

Minutes

Wednesday, January 20, 2021 20-21:06

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

PRESENT

Alli, Babatunde	Hastings, Kenneth	Richard, Marc
Arseneault, Louis	Hébert, Terence	Riches, Caroline
Bartlett, Joan	Hurtubise, Jacques	Riddle-Merritte, Leela
Beauchamp, Yves	Jorgensen, Jan	Robillard, Martin
Bede, Jacqueline	Kemme, Bettina	Ronholm, Jennifer
Bedjanian, Tatiana	Kiester, Lucy	Rose, Jessica
Beech, Robin	Kirk, Andrew	Ruge-Murcia, Francisco
Breau, Sébastien	Komarova, Svetlana	Salameh, Samer
Brulé-Champagne, Emile	Kouchakji, Kristi	Salmasi, Kamal
Campbell, Angela	Krishnamurthy, Srinivasan	Saumier, Geneviève
Cook, Colleen	Labeau, Fabrice	Sekhon, Harmehr
Cummings, Beth	Laywine, Alison	Shariff, Shaheen
Daryanani, Darshan	Leckey, Robert	Shrier, Alvin
Deschenes, Jean	Lennox, Bruce	Snider, Laurie
Dias, Dahlia	Loftus, Mary Lynne	Sroka-Fillion, Nathalie
Dorval Courchesne, Noémie-Manuelle	Manchanda, Arnav	Stephens, David
Earle, Jemark	Manfredi, Christopher	Tessier, Adrienne
Eidelman, David	Nalbantoglu, Josephine	Theodore, David
Emami, Elham	Ndao, Momar	Tureli, Ipek
Engle-Warnick, Jim	Nicell, Jim	Uttamchandani, Krishna
Faraj, Samer	Nycum, Gillian	Voudouris, Nellie
Fortier, Suzanne	Nystrom, Derek	Weil, Carola
Frizzle, Brooklyn	Osiecki, Sophie	Weinstein, Marc
Frona, Michael	Parsons, Addy	Willie, Bettina
Geddes, Maiya Rachel	Perepichka, Dima	Winer, Laura
Geitmann, Anja	Qiu, Haoyi	Yalovsky, Morty
Gonnerman, Laura	Ramnawaz, Shaainee	Yang, Mu Rong
Grignon, Chantal	Rassier, Dilson	Zorychta, Edith
	Ravenscroft, Brenda	

REGRETS: Bob Babinski, Avery Bonair-Cyrus, Martha Crago, Julie Cumming, Susan Drouin, Gael Eakin, Elizabeth Elbourne, Eleanor Elstein, Debbie Eperjesi, Lucyna Lach, Bronwen Low, Antonia Maioni, Jeffrey McKenzie, Michael Meighen, Laura Nilson, Ram Panda, Nathaniel Qutoriano, Joella Reev, Petra Rohrbach, Eran Shor, Tabitha Sparks, Narendra Subramanian, Jean-Sébastien Vallée, Manon Vennat, Tracy Webb.

1. Welcoming Remarks

The Chair welcomed Senators to the sixth 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: Dr. Clifford Kirk Osterland and Dr. Barbara Nichols

Senator Eidelman read the following memorial tribute for Dr. Osterland, which Senate subsequently unanimously endorsed:

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of Dr. C. Kirk Osterland, Harry Webster Thorp Professor Emeritus in Experimental Medicine.

A native of Red Deer, Dr. Osterland spent his formative years in Winnipeg. He was a prodigious athlete-scholar, excelling on both the badminton court and the golf course while simultaneously completing both his medical degree and residency training at the University of Manitoba. After completing his residency, Dr. Osterland and his wife Jane set out for New York City where he worked as a research associate at the renowned Rockefeller Institute, now the Rockefeller University. A year in Paris followed, where he continued to pursue immunology research at the *Institut Pasteur* before moving on to St. Louis, where he was named Chief of Rheumatology at Barnes Hospital and Professor of Medicine at Washington University.

Following a decade at the University of Washington, in 1973 Dr. Osterland moved to Montreal, a place he would call “one of the truly great cities of North America,” joining the Departments of Medicine and Microbiology and Immunology at McGill and becoming Director of the Division of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology at the Royal Victoria Hospital. These appointments allowed him to contribute to and help coordinate McGill's leading-edge research and training in immunology, while treating patients suffering from severe arthritis - many of them children at the Shriner's Hospital.

A prolific researcher, Dr. Osterland was focused on the clinical investigation of human disease, specifically, immunology and rheumatology, including auto immune mechanisms, the immunology and biology of the aging, b lymphocyte abnormalities in human disease, immune induced inflammation – gene expression of related cytokines and other mediators – and technology for the lab assessment of the integrity and activation of the immune system in disease. Over the course of his career he published nearly 250 papers and abstracts.

Dr. Osterland was a member of several societies, serving on the editorial board of several journals. He received numerous awards including being elected as a fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology in 1990. He was made Professor Emeritus at McGill in 2002.

Among his colleagues and trainees, Dr. Osterland was known for being humble and encouraging. Emeritus Professor James Coulton recalls how Dr. Osterland participated actively in the Microbiology and Immunology seminar program in the 1980s, walking across the street from his home domain at the Royal Victoria Hospital. “Kirk’s twinkle meant loaded and challenging questions for the speakers, including me,” shared Prof. Coulton. “Together we weathered the slings and arrows of academic life and when matters decayed and contests erupted, Kirk’s demeanour navigated us through the controversies. As Thorp Professor of Medicine, he held our highest esteem.”

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Dr. Osterland’s three children, Kathleen, Michael and Andrew and their partners as well as to his four grandchildren, Kate, Alex, Beck and Wes and to his extended family, his friends, colleagues and all those whose lives he touched. He will be greatly missed.

Senator Engle-Warnick then read the following memorial tribute for Dr. Nichols, which Senate subsequently unanimously endorsed:

Dr. Barbara Nichols, born on February 10, 1931 died on October 5, 2020 after a sudden onset of illness. Barbara passed away peacefully in Victoria, British Columbia where she had moved to at the beginning of 2020 to be closer to family, leaving her condo near Westmount Park where she had lived for 55 years.

Barbara was born in Champaign, Illinois and grew up in Muskegon, Michigan. She received her BA from Wellesley College followed by a year of study at the University of Oxford where she met her husband, Chris Heppner. They moved to Montreal where their daughter Mary was born. Barbara worked in social services until undertaking her Masters in Social Work at McGill University. After completing her MSW, she taught at Dawson College and then went on to attain her doctorate in social work from McGill where she went on to become an Associate Professor in the School of Social Work teaching from 1979-1999. She formed close ties with her colleagues and students and was a well-loved professor who provided support to many graduate students in their work.

Barbara was passionate about women’s rights and she channelled this passion through her teaching and worked to reveal the injustices faced by those who were marginalized and oppressed in society. Courses she taught included Policy and Practice for Refugees, International Social Welfare and Women & Social Policy in Canada. She used experiential techniques in the classroom to teach social work students about the lived experience and the catch-22 of poverty and living a life on social welfare.

Barbara spearheaded an analysis of her colleagues’ salaries in the School of Social Work which showed that male colleagues had been systematically hired at a higher salary than

their female counterparts. The study led to a salary correction. Barbara co-authored *Gender, Aging and the State* (1994) with Peter Leonard. This publication examined the relationship between gender, ageing and the State in determining the material, social and psychological experiences of older people and how it raises important questions of theory, practice, and politics. She, alongside Sheila Neysmith, published an article in the *Canadian Journal on Aging* titled *Working Conditions in Home Care: Comparing Three Groups of Workers* (1994) which examined the similarities and differences between the methods of care used by three groups of caregivers (close relatives, wives and volunteers).

Former colleagues describe Barbara as positive, encouraging and fun. She was an outgoing generous member of the faculty and a friend to all. Barbara was always ready with a smile and a cheery greeting. She was described as a woman of a generation – breaking ground and paving the way for those who followed in her wake.

Barbara is survived by her daughter, Mary Heppner, son-in-law Dan Barrett and grandchildren Hannah and Andrew Barrett. Barbara will be missed dearly. We extend our deepest condolences to her family and friends.

3. Report of the Steering Committee (20:21-06)

Senate received the Report of the Steering Committee (20-21:06).

Item 1. Approval of Minutes of Senate – December 2 and 15, 2020 meetings.

Item 2. Speaking Rights. Upon approval of the report, speaking rights were granted to Professor Christopher Buddle, Chair of the Committee on Libraries, for item IIB2.1 (Annual Report of the Committee on Libraries) and Professor Ashraf Ismail, Chair of the Advisory Council on the Charter of Students' Rights, for item IIB2.2 (Annual Report of the Advisory Council on the Charter of Students' Rights).

Item 3. Approval of the Agenda.

Item 4. Review of Questions and Motions. No questions or motions were submitted for the January Senate meeting.

Item 5. Terms of Reference. The Steering Committee reviewed its Terms of Reference. The proposed revisions will be presented to the Senate Nominating Committee for consideration and to Senate thereafter.

Item 6: Open Discussion. The Steering Committee selected to have an open discussion on the student academic experience at the February 24, 2021 Senate meeting.

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

4. Business Arising from the December 2 and 15, 2020 Minutes

There was none.

5. Chair's Remarks

The Chair began her remarks by providing an update on the situation at McGill in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. She stated that the Government of Quebec extended the pandemic restrictions until February 8 and established an overnight curfew to discourage private gatherings. She noted that staff and students who are required to be on-campus during curfew hours would receive a letter of safe passage from their Faculty or Department. She reported that Danielle McCann, Quebec's Minister of Higher Education, expressed concern about students' mental health and encouraged the University to provide study spaces on campus to diminish isolation and give access to Wi-Fi. Regarding international travel, the Chair reminded Senators that travelers are required to show proof of a negative COVID-19 test performed no earlier than 72 hours before their arrival in Canada and noted that the mandatory quarantine period of 14 days was still required. Finally, she mentioned that the Quebec government is encouraging nursing students to put their studies on hold for the winter semester in order to work full-time and help alleviate some of the stressors on the healthcare system. She stated that the students would receive a bursary when they return to their studies and noted that the deadline to apply had been extended.

Regarding government relations, the Chair spoke about the recent federal cabinet shuffle announced by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. She highlighted several appointments, including that of Francois-Philippe Champagne as Minister of Innovation, Science, and Industry (formerly Minister of Foreign Affairs); Marc Garneau as Minister of Foreign Affairs (formerly Minister of Transport); Omar Alghabra as Minister of Transport; and Jim Carr (McGill BA '79) as Special Representative for the Prairies. The Chair then reported that she met with Minister McCann concerning the New Vic project. She mentioned that the Minister indicated that the dossier was being actively discussed.

Regarding community relations, the Chair informed Senators that the Bicentennial celebrations would launch (virtually) on March 31st. She also reported that \$435,000 was raised by the McGill Centraide campaign (exceeding the goal of \$400,000) and thanked Senators Arseneault and Leckey for leading the campaign as well as all those who participated and donated.

The Chair concluded her remarks by giving highlights of the kudos circulated prior to the meeting. She congratulated Professor Brian Cherney (Schulich School of Music) and the other 12 members of the McGill community who were appointed to the Order of Canada. She shared that the CHIME telescope Fast Radio Burst project (led by Professor Victoria Kaspi) was among the runner-ups for the 2020 top discoveries by both Science and Nature magazines. She also shared that two separate McGill discoveries on brain cancer (led by Drs. Kevin Petrecca and Charles Couturier; and Drs. Claudia Kleinman and Nada Jabado) made the Québec Science Top 10 list for 2020. She congratulated Professor Wayne Pollard, Director of the McGill Arctic Research Station (MARS), on receiving the 2020 Northern Science Award and the Centenary Medal as well as the University Advancement team on receiving seven awards from the Council

for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). Finally, she congratulated the Desautels Faculty of Management on the launch of the retail innovation lab at the Bensadoun School of Retail Management in partnership with Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc.

In response to Senator Daryanani's question regarding the plans for Spring 2021 Convocation, the Chair responded that an update would be issued to the community in the near future, noting that in-person celebrations were unlikely given the current situation.

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. 502nd Report of the Academic Policy Committee (D20-30)

Senator Manfredi presented this report for Senate's consideration. The report contained a proposal for a new B.Eng. in Global Engineering that would be offered jointly with CentraleSupélec (France) and a proposal for the renaming of the Department of Civil Engineering and Applied Mechanics.

Senator Kemme asked about the anticipated enrolment numbers for the proposed B.Eng. and whether consultations would take place in the event of a large increase in enrolment. Senator Nicell indicated that the expectation was around 70 students per year. He stated that enrolment numbers would be tracked through the annual consultation process with the Office of the Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic), which would inform the larger discussions across the University. Senator Perepichka asked about the tuition fees for the program. Senator Nicell stated that tuition would be in line with that of other programs. He indicated that the portion of the program conducted overseas would conform to France's tuition policies, noting that the plan was for each side to be self-sustaining.

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the creation of the proposed Joint B.Eng. in Global Engineering (120-128 cr.) with CentraleSupélec France.

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved and recommended to the Board of Governors for approval the renaming of the Department of Civil Engineering and Applied Mechanics to Department of Civil Engineering.

2. Annual Reports

2.1 Committee on Libraries (D20-31)

Professor Buddle presented this report for Senate’s information, in accordance with the terms of reference of the Committee on Libraries. The report provided a summary of matters discussed at the meetings of the Committee on Libraries, such as library usage, the Fiat Lux project, off-site storage and Open Educational Resources (OERs). Senator Buddle also acknowledged the role the Libraries have played during the pandemic in terms of the availability of resources and their use as study hubs.

Senator Cook added that the Fiat Lux project was advancing well. She mentioned that the University was working with the architectural firms Shepley Bulfinch and Provencher Roy. She stated that there were three active sites of study hubs for students and highlighted that the Library has curbside delivery of resources that are not available online through the HathiTrust Digital Library's Emergency Temporary Access Service. Finally, she noted that digital course packs were available at the Library and other resources were freely accessible in e-reserves and myCourses.

2.2 Advisory Council on the Charter of Students’ Rights (D20-32)

Professor Ismail presented this report for Senate’s information, in accordance with the Charter of Students Rights. He explained that the Advisory Council convenes only when it receives a request to investigate a violation of the Charter of Students’ Rights from a member of the University community, or when a matter is referred to it by the Committee on Student Grievances. He reported that the Advisory Council did not convene during the 2019-2020 governance year as no requests for investigations were received.

3. Report of the Board of Governors to Senate (D20-33)

Senator Zorychta presented this report for Senate’s information. The report contained a summary of matters discussed by the Board of Governors on December 10, 2020, and by the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors on October 29, 2020 and January 13, 2021. Senator Zorychta highlighted items that were approved or endorsed by the Board and the Executive Committee, including the appointment Mr. John McCall MacBain as Chancellor of McGill University for a three-year term starting July 1, 2021, the reappointment of Professor Robert Leckey as Dean of the Faculty of Law for a second five-year term commencing July 1, 2021, the final budget for fiscal year 2020-2021, as well as the Climate and Sustainability Strategy 2020-2025.

4. Other Business

There being no other business to deal with, on a motion duly proposed and seconded, the meeting ended at 3:18 p.m.

END

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