Senate subsequently unanimously endorsed:

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of Professor Joseph Milic-Emili on January 8, 2022. “Milic”, as he was known to all, was an internationally recognized expert on pulmonary physiology, much beloved by legions of former students and colleagues around the world. Born in the small town of Sežana, in what is now Slovenia, Milic graduated with a medical degree from the University of Milan in 1955. In 1956, he was appointed Assistant Professor in the Department of Physiology at his alma mater, where he conducted research on exercise physiology alongside his former teacher and mentor, Professor Rodolfo Margaria. In 1958, Milic was encouraged to join the University of Liège in Belgium. At Liège, he collaborated with physiologist Jean-Marie Petit to do ground-breaking work on respiratory mechanics. Together, they developed innovative methods to measure pleural pressure with the esophageal balloon catheter and the electrical activity of the diaphragm using esophageal electrodes - methods that are still used in patients today. In 1960, Milic moved from Liège to Boston to work at the Harvard School of Public Health, where these methods were refined further in collaboration with Dr. Jere Mead. In 1963, Milic was invited to join McGill University, where he spent the remainder of his remarkable and distinguished career. He was first appointed Assistant Professor and quickly rose through the ranks to become Professor in the Departments of Physiology and Experimental Medicine. From 1973-78, he was Chairman of the Department of Physiology. In 1979, he became Director of the Meakins-Christie Labs. He led the world-renowned pulmonary research centre for nearly 15 years. In 1998, after nearly 30 years of service, he was named Professor Emeritus. Throughout his research career at McGill, Milic made outstanding contributions to the study of the regional distribution of gas in the lung. His initial work was on the regional distribution of inspired gas in the lung using radioactive xenon; he examined respiratory mechanics in mechanically ventilated patients and developed the negative expiratory pressure technique to detect expiratory flow limitation in ICU patients. This important work led to an iconic paper published in the *Journal of Applied Physiology* in 1966. The paper was one of the 100 most-cited papers in clinical research, and it helped Milic become one of the 100 most-cited authors during that time. Milic was the recipient of numerous awards, medals, and distinguished titles. He was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1980 and was inducted into the Order of Canada in 1990. He received the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002 and the Trudeau Medal from the American Thoracic Society in 2006. Milic was awarded honorary doctorates from institutions around the world, including l’Université Catholique de Louvain (Belgium), University of Kunming (China), Université de Montpellier (France), University of Athens (Greece), and University of Ljubljana (Slovenia). Milic was the author of hundreds of papers and books. He was an exceptional teacher and mentor to his trainees, many of whom went on to become scientific and administrative leaders. He was a fierce competitor, a task master, a cheerleader, and a career promoter. He was respected and loved by his colleagues, with whom he formed loyal friendships. He championed their work and helped them to develop their international reputations. Milic embraced life with humour, charisma, and positivity. He was a chef, an opera lover, and a raconteur. Most importantly, he was someone who understood the importance of personal relationships. As he poignantly reflected in his semi-memoir: “I

found that, at this time in my life, the names and memories of my coauthors became more important to me than the scientific content of my papers.” We extend our heartfelt condolences to his daughters, Anne-Marie and Claire, his son Andrew, as well as to his family, friends, colleagues, and all those whose lives he surely touched. He will be sincerely missed.

**3. Report of the Steering Committee** (21:22-06)

Senate received the Report of the Steering Committee (21-22:06).

*Item 1. Approval of Minutes of Senate – January 19, 2022 meeting.*

*Item 2. Speaking Rights.*

Upon approval of the report, speaking rights were granted to Professor Rebecca Fuhrer, for item IIB2 (Open Discussion: Update on the Activities of the Ad Hoc Committee on COVID Academic Planning and Policies), Professor Christopher Buddle, Associate Provost, Teaching & Academic Programs, for items IIB1 and IIB2 (Open Discussion: Update on the Activities of the Ad Hoc Committee on COVID Academic Planning and Policies and Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on COVID Academic Planning and Policies), and Professor Patricia Hewlin, Ombudsperson for Students, for item IIB4.1 (Annual Report of the Ombudsperson for Students).

*Item 3. Senate Open Discussion Topic*

The Steering Committee selected the following topic for the February 16, 2022 open discussion: ‘Update on the Activities of the Ad Hoc Committee on COVID Academic Planning and Policies’.

Following a request from Senator Rohrbach, the time allotted to the breakout room discussions during the Open Discussion to 15 minutes.

*Item 4. Approval of the Agenda.*

*Item 4. Review of Questions and Motions*

No questions or motions were submitted for the February 16, 2022, meeting of Senate.

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

**4. Business Arising from the January 19, 2022 Minutes**

None.

## **5. Chair's Remarks**

The Chair began her remarks by mentioning the Provincial Government's reopening plan announcement, which aimed to lift many public health measures by March 14, 2022. She indicated that communications regarding the University's plans on this matter were forthcoming, noting that current measures, which included mask-wearing and social distancing, would remain in place for the time being. She went on to share that since the University resumed in-person activities on January 24, 2022, no significant COVID-19 outbreaks had been reported, and that in light of extracurricular activities now being permitted, the McGill gym was able to reopen. She mentioned that the activities of the Emergency Operations Committee had come to an end, as with the reactivation of the Recovery and Operations Resumption Committee.

The Chair then reported that she had met with Valérie Plante, the Mayor of Montreal, regarding the University's endeavours concerning the New Vic and Fiat Lux projects. The Chair also mentioned that she had met with MP Marc Miller, and MP Scarpaleggia, both supporters, champions, and friends of the University. Regarding the New Vic project, the Chair shared that the Provincial Government had made investments in its progress and that decontamination efforts of the premises were underway. She reported that both the Federal and Provincial Budgets were forthcoming, and that over one thousand new Canada Research Chairs in addition to support for innovation were expected. She mentioned that Quebec universities (BCI) continued to be underfunded due to low Government-led student fee policies, and expressed her hope that grants would be forthcoming as part of the Provincial budget.

She went on to remind Senators of the anniversary commemoration of the 2017 Quebec City Mosque shooting, and communicated that James Jones would be the keynote speaker for the University's celebration of Black History Month.

Regarding Kudos, the Chair reported that, once again, the University was named one of Montreal's 'top employers.' She also reported that McGill student Victoria Kalisky, Faculty of Arts, Department of Political Science, had been commended by Governor-General Mary Simon for her efforts to provide homeless individuals with winter coats. The Chair concluded her remarks by mentioning that the University had several community members currently taking part in the 2022 Olympic Games held in Beijing.

## **SECTION II**

### **Part "A" –Questions and Motions by Members**

There were none.

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

## **Open Session**

### **1. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on COVID Academic Planning and Policies (D21-36)**

Senator Campbell presented the Report of the Ad hoc Committee on COVID Academic Planning and Policies to Senate for information. She began by addressing ongoing concerns about student absences and mentioned possible remedies for some cases which could include lecture recordings and Online Synchronous Participation. She informed Senate that the recommendations submitted to the Provost on January 31, 2022, had been accepted. The recommendations encouraged accommodations for students who are unable to attend class on account of COVID-19. Senator Campbell reiterated that neither the recording of lectures, nor Online Synchronous Participation were mandatory, and that, in some cases, these combinations were not possible.

### **2. Open Discussion: Update on the Activities of the Ad Hoc Committee on COVID Academic Planning and Policies (D21-37)**

Professor Christopher Buddle, Associate Provost, Teaching & Academic Programs, introduced the topic of the open discussion on behalf of the Ad hoc Committee on COVID Academic Planning and Policies. He provided an overview of the Committee's mandate, and highlights of the Committee's recent activity, which included the flexibility for some instructors to deliver up to 20% of their course load remotely, accommodations for instructors living with vulnerable dependants, and the possibilities for long-term accommodations for students with chronic conditions. He then provided a quick outline of the Open Discussion contents, which was followed by an overview of the Open Discussion process provided by the Chair.

Senators then engaged in small group discussions on key questions related to the open discussion topic using the breakout rooms function on the Zoom conferencing application.

The first question focused on the current Winter 2022 term, and related to adjustments to academic activities that could be considered by the Ad Hoc Committee between now and the end of the academic year. Senators noted departmental and Faculty-specific limitations regarding evaluations, in terms of the in-person or online format of exams. In relation to possible adjustments that could be considered, Senators proposed the expansion of the Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) option, increased student aid as well as technological training and support for both students and instructors. Mental health accommodations were recognized as valuable, and non-compliance with mask-wearing protocols by some members of the community was presented as an ongoing issue. It was additionally noted that differing views and opinions with respect to the University's return to in-person activities had led to some tension in the community.

The second question focused on measures that could be put in place on a longer-term basis pursuant to the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations. Senators discussed evaluation methods and student experience best practices. With respect to take-home exams, some Senators voiced support for this model while others expressed a desire to move away from it. It was noted that in either case, a balance of structure and flexibility was important, as some students struggle with assessment even under regular conditions. The topic of appointing designated and remunerated note-takers was raised as an alternative or supplement to lecture recordings. It was recognized that lecture

recordings may not be appropriate in all teaching scenarios, and that instructors should be entrusted with determining the best tools to supplement their in-person course delivery. Additionally, some Senators spoke favourably of Online Synchronous Participation, and supported access to lecture recordings for students, and supplementary IT support for instructors.

The third question focused on Senators' views of the emerging trend to move away from in-person, centrally administered final examinations as a mode of student assessment. Senators recognized that there were advantages to the in-person, centrally administered final examinations including specific time restrictions and controlled environments. With respect to take-home exams, some Senators voiced concerns of potential integrity issues and noted a necessity to include precise deadlines. Senators encouraged tailoring assessments according to the course material and to student and instructors needs, noting that questions of equity would arise if more than one format was permitted. Generally, Senators were in favour of continuing to explore possible alternatives to the in-person, centrally administered final examinations as a mode of student assessment but wanted more data, research and support on the subject.

Professor Buddle thanked Senators for their contributions, noting that gathering additional data outside of the context of the pandemic would be essential. He mentioned that having multiple modes of assessment was valuable and agreed with the need to keep up with technology. In relation to the non-compliance of mask-wearing protocols by certain members of the community, he advised Senators that a video was forthcoming on the topic of how to approach such situations.

Senator Nystrom mentioned that the possibility to make academic changes for the current term was narrowing, and in light of mental health challenges and disruptions faced by students, voiced his support for the expansion of the S/U option. Senator Campbell reported that the Ad Hoc Committee had raised the topic of allowing the S/U option at their meetings in January 2022, and that the idea had received largely negative feedback, citing issues with GPAs, scholarship qualifications, class averages, and admissions. Senator Nycum added that the S/U option was originally designed to allow students to explore courses outside of their main area of concentration without jeopardizing their GPA. She explained that the S/U option has a significant impact on the calculation of a student's average and that the continued use of the S/U option could be detrimental to students. Senator Daryanani noted that the S/U option had proven helpful to many students and encouraged providing students with the option of choosing it again.

The Chair concluded the Open Discussion by encouraging Senators to consider the importance of interactive classrooms in all settings, and by thanking Senator Winer, Teaching and Learning Services, and the Open Discussion working group.

### **3. Report of the Senate Nominating Committee (D21-38)**

Senator Manfredi presented this report for Senate's consideration. He highlighted that the report contained recommendations for appointments to Senate Standing Committees, Committees arising from University Regulations, as well as proposal for the election of Senate representatives to the Advisory Committee for the Selection of the Principal and Vice-Chancellor.

*On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the recommendations contained in the Report of the Senate Nominating Committee (D21-38).*

#### **4. Annual Reports**

##### **4.1 Ombudsperson for Students (D21-39)**

Professor Hewlin presented this report for Senate's information. She provided an overview of the Office of the Ombudsperson for Student's mandate, which includes providing an independent, impartial, and confidential process through which a student may seek the just, fair, and equitable resolution of any university-related concern where normal non-adversarial administrative channels for addressing such matters are deemed to be inappropriate in the circumstances or prove ineffective. She highlighted various aspects of the Report and informed Senators that the Office of the Ombudsperson for Students aimed to create a supportive environment in which students could safely disclose their concerns without fear of reprisal. She recommended that issues be evaluated in a fashion that aims to address problems at an institutional, procedural or policy level, not only on the individual level. Senator Campbell thanked Professor Hewlin and her team for their efforts, noting that the Office is an important, trusted, and valued resource on campus for their student-focused initiatives.

##### **4.2 Enrolment and Strategic Enrolment Management (D21-40)**

Senator Labeau presented this report for Senate's information. He shared that while enrolment remains consistent overall, the effects of the pandemic have made recruitment more challenging. He mentioned that the University has two strategic objectives that are outlined in the University's Strategic Academic Plan: to increase applications and registrations from Quebec CEGEPs and Colleges and to increase new registrations from Francophone CEGEPs. He went on to note the University's continued its efforts to increase Indigenous student enrolment to at least one thousand, mentioning that the numbers had remained largely constant since last year. He shared that Indigenous enrolment appeared to be more cyclical rather than continuous, depending on community needs. He then reported that international students currently make up 27% of the student population, which was very average, as the number usually fluctuates between 25% and 30%. He also shared that the University continued to attract top Graduate students and that there had also been an increase in graduate students.

Senator Weil proposed that the Report contain mention of the fact that the School of Continuing Studies hosted a significant number of Indigenous students in longer-term programs, including diploma and certificate programs.

On the topic of International Graduate student numbers, Senator Kirk indicated that some faculties were introducing minimum stipends for international graduate students, noting, however, that many supervisors were unable to raise funds to provide this type of stipend. He mentioned that this may result in supervisors preferring national over international students. He proposed that the University look into this issue and possible resources, fundraising campaigns and partnerships that could be used to support supervisors.

Senator Quitariano inquired if the University had made any advances to incorporate the use of AI into its admission process to further its diversity goals. Senator Labeau replied that while he agreed in principle with the use of AI, McGill's admission process was quite complex in light of the different types of cohorts, adding that the data required to integrate AI was not necessarily available for all the cohorts. Therefore, AI would be difficult to administer. In response to Senator Quitariano's question about the possibility of partnering with other universities to obtain more data, Senator Labeau indicated that the University manages its own admissions, and that partnering with other institutions or companies would result in the University ultimately losing control of the details of its admissions processes, which it would not be in the University's best interest.

## **5. Other Business**

There being no other business to deal with, on a motion duly proposed and seconded, the meeting ended at 4:35 p.m.

**END**

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