

Minutes

Wednesday, March 24, 2021 20-21:08

Minutes of the meeting of Senate held on Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 2:30 p.m. via the Zoom Conferencing Application.

PRESENT

Alli, Babatunde	Grignon, Chantal	Reev, Joella
Arseneault, Louis	Hastings, Kenneth	Richard, Marc
Bartlett, Joan	Hébert, Terence	Riches, Caroline
Beauchamp, Yves	Hurtubise, Jacques	Riddle-Merritte, Leela
Bedjanian, Tatiana	Jorgensen, Jan	Robillard, Martin
Beech, Robin	Kiester, Lucy	Rohrbach, Petra
Breau, Sébastien	Kirk, Andrew	Rose, Jessica
Brulé-Champagne, Emile	Kouchakji, Kristi	Ruge-Murcia, Francisco
Campbell, Angela	Krishnamurthy, Srinivasan	Salameh, Samer
Cook, Colleen	Labeau, Fabrice	Salmasi, Kamal
Crago, Martha	Lach, Lucyna	Saumier, Geneviève
Cumming, Julie	Laywine, Alison	Sekhon, Harmehr
Cummings, Beth	Leckey, Robert	Shor, Eran
Czemmel, Nancy	Lennox, Bruce	Shrier, Alvin
Daryanani, Darshan	Loftus, Mary Lynne	Snider, Laurie
Deschenes, Jean	Low, Bronwen	Sparks, Tabitha
Dorval Courchesne,	Manchanda, Arnav	Sroka-Fillion, Nathalie
Noémie-Manuelle	Manfredi, Christopher	Stephens, David
Drouin, Susan	McKenzie, Jeffrey	Tessier, Adrienne
Earle, Jemark	Nalbantoglu, Josephine	Theodore, David
Eidelman, David	Nicell, Jim	Tureli, Ipek
Elbourne, Elizabeth	Nycum, Gillian	Uttamchandani, Krishna
Emami, Elham	Nystrom, Derek	Vallée, Jean-Sébastien
Engle-Warnick, Jim	Osiecki, Sophie	Vennat, Manon
Eperjesi, Debbie	Parsons, Addy	Voudouris, Nellie
Fortier, Suzanne	Perepichka, Dima	Weil, Carola
Fronda, Michael	Qiu, Haoyi	Weinstein, Marc
Geddes, Maiya Rachel	Quitoriano, Nathaniel	Willie, Bettina
Geitmann, Anja	Rassier, Dilson	Yalovsky, Morty
Gonnerman, Laura	Ravenscroft, Brenda	Zorychta, Edith

REGRETS: Bob Babinski, Jacqueline Bede, Dahlia Dias, Gael Eakin, Eleanor Elstein, Samer Faraj, Brooklyn Frizzle, Roubina Karaminassian, Bettina Kemme, Svetlana Komarova, Michael Meighen, Momar Ndao, Laura Nilson, Ram Panda, Shaainee Ramnawaz, Jennifer Ronholm, Shaheen Shariff, Narendra Subramanian, Tracy Webb, Laura Winer, Mu Rong Yang.

1. Welcoming Remarks

The Chair welcomed Senators to the eighth 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: Professors Mario Onyszchuk and Francisco Galiana

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

It is with great sadness that I announce the passing of Professor Mario Onyszchuk on January 1, 2021 due to COVID-19. Dr. Onyszchuk was born in 1930 near Lviv in Poland, now a part of the Ukraine. He grew up in Montreal, earned a BSc in Chemistry from McGill University in 1951, an MSc from University of Western Ontario in 1952 and a PhD from McGill under Carl Winkler in 1954. He was always proud of being #75 of Professor Winkler's 102 PhD graduates. He then earned a second PhD from the University of Cambridge in 1956. Dr. Onyszchuk then decided on a teaching-research career, and returned to McGill as a lecturer, ultimately earning tenure, and full professorship. He was appointed Professor Emeritus by McGill upon his retirement in 1993.

During his years as a professor at McGill, Dr. Onyszchuk taught thousands of students in general and inorganic chemistry courses. In his research laboratory, he trained 5 M.Sc. and 12 Ph.D. students and a number of post-doctoral researchers. He built up an international reputation in the coordination chemistry of group 4 elements, particularly, publishing over 70 peer-reviewed papers. He was elected a Fellow of the Chemical Institute of Canada and the Royal Society of Chemistry (UK).

In addition to these achievements in research, Dr. Onyszchuk was an extraordinary contributor to the life of this University. He served for six years as Chair of his Department (1979-84), and four years as Associate Dean, Graduate Studies. Even after retiring, he continued serving the Department, promoting younger faculty in various award nominations. All those who knew Dr. Onyszchuk will concur that he gave of himself far beyond the normal call of duty. A kind and true gentleman, he set many examples of hard work, kindness and generosity, providing advice, help and support to his colleagues.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 61 years Anastasia (Nancy) Onyszchuk by just 8 days, also felled by COVID-19, and by his son Ivan. He is survived by sons Tim and Greg, and 2 grandsons. He will be greatly missed and will always be remembered with great affection.

Senator Nicell read the following memorial tribute for Professor Galiana, which Senate subsequently unanimously endorsed:

Colleagues, it is with deepest regret that I inform you today that the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the Faculty lost one of its giants recently. Professor Francisco (Frank) D. Galiana passed away on January 27th, 2021. Frank graduated from McGill University in 1966 with a Bachelor of Engineering in electrical engineering before heading to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to pursue his graduate studies. Upon graduating, he moved to Switzerland to take up work at the Brown Boveri Research Centre before being recruited by the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. He returned to McGill as an Assistant Professor in 1977.

Frank distinguished himself throughout his career as an outstanding educator and researcher in the field of electric power engineering. Over the course of his career, he made many important and seminal contributions. These include his work in the early 1970s in the area of electricity demand prediction - through means that some of us would now call machine learning - all the way to the study of oligopolistic behaviour of power generation firms in the first decade of the 2000's. His 1987 paper Short-Term Load Forecasting (Proc. IEEE 75(12)) with his colleague George Gross (B.Eng. '66) remains the gold standard in this area, and his 1998 co-edited book with Marija Ilic and Lester Fink, called Power Systems Restructuring: Engineering and Economics, encapsulates the most fundamental developments which enabled modern electricity markets worldwide. In 1998, he was also one of the experts appointed by the Board of Directors of Hydro-Québec to investigate the impact of the 1998 ice storm on its network and to recommend measures to improve its resiliency against severe weather events.

Frank contributed to the training of numerous graduate students in his field, many of whom went on to notable careers, including founders and CEOs of power and energy technology companies and even an Ambassador of Malaysia to the United States! He cared deeply for all his graduate students; the time and dedication he provided them made evident his profound generosity, a passion for wordsmithing, and a drive for scientific and technological impact first and foremost. Beyond being an exceptional teacher and researcher, he served for several years as his Department's Associate Chair (Undergraduate Programs) and then as Interim Chair (2004-2005). He retired from McGill in 2011 and was appointed to the rank of Professor Emeritus.

Frank was a noted polyglot, speaking fluently in Spanish, English, Portuguese, French and Swiss German. He was a notable epicurean, cook, and football (the real kind) aficionado. A necessary rite of passage for all graduate students under him involved not just only passing the qualifying examination, but also having to cross country ski Mount St. Bruno's trails.

Since retiring from his fulltime academic duties, Frank wrote several children’s books, a science fiction trilogy, and a cookbook, and he became Research & Development lead of the start-up, Saccade Analytics. We deeply regret his passing and extend our heartfelt condolences to Frank’s spouse, Dr. Henrietta (Mimi) Galiana, who is a Professor Emerita of McGill’s Department of Biomedical Engineering, and to his daughter Isabel, son Paquito, and seven grandchildren.

3. Report of the Steering Committee (20:21-08)

Senate received the Report of the Steering Committee (20-21:08).

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

Item 2. Approval of Confidential Session– item IIB6, Report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee (D20-46).

Item 3. Approval of the Agenda.

Item 4. Review of Questions and Motions. No questions or motions were submitted for the March 2021 meeting of Senate.

Item 5. Approval of Degrees, Certificates and Diplomas for February 2021 Graduation. In accordance with its terms of reference, the Steering Committee approved in the name of Senate the list of degrees, certificates and diplomas deposited with the Secretary of Senate for February 2021 Graduation and empowered the Secretary of Senate to make changes to the lists as necessary.

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

4. Business Arising from the February 24, 2021 Minutes

Senator Hastings suggested that the Steering Committee consider including a brief follow-up discussion on the Senate meeting agenda following open discussions. He explained that the Principal or the appropriate University officer could summarize the main ideas that emerged from the open discussion and highlight their impact on the University’s activities.

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 noted that it has been over a year since the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic. She mentioned that March 11th marked the national day of remembrance for the victims of COVID-19 and offered condolences on behalf of Senate to all those who had lost family members and close friends.

She reported that close to 2,000 members of the McGill community participated in a virtual town hall led by Professor Christopher Buddle, Associate Provost (Teaching and Academic Programs), and Senator Labeau to discuss the extensive planning for Fall 2021. She stated that the University was monitoring the evolution of the pandemic closely and is considering a spectrum of scenarios. She noted that, based on the progress to date (declining cases, vaccination rollout), there was reason to believe that a return to in-person campus activities in the fall was possible. She stressed that the wellbeing of the community remained a top priority and all necessary safety measures would continue to be implemented. She then thanked everyone involved in the planning process.

Regarding government relations, she reminded Senators that the federal budget would likely be tabled at the end of April and that the provincial budget would be tabled on March 25th. She then reported that McGill recently hosted Parliamentary Secretaries Will Amos and Rachel Bendayan, as well as Member of Parliament Francis Scarpaleggia, who announced funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) for nine McGill-led projects. Finally, the Chair mentioned that earlier that week, the Minister of Higher Education, Danielle McCann, announced a newly formed expert committee on academic freedom, chaired by Alexandre Cloutier, former *Partie Québécois* Minister for Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs.

Regarding external relations, the Chair spoke about McGill's new partnership with the University of the People, an American-accredited tuition-free online University. She noted that the agreement would enable students from the University of the People to transfer and complete their bachelor's degree on campus at McGill.

Regarding community relations, the Chair reported that McGill24, the University's sixth annual day of giving, was held on March 10, 2021, and raised over \$3.8M. She indicated that the University's bicentennial anniversary was on March 31st and encouraged Senators to attend the virtual events taking place on the Bicentennial Day and throughout the year.

The Chair concluded her remarks by giving highlights of the kudos circulated prior to the meeting. She congratulated Dr. Nada Jabado (Department of Pediatrics) on receiving the Dr. Chew Wei Memorial Prize in Cancer Research from the University of British Columbia and Professor Valérie Orsat (Department of Bioresource Engineering) one being named one of 12 recipients of an 'Engineering and Physical Sciences' Suffrage Science award by the London Institute of Medical Sciences. She shared that Kasia Juno Van Schaik, a doctoral candidate in the English Department and a creative writing instructor at the McGill Writing Centre, won a writer-in-residence prize from CBC Quebec and the Quebec Writers' Federation. Finally, she congratulated the McGill Law students on their performance in the Laskin moot court competition, noting that they won prizes for Top School, Top Appellant Pair, Top Respondent Pair, and Top Individual Oralist.

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 Senate Nominating Committee (D20-40)

Senator Manfredi presented this report for Senate’s consideration. He highlighted that the report contained a recommendation to fill a vacancy on the Committee on Student Grievances.

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the recommendation contained in the Report of the Senate Nominating Committee (D20-40).

2. Annual Reports

2.1 Policy against Sexual Violence (D20-41)

Senator Campbell presented this report for Senate’s information, in accordance with the *Policy against Sexual Violence*. The report addressed activities, cases, and developments under or in connection with the Policy for the reference period of January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. Senator Campbell highlighted that the Office for Sexual Violence Response, Support & Education (OSVRSE) led a multitude of education and awareness-raising activities and events (which are described in Appendix 1 of the report). She noted that during the reference period, OSVRSE received 83 Disclosures and 18 Reports, 16 of which went to full investigation.

Senator Hastings commented that Disclosures were made by McGill students, staff or faculty, alumni and other individuals and asked whether “alumni” was a new category. Senator Campbell responded that there were no new categories as the Policy had not changed. She explained that the Policy allows for Disclosures and Reports from individuals who have left the University, noting that there is jurisdiction as long as the Respondent remains a Member of the University Community (as defined in the Policy).

Senator Parsons asked if any data was available on the impact of COVID-19 with respect to the number of Disclosure and Reports. Senator Campbell responded in the negative. She explained that the incidents giving rise to Disclosures and Reports are not necessarily in the same reference period as the Disclosures and Reports since there is no time limitation on when they could be brought forward. Senator Quitoriano suggested keeping track of when the incidents occurred in order to see trends. Senator Campbell indicated that generally the timeframe between the incident and the Disclosure/Report was roughly a year.

Senator Tessier asked if there were any plans to enhance the *It Takes All of Us* program or provide additional educational programming. Senator Campbell indicated that there would be a three-year review of the modules and that work to develop modules on cyber-violence and systemic racism were underway.

2.2 Enrolment and Strategic Enrolment Management

(D20-42)

Senator Labeau presented this report for Senate’s information. The report provided an overview of enrolment data for Fall 2020 and progress towards strategic enrolment priorities. Senator Labeau highlighted that there was a sizeable increase in applications and yield rate from Québec CEGEPs and colleges. He explained that the fluctuations in Indigenous student enrolment were due to enrolment in the community-based programs delivered by the Office of First Nations and Inuit Education (OFNIE) and other short programs.

Senator Riddle-Merritte inquired about realistic targets for Indigenous student enrolment for next year. She also asked about the activities in place to reach the goals and whether targets for Black student enrolment were being considered. Senator Labeau responded that it would be realistic to continue growth and overall enrolment. He indicated that many of the activities in place are long-term, such as outreach initiatives at the secondary school level. Senator Labeau then mentioned that the University did not have statistical data with respect to other underrepresented groups, but the data may be available in the coming years as there were plans to expand intake surveys.

Senator Daryanani asked for more information regarding the outreach initiatives. As examples, Senator Labeau mentioned McGill’s partnership with Indspire and the pathway programs built to increase Indigenous recruitment. He also stated that many programs were being delivered within Indigenous communities as well as within the School of Continuing Studies. Senator Daryanani also asked about the work being done to increase representation of Black staff members at the University. Senator Manfredi stated that this was a recent initiative and recruiting efforts were ongoing. Senator Campbell added that a report on employment equity would be presented at the May Senate meeting.

Senator Nycum informed Senators that the University was co-creating outreach programs with Indigenous communities. She indicated that two Indigenous Outreach Associates were helping build the programming and that a Black Community Outreach Associate was recently hired to deliver similar outreach programs within the Black community.

Senator Quitariano asked if any trends were observed on how the pandemic was influencing the next cohort. Senator Labeau indicated that there was uncertainty regarding the yield rate as students have been applying to more universities than in previous years. He also mentioned that transcripts were more complex to evaluate as they contain different notations for studies affected by COVID-19.

2.3 Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

(D20-43)

Senator Nalbantoglu presented this report for Senate’s information. The report provided an overview of the TRaCE McGill study, the measures implemented to support graduate student success and statistics concerning graduate education. Senator Nalbantoglu highlighted that there was an increase in graduate admission last year for thesis programs (surpassing targets) and a decrease in Master’s non-thesis programs, especially with respect to international student enrolment. She mentioned that 30 students who self-declared as Indigenous were admitted for graduate studies last year, seven of which were at the PhD level.

Senator Hastings commented that, according to the report, half of the McGill PhD graduates were now in academia, and half of those were in tenure-track positions, and asked about the accuracy of the data. Senator Nalbantoglu indicated that the numbers appeared to be consistent with other surveys.

Senator Kirk commented about the increase in international PhD students, noting that international students require more funding as they are not eligible for federal and provincial funding. He asked if additional funding would be provided and if the University had plans to increase the number of domestic students. Senator Nalbantoglu indicated that international students were now eligible for provincial funding and that Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies was working to raise awareness to encourage students to apply. She stated that there were no plans to increase the number of international students and that yield events are organized to recruit Canadian students.

3. Report from the Board of Governors to Senate (D20-12)

Senator Rohrbach presented this report for Senate's information. The Report provided an overview of matters considered by the Board on February 11, 2021 and by the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors on January 29 and March 2, 2021. Senator Rohrbach highlighted some of the items approved by the Board and the Executive Committee, including the creation of a Working Group to Review the Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity's Terms of Reference and proposed revisions to the *Policy on the Approval of Contracts and Designation of Signing Authority*. She also reported that the Board of Governors received a report from the Committee on Sustainability, which included the first dashboard report tracking the progress of McGill's new Climate and Sustainability Strategy (2020-2025).

Senator Riddle-Merritte asked about the criteria that would be used by the JBSCE Working Group when making its recommendations. Senator Campbell indicated that the Working Group would consider the expectations of the McGill community, benchmarking against U15 institutions and the University's equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) commitments in order to ensure there is a central committee overseeing and supporting the EDI efforts across the University. In response to Senator Riddle-Merritte's question on the central committee, Senator Campbell clarified that she was referring to the JBSCE and not to a new committee. The Secretary-General added that the Working Group's recommendations to the terms of reference would be considered during the next governance year in line with established committee governance processes and subsequently presented to the Senate and the Board of Governors.

4. Senate 2021-2022 Meeting Dates (D20-45)

The Secretary-General reminded returning Senators to reserve the dates for the 2021-22 Senate and Senate Committee meetings in their calendars. She mentioned that the Secretariat was monitoring the public health situation and would explore the possibility of transitioning to in-person meetings or a hybrid model. Senator Quitoriano spoke in favour of maintaining the option of remote participation in light of the increased attendance.

5. Other Business

There being no other business to deal with, Senate moved into confidential session to receive the Report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee.

Confidential Session

6. Report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee (D20-46)

Senate moved into confidential session to review the Report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee. The report contained recommendations for the conferral of the McGill Medal and for honorary degree recipients. (This minute is approved by the Senate Steering Committee and is not published or circulated, but is attached to the permanent minutes of Senate as Appendix A.)

There being no other business to deal with, on a motion duly proposed and seconded, the meeting ended at 4:30 p.m.

END

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