



## Minutes

Wednesday, March 19, 2014 13-14:07

Minutes of the meeting of Senate held on March 19, 2014 at 2:30 p.m. in the Robert Vogel Council Room (Room 232, Leacock Building.)

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### **PRESENT**

Aitken, Ellen  
Algieri, Stefano  
Allison, Paul  
Arezki, Amine  
Bader, Darine  
Beheshti, Jamshid  
Bernard, Daniel  
Blais, Guillaume  
Bouchard, Adam  
Boyer, Daniel  
Butler, Cameron  
Cecere, Renzo  
Cook, Colleen  
Cooke, Rosemary  
Costopoulos, Andre  
Covo, David  
Dedek, Helge  
Di Giulian, John  
Di Paola, Antonia  
Dinel, Haley  
Doucette, Elaine  
Dudek, Gregory  
Dumont, Marie-Josée  
Dyens, Ollivier  
Epstein, Gwenth  
Ferguson, Sean  
Ferrie, Frank  
Fortier, Suzanne (*Chair*)

Gehring, Kalle  
Gholmieh, Yasmeen  
Ghoshdastidar, Jim  
Goldstein, Rose  
Grant, Martin  
Green, Garth  
Grütter, Peter  
Harman, Christopher  
Harpp, David  
Heath, Nancy  
Hébert, Terence  
Hepburn, Allan  
Hiles, Natalie  
Hill, Reghan  
Hurtubise, Jacques  
Jonsson, Wilbur  
Jutras, Daniel  
Kalil, Alex  
Kreiwirth, Martin  
Kucij, Maya  
Kuzaitis, Ruth  
Lach, Lucyna  
Lane-Mercier, Gillian  
Larson, Katie  
Lazarus, Darius-Lucian  
Lennox, Bruce  
Lu, Catherine  
Madramootoo, Chandra  
Marcil, Olivier

Masi, Anthony  
Michaud, Mark  
Mooney, Jonathan  
Moore, Timothy  
Ngadi, Michael  
Nicell, Jim  
Potter, Judith  
Richard, Marc  
Saroyan, Alenoush  
Shaughnessy, Honora  
Shea, Joey  
Sheridan, Kathleen  
Sinacore, Ada  
Snider, Laurie  
Stewart-Kanigan, Claire  
Stromvik, Martina  
Strople, Stephen  
(*Secretary*)  
Subhani, Farzan  
Thordardottir, Elin  
Weinstein, Marc  
White, Lydia  
Wolfson, Christina  
Yalovsky, Morty  
Zhang, Ji  
Zorychta, Edith  
Zuroff, David

**REGRETS:** Graham Bell, Leslie Breitner, Serge Carrier, Stuart Cobbett, Brian Cowan, Claudio Cuello, Michael Di Grappa, David Eidelman, Jim Engle-Warnick, Daniel Gagnier, Ashraf Ismail, Alvin Kuate Defo, David Lametti, Christopher Manfredi, Lydia Martone, Derek Nystrom, Andrea Pejovic, Gary Pেকেles, Cynthia Price, Dilson Rassier, Nigel Roulet, Melvin Schloss, Arnold Steinberg, Peter Todd, Stephen Yue.

The Chair began by welcoming everyone to the Senate meeting.

## **SECTION I**

### **1. Memorial tribute: Professor Emeritus John E. Moxley**

The Chair welcomed Ms. Katherine and Ms. Heather Moxley, the daughters of Professor Emeritus Moxley, who attended a portion of the meeting to participate in Senate's memorial tribute to their late father. Senator Madramootoo read the following memorial tribute, which Senate subsequently unanimously approved:

John Ellis Moxley passed away peacefully on January 20th, 2014 at the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre in Ottawa, surrounded by his family and the Staff who had cared for him for more than seven years. He was just shy of his 92nd birthday.

An *Emeritus Professor* in the Department of Animal Science, Mox – as he was universally referred to by friends and colleagues – was born on January 29th, 1922 in Hawthorne, Ontario where he grew up on a small dairy farm. He enlisted for the Second World War in 1943, and, through CanLoan, was assigned to the British Army's 5th Seaforth Highlanders, where he served as a Lieutenant. He saw action in France and Belgium before being wounded in October 1944. His Officer Assessment and Appraisal found Mox to be "*a strongly built man with a very responsive manner and a quick sense of humour. He is always ready to take part in everything that goes on and joins in easily with other people. He is intelligent and has strength of character*".

This intelligence and strength of character would serve him well upon his return to Canada. He had assumed that his future would be life on the family farm, but a Government program for returning servicemen to attend University enticed him to come to Macdonald College. He never looked back! After completing his BSc (Agr) in 1947, he was appointed Lecturer in Animal Husbandry. Arguably the two most significant events in Mox's life followed during the 1950's: one personal, and one academic. The first was meeting and marrying his beloved partner of 57 years, Kay Irving who was a Dietician in the College's School of Home Economics. The second concerned his intermittent leave from Macdonald to complete his PhD at Cornell University under the supervision of Professor Charles Henderson – one of the pioneers in the area of Biometrics and Animal Breeding. During this time in NY State, it was his introduction to computer-based dairy-herd analysis systems that would fuel Moxley's determination to provide local Québec dairy producers with the means to improve their on-farm decision making. This was especially critical at the time since Québec had 40% of the dairy population, but individual cow yields that were below the national average.

In June of 1963, his proposal to initiate a milk-recording program was approved by the Comité de Zootechnie du Québec, and in 1965, the Québec Ministry of Agriculture authorized the initiation of a "farmer-financed milk recording service". The records show that the University approved the rental of a computer to develop and provide this service on the condition that it be done at no cost to the University! In November of that same year, an IBM computer was purchased and installed in the basement of what is now the Raymond Building on the Macdonald Campus. The service was promoted at the 1966 Salon

d'agriculture with resounding success; so much so that the exhibit was used as the backdrop for official ceremonies at the Salon for the next three years. Field service for producers commenced in May 1966, and with that, the Faculty of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences February 14, 2014

Québec Dairy Herd Analysis Service was born. From its humble beginnings with 115 local herds, the program spread to cover all of Québec as well as the Maritime Provinces. It became a joint offering between Macdonald College and the Québec Ministry of Agriculture and, by 1984, was processing almost 8,500 dairy herds and more than 320,000 individual cow records. Today, Valacta – a title that reflect its national mandate – is responsible for the processing of all milk-recording cows in Canada; it has one of the largest analytical laboratories in North America; and it is the recipient of numerous annual delegations from all over the world, many of which have entered into agreements to have a similar system developed for the dairy industry in their respective countries.

The success of Valacta and John Moxley are inextricably linked. What may, to today's "wired" generation seem like an obvious application of computers and their technologies, was almost unheard of in the early 60's. It was Moxley's vision that saw the potential, and arguably made one of the most significant impacts on an industry which today ranks third in the Canadian agricultural sector and exports more than \$100 million in dairy genetics each year. Very little of this could have been achieved so efficiently without the introduction of milk recording.

Moxley's work was widely acclaimed and recognized. In 1977 he was named *Commandeur de l'Ordre du mérite agronomique* and received the *Certificate of Merit* from the Canadian Society of Animal Science; in 1979 he was the first animal scientist to receive the *Grindley Award*, the highest honour from the Agricultural Institute of Canada, which subsequently made him a Fellow in 1982. He retired from McGill and was promoted to the rank of Emeritus in 1987. He was inducted into the Agricultural Hall of Fame in 1989. In October 2006, the Macdonald Branch of the McGill Alumni Association honoured him with one of its inaugural *Distinguished Alumni Awards*, as part of Macdonald College's centenary celebrations. When Valacta moved to its new building in 1993, the University was not yet in the habit of naming structures after individuals who were still alive – another first for Mox (although he was heard to remark that he was very relieved at not being required to fulfill the former conditions)!

Mox never forgot his own university experience, which may explain the affinity with his many students. It is, perhaps, fitting that his final academic honour would be the recent establishment of the *Dr. John E Moxley/Valacta Scholarship* "awarded to a student who has a strong interest in dairy cattle production". Based on his lifelong commitment to agriculture, as well as his belief in helping students as much as possible, those of us who knew him feel, that of all the academic honours he received, he would almost certainly have appreciated this one the most.

John is survived by a brother Clarence, daughters Katherine and Heather, grandchildren Nicole, Mary, Alex, Victoria and Amanda, and by two great-grandchildren, most fittingly named Jack and Moxley.

Senator Nicell subsequently read the following memorial tribute, which Senate also unanimously approved:

On behalf of the Faculty of Engineering, it is with great sadness that I report the passing of Emeritus Professor John Charles (Jack) Osler on January 3, 2014. Jack was 83.

Jack Osler joined the Department of Civil Engineering & Applied Mechanics in 1962 as an Assistant Professor. In the three decades that followed, he shone as an outstanding teacher, mentor and administrator, admired and respected by students and colleagues alike.

Jack's main field of expertise was Geotechnical Engineering. He was recognized, in particular, for his knowledge in matters related to the strength and stability of soils—in the Saint Lawrence Region, in deep foundations and under frozen conditions. Jack's reputation was such that leading companies across Canada and abroad regularly sought his advice.

He was also a dedicated, caring and an enthusiastic teacher, looked up to by his students as the model of what an engineering professor should be. He brilliantly combined course material with geotechnical engineering practice learned in the field, and many of his students went on to play important leadership roles in industry.

A gentleman in every sense of the term, Jack was always thoughtful in his dealings with others. His manner and approach were appreciated as much by colleagues as they were by students, and his integrity and carefully measured advice on all manner of issues benefitted many—in the Department, the Faculty and across McGill.

Jack held numerous leadership positions in the Department, too, including Associate Chair and Acting Chair, and he made major contributions to Department, Faculty and University Committees.

A visionary who understood the challenges facing the Civil Engineering profession in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Jack sensed that the Department's undergraduate program was in need of significant revision. In 1991 he established a review that produced a landmark report containing recommendations for important changes in undergraduate curriculum. These recommendations were fully implemented and led to significantly increased pursuits in environmental and transportation engineering, and new teaching and research initiatives in the area of infrastructure. Even after retiring in 1995, Jack continued to assist in the Department's teaching activities in his new role as Professor Emeritus.

Jack Osler had a remarkable career. He made many, important contributions to McGill University, to the civil engineering profession and to the training and professional development of students. His quiet, unassuming leadership style, his diplomacy and his profound regard for students and colleagues were a joy to all who knew him. He will be missed deeply, both at the Faculty and across McGill.

Jack is survived by his wife Jeanne, by two daughters, two sons and several grandchildren.

Senator Potter then read the following memorial tribute, which Senate subsequently unanimously approved:

Senators:

It is with immense sadness that I inform this body of the death of Hervé de Fontenay, immediate past Director of Language and Intercultural Communication at the School of Continuing Studies, on January 4, 2014.

Born in France, Hervé vigorously adopted Canada and Montreal as home while a young man of 18.

Hervé's roots ran deep at McGill. First, as an alumnus, having completed a Masters in French Literature between undergraduate and doctoral studies at the Université de Montréal. Second, through a distinguished career that started in 1975 with sessional teaching for the Faculty of Arts. Hervé began teaching for the Centre for Continuing Education (now School of Continuing Studies) in 1977 and took on increasingly responsible positions, becoming Director of Language and Intercultural Communication in 2000. He retired from that role in Fall 2013, after 38 years at McGill.

Hervé's work has made a very significant impact on McGill. Through his dedication, commitment to excellence, innovative approaches, motivational leadership style and deep knowledge of the field, Hervé developed Language and Intercultural Communication into a unit that offers a wide range of programming options and welcomes approximately 3700 students from over 100 countries each year. His international interests and connections led him to direct and participate in initiatives around the world, from Africa to Latin America, Asia and the Middle East.

And, as an intellectual leader in the community of scholars for language learning and intercultural communication, he contributed a great deal through convening and speaking at many international conferences as well as through his writing.

But Hervé was much more than an accomplished academic. He was deeply appreciated for his generosity, sensitivity to others and his profound humanity. These qualities, along with his deep love of art and beauty, were expressed in his everyday interactions and lent an uplifting and collegial tone to even the most intense situations.

Hervé leaves his wife, Linda Gaboriau, four children and four grandchildren as well as countless friends and colleagues who mourn his passing.

We are deeply grateful that Linda has chosen to honour Hervé's memory and his wishes by establishing the Hervé de Fontenay Memorial Bursary that will, on an annual basis, provide assistance to motivated but needy international students so that they can study English or French at the School of Continuing Studies.

In this way, his deep dedication to improving the lives of others by expanding opportunities, worldviews and human understanding will live on.

## **2. Report of the Steering Committee**

(13:14-07)

Senate received the Report of the Steering Committee (13-14:07).

*Item 1. Approval of Minutes of Senate –February 19, 2014.*

*Item 2. Spring 2014 Convocation – Approval of Degrees, Certificates and Diplomas.* The report informed Senate that the Steering Committee had approved, in the name of Senate, the degrees, certificates and diplomas for students who completed their degree requirements in December 2013, and empowered the Secretary of Senate to make changes to the lists as necessary.

*Item 3. Recommendation of Senator Aitken as Chair of Senate for Item IIB1.* The report indicated that the Principal would actively participate in the presentation and discussion of IIB1 (Open Discussion: Proposed Vision and Priorities); therefore, selecting a replacement for the Chair for this item was necessary. The Steering Committee recommended Senator Aitken as Chair of the meeting during the discussion of item IIB1.

*Item 4. Speaking rights.* Upon approval of the report, speaking rights were granted to Ms. Kathleen Massey (University Registrar and Executive Director, Enrolment Services) for item IIB5 (Annual Report on Strategic Enrolment Management); Professor Daniel Cere (Chair of the Advisory Council on the Charter of Students' Rights) for item IIB6 (Annual Report of the Advisory Council on the Charter of Students' Rights); and Ms. Vera Romano (Clinical Director, McGill Counselling Services) and Ms. Lina Di Genova (Manager, Student Assessment) for item IIB7 (Follow-up Report from the Joint Board-Senate Meeting)

*Item 5. Approval of the Agenda*

*On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the Steering Report*

## **3. Chair's Remarks**

The Chair began by mentioning that during her first semester as Principal, she reacquainted herself with the University Community and is now focusing on getting to know some of McGill's closest supporters, both locally and abroad. As such, she reported that during a recent trip to Boston she had met with alumni, volunteers and donors who are dedicated to supporting McGill's important activities and contributions to society. During this trip, the Chair noted that she also participated in a celebration of McGill's innovative neuroscience collaboration with the University of Oxford and ETH Zurich's Neuroscience Center, ZNZ.

Regarding government relations, the Chair explained that although McGill had submitted a brief on Bill 60 and was scheduled to appear before the National Assembly's Commission, this hearing had been cancelled due to the provincial election. She also mentioned that the Prime Minister had appointed the Honourable Joe Oliver as Minister of Finance (previously Minister of Natural Resources) to succeed the Honourable Jim Flaherty, and that the Honourable Greg Rickford had been promoted from Minister of State for Science to Minister of Natural Resources; both are McGill alumni.

The Chair also discussed McGill's participation in the *Chantier* on university financing. She noted that the University met with the *Chantier*'s co-chairs, H  l  ne Tremblay and Pierre Roy, to discuss the *Chantier*'s preliminary report, which had been released in January. She cautioned, however, that although the *Chantier*'s final report is expected to be released in June 2014, it might be delayed due to the provincial election.

In concluding her remarks, the Chair indicated that to further increase the administration's transparency, travel and hospitality expenses incurred in her duties as Principal will be posted on her website shortly.

In her kudos, the Chair noted that she participated in the inaugural Trottier Symposium on Sustainable Engineering, Energy and Design, which is supported by Mr. Lorne Trottier. She explained that this year's theme focused on "sustainable cities and industries in the 21st century" and that next year's symposium will take place in May at Polytechnique Montr  al. She subsequently mentioned her participation at the Bravo reception at which over 50 McGill researchers were honoured for receiving major national and international prizes and fellowships during the 2013 calendar year. The Chair also acknowledged the group of McGill students who braved the snow and cold temperatures, as they lived and slept outside for five days to increase awareness of youth homelessness; she congratulated them for their efforts as they raised over \$7,000 to benefit Montreal's *Dans la Rue*. She concluded by congratulating the McGill women's hockey team, which won the Canadian Interuniversity Sports Championship for the fourth time.

Senator Richard noted that the Chair, along with the heads of other Quebec universities, had made a presentation to the government on the issue of University financing during the electoral campaign. The Chair explained that the objective was to highlight this issue to politicians during the campaign.

## **SECTION II**

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

No questions were submitted.

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

#### **Open Session**

#### **1. Open Discussion: Proposed Vision and Priorities (D13-49)**

The Chair called on Senator Aitken to assume the role of Chair for the discussion of this item.

The Principal initiated the discussion by explaining that since assuming her role as Principal, she has met with various stakeholders of the University Community to gauge their goals, aspirations and challenges. She summarized this feedback stating that the Community agreed that McGill undoubtedly faces challenges, but that its members are proud of its work and contributions. The Principal highlighted that members of the Community believe McGill has a unique character which should be preserved and emphasized. The Principal subsequently noted that McGill has

already done a lot of work to define its identity, goals and priorities, citing documents such as the “Strategic Research Plan” and ASAP 2012 (“Achieving Strategic Academic Priorities”).

The Principal provided an overview of five priorities she would like to pursue, noting that these priorities intend to reflect the Community’s aspirations:

- a. Student life and learning: Committing to a rich, dynamic learning environment for students;
- b. Research: Creativity and curiosity driving excellence to push the frontiers of knowledge;
- c. Community engagement: Becoming a valued collaborator by being more open and responsive;
- d. Increasing efficiency without compromising accountability by streamlining processes and procedures;
- e. Transforming the University’s physical and virtual campus.

Senators overwhelmingly welcomed the priorities identified by the Principal. Regarding the student life and learning priority, Senators stressed the need for increasing students’ access to academic advising. Senator Kuzaitis added that the current ratio of students to advisors is very high and urged the University to reduce this ratio. Senator Dyens explained that he is working closely with the Dean of Students to comprehensively overhaul the advising system within the next few years, and that some initiatives are already underway, such as increasing pre-arrival advising. Some Senators indicated that more professor-student interactions also serve a mentorship/advising role. Senator Lu mentioned that smaller classes foster greater individual interaction between faculty members and students, and suggested that undergraduate students be required to enrol in at least one seminar course.

Senators supported the upgrading of McGill’s information technology (IT) infrastructure. Senator Ngadi noted that classrooms currently lag in digital infrastructure, which could enhance teaching opportunities. Senator Zorychta cautioned that upgrading the University’s IT should be managed appropriately by centralizing oversight of the upgrade’s implementation. Senator Ferrie also suggested that the University draw upon internal resources and faculty members’ insight rather than relying on external consultants to propose and implement IT solutions.

Senators also indicated that the final document, including the priorities, should be clear, focused and attribute targets and goals to each priority. Senator Shea suggested that if the final document is too broad, it becomes difficult to focus on a core set of priorities. Senator Mooney recommended that the final document contain targets, timelines and performance measure indicators. Senator Lu noted that all of the identified priorities are closely interconnected. Senator Dudek cautioned that given the University’s limited resources, trade-offs are made when advancing one priority over another. Senator Lach asked if resources will be allocated to help advance each priority.

The Principal welcomed Senators’ suggestions and feedback. She indicated that resources will be allocated to some of these priorities as needed, while others require simply a new approach to executing the University’s activities. Senator Weinstein noted that Development and Alumni Relations will align its activities to leverage support for the priorities. The Principal also explained that the current documentation did not attribute targets, timelines and performance measure indicators as it is in draft form and was intended as a consultation document to gauge



the University Community's support. She concluded the discussion by thanking Senators and noted that Senate will be updated as a final document is developed and specific actions are defined.

Senator Aitken informed Senate that the Principal will continue to consult the Community on these priorities and will be holding a town hall on March 28, 2014 to which Senators are invited. She also encouraged Senators to send feedback to the Principal via email and informed them that a blog for that purpose will be established after the town hall event.

**2. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to Review the Livestreaming of Senate Meetings** (D13-50)

The Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee to Review the Livestreaming of Senate Meetings, Senator Madramootoo, presented this report for Senate's approval. He reiterated that the Committee recommended that livestreaming continue and that the live transmission be archived as a non-downloadable file for access by members of the University Community for a period lasting up to the next Senate meeting.

Senator Stewart-Kanigan asked what the costs of archiving the live transmission over a longer period would be. Senator Madramootoo replied that cost is not the only issue to consider. He explained that the meeting minutes remain the meeting's official record and that the longer a recording is posted on the web, the greater the risk of tampering and/or the dissemination beyond the University Community. The Secretary-General added that the administrative costs of maintaining the recordings would be burdensome.

*On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to Review the Livestreaming of Senate Meetings and the recommendations therein.*

**3. 454th Report of the Academic Policy Committee** (D13-51)

The Provost presented this report for Senate's information. He noted that the report outlined the Committee's position on a question regarding lecture recordings and a motion regarding anonymous evaluations, which had been submitted to the Senate Steering Committee in November 2013. Regarding the latter, Senate was informed that the Academic Policy Committee did not believe there was a need for a University-wide policy on lecture recordings and that Teaching and Learning Services (TLS) would work to develop guidelines on the effective use of lecture recordings for students and faculty members.

Regarding anonymous grading, the Committee reported that anonymous grading is not the global norm and that there is no evidence of a bias in grading at McGill. Therefore, University-wide anonymous grading was not recommended. The Provost indicated that the Committee felt TLS runs a program informing graduate students of strategies to help avoid potential grading bias and undertook to see whether information could be made available to professors as well.

Senator Mooney stated that anonymous grading is widespread, particularly in the United Kingdom and Ireland and asked if the University would consider an anonymous grading pilot

project in Faculties other than the Faculty of Law. The Provost replied that each Faculty is represented on the Committee and there was consensus that Faculties did not believe University-wide anonymous grading was warranted.

Senator Butler contended that the potential for grading bias exists at McGill, as it does elsewhere; therefore, he suggested that the Committee should further study this issue. The Provost replied that although there is no evidence of grading bias at McGill, the Committee will look into this issue and will amend its 454<sup>th</sup> report to reflect this.

Senator Lu indicated that faculty members are concerned with grading biases and many employ various strategies to help overcome any potential bias.

**4. Report of the Senate Nominating Committee (D13-52)**

The Provost presented the report of the Senate Nominating Committee for approval. He explained that it contained recommendations to Committees arising out of the University regulations including: the Committee on Student Discipline, the University Appeals Committee, and the Senate Pools for University Tenure and Statutory Selection Committees.

*On a motion duly proposed and seconded, the Senate approved the recommendations contained in the Report of the Senate Nominating Committee (D13-52) to fill vacancies on Committees Arising from the University Regulations.*

**5. Annual Report on Strategic Enrolment Management (D13-53)**

Senator Dyens presented this report for Senate's information. The report provided an overview of the implementation of the University's Strategic Enrolment Management plan. Senator Dyens highlighted that the University is working to increase the number and percentage of undergraduate students directly engaged in research and scholarship, noting that in some Faculties, such as Science, the majority of undergraduates already engaged in research activities.

He also indicated that McGill continues to enhance its international profile by enrolling outstanding international students. He explained that the University also strives to expand international opportunities for domestic students who wish to study abroad. To this end, he announced that McGill had launched its online student course equivalency database a few days ago to help students determine course equivalency credits for courses taken at other universities. Senator Dyens concluded his presentation by reiterating that McGill aims to continue attracting students from underrepresented groups; however, challenges persist as prospective students from such groups may not apply to attend university.

**6. Annual Report of the Advisory Council on the Charter of Students' Rights (D13-54)**

The Chair of the Advisory Council on the Charter of Students' Rights, Professor Daniel Cere, presented this report which provided an overview of the Committee's activities undertaken last year, for information. He indicated that the Council had received one complaint regarding McGill's policy on *University-related International Travel Activity by Students and University*

*Staff Accompanying Them*, but ultimately decided that the student's Charter rights had not been infringed.

Senator Shea asked whether the University would update its international travel policy soon. The Provost replied that it is scheduled to be reviewed and revised in the near future.

**7. Follow-up Report from the Joint Board-Senate Meeting** (D13-55)

Senator Dyens presented this report for information. It provided an overview of the University's mental health-related resources and services, as well as new and expanded initiatives undertaken since the November 2013 joint Board-Senate meeting. Senator Dyens noted that the University's approach to mental health is holistic and focuses on early alert/pre-arrival advising and harm reduction advising. Senator Dyens also provided a clarification that the "recognizing and supporting students at-risk" initiative, listed on page 4 of the report, is intended for faculty members rather than graduate students.

Senator Arezki indicated that mental health services are currently unavailable to Continuing Studies students and hoped the University would soon conclude an agreement with these students to allow them to access such services. Senator Dyens informed Senate that the University is currently negotiating with Continuing Studies students' representatives on this issue.

Senator Butler noted that session limits on the number of counselling services students can attend may not be sufficient for students facing major mental health issues. Senator Dyens explained that the number of counselling sessions students are entitled to attend at McGill is higher than for students at peer universities and exceptions for extreme cases are occasionally made. He also cautioned that given the University's limited resources, it is not always feasible to offer more services. In addition, he explained that the University can offer some services, but the public health system offers services beyond those offered at McGill.

**8. Progress Report from the Ad Hoc Committee on the Enhancement of Senate Meetings** Verbal Report

The Chair of the Committee, Senator Wolfson, summarized the Committee's work since its creation, explained that the Committee has conducted its consultations with Senators and mentioned that a final report will be presented to Senate by the end of the academic year.

**9. Other Business**

No other business was raised.

There being no other business to deal with, on a motion duly proposed and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

END

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