

Minutes

Wednesday, November 17, 2021 21-22:04

Minutes of the meeting of Senate held on Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 2:30 p.m. via the Zoom Conferencing Application.

PRESENT

Agtang, Darelle	Grignon, Chantal	Richard, Marc
Arseneault, Louis	Guyatt, Claire	Riches, Caroline
Bartlett, Joan	Hébert, Terence	Robillard, Martin
Beauchamp, Yves	Hickman, Miranda	Rodriguez Saenz, Maria
Bede, Jacqueline	Hunter, Mary	Rohrbach, Petra
Beech, Robin	Hurtubise, Jacques	Ronholm, Jennifer
Behzadi, Houman	Kiester, Lucy	Ruge-Murcia, Francisco
Blanchette, Mathieu	Kirk, Andrew	Salameh, Samer
Breau, Sébastien	Kouchakji, Kristi	Saumier, Geneviève
Campbell, Angela	Krishnamurthy, Srinivasan	Sekhon, Harmehr
Chan, Yolande E.	Leckey, Robert	Shariff, Shaheen
Collins, Paige	Lennox, Bruce	Snider, Laurie
Cook, Colleen	Levine, Alissa	Sroka-Fillion, Nathalie
Crago, Martha	Low, Bronwen	Steinhauer, Karsten
Cumming, Julie	Manfredi, Christopher	Theodore, David
Cummings, Beth	McKenzie, Jeffrey	Tureli, Ipek
Czemmel, Nancy	Moore, Catriona	Vachon, Brigitte
Dirks, Melanie	Nalbantoglu, Josephine	Vallée, Jean-Sébastien
Downie, Claire	Ndao, Momar	Voudouris, Nellie
Dworek, Nikulas	Nicell, Jim	Weil, Carola
Eidelman, David	Nilson, Laura	Weinstein, Marc
Elstein, Eleanor	Nycum, Gillian	Weinstock, Daniel
Emami, Elham	Nystrom, Derek	Werber, Joshua
Eperjesi, Debbie	Parsons, Addy	Willie, Bettina
Faraj, Samer	Perepichka, Dima	Winer, Laura
Fortier, Suzanne	Poorhemati, Hossein	Yang, Kerry
Frona, Michael	Qiao, George	Zorychta, Edith
Geddes, Maiya Rachel	Quitoriano, Nathaniel	
Geitmann, Anja	Ravenscroft, Brenda	

REGRETS: Arshiyah Ahsan, Bob Babinski, Jennifer Chen, Jean Deschenes, Susan Drouin, Gael Eakin, Elizabeth Elbourne, Jim Engle-Warnick, Madelyn Evans, Pierre-Luc Girard-Lauriault, Kenneth Hastings, Roubina Karaminassian, Fabrice Labeau, Lucyna Lach, Margaret Levey, Jacob Levy, Saku Mantere, John McCall MacBain, Carla-Elvira Olteanu, Ram Panda, Dilson Rassier, Eran Shor, Narendra Subramanian, Manon Vennat.

1. Welcoming Remarks

The Chair welcomed Senators to the fourth Senate meeting of the 2021-22 governance year. The meeting was held virtually via the Zoom conferencing application. The Chair reminded Senators that the Senate Rules of Procedure prohibit the recording of sound or images, and the communication or posting of Senate deliberations. 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

There were none.

3. Report of the Steering Committee (21:22-03)

Senate received the Report of the Steering Committee (21-22:03).

Item 1. Approval of Minutes of Senate – October 20, 2021 meeting.

Item 2. Approval of Confidential Minutes of Senate – October 20, 2021 meeting.

Item 3. Speaking Rights. Upon approval of the report, speaking rights were granted to Mr. Glenn Zabowski, Associate Dean of Students, for item IIB3.2 (Annual Report of the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures) and Professor Christopher Buddle, Co-Chair, Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on COVID Academic Planning and Policies, for item IIB4 (Report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on COVID Academic Planning and Policies).

Item 4. Approval of the Agenda.

Item 5. Review of Questions and Motions. No questions or motions were submitted for the November 2021 meeting of Senate.

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

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was none.

5. Chair's Remark

The Chair began her remarks by providing an update on the situation at McGill in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. She reported that since the start of the Fall semester, the University's COVID-19 case rate on campus remained low with no cases of campus transmission being reported in the last week. She underscored that the University's already high vaccination rate continues to improve as the latest vaccination clinics at the Downtown and Macdonald campuses

administered a total of 88 new vaccinations and registered 166 out-of-province vaccinations. She noted that following the October 22nd announcement from the federal government that the global travel advisory was lifted, the University has published its latest travel guidelines, available on the COVID website and reinstated student exchanges and other international activities for the Winter semester. She then specified that the University will progressively increase in-person teaching activities for the Winter term, while remaining prudent. It will also continue with the progressive return of administrative and support staff to campus. Lastly, she mentioned that the EOC has transitioned to a Recovery and Operations Resumption Committee, co-chaired by Senator Fabrice Labeau and Associate Provost (Teaching and Academic Programs), Christopher Buddle. She thanked all the members of the EOC and of the McGill community who had been involved in the emergency management, for their tireless efforts in keeping the University community safe.

Regarding government relations, the Chair reported that Mayor Valérie Plante was re-elected the Mayor of Montreal for the next four years. She noted that the University looks forward to continuing to work with Mayor Plante and strengthening its relationship with the City.

The Chair mentioned that she had attended the Universities Canada Fall meeting as well as the fall Association of American Universities membership meeting in Washington D.C. She explained that perceptions of leading U.S. research universities and of Canadian universities, as assessed through polling, are different, noting that a key differentiating factor relates to accessibility. In both cases, the appreciation for research has increased due to the role it played in facing the pandemic.

The Chair announced that on November 5th, the U-15 announced that Chad Gaffield will become its new executive director, effective April 15, 2022. Dr. Gaffield was President and CEO of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) between 2006-2014, and President of the Royal Society of Canada between 2017-2019. He is currently a Professor Emeritus at the University of Ottawa where he also holds the University Research Chair in Digital Scholarship.

The Chair then reported that last week, she had participated in the World Economic Forum's annual fall meeting in Dubai, in her capacity as co-chair of the Global Future Council on the New Education and Work Agenda. The meeting focused on the post-pandemic future and long-term health of our societies. The outcomes of the Dubai meeting will shape the agenda for the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting taking place in Davos, Switzerland, in January, which she plans to attend in her capacity as the Chair of the Global University Leaders Forum (GULF).

In regard to community relations, the Chair highlighted that last week, the Retail Innovation Lab at the Bensadoun School of Retail Management was officially inaugurated by Lucie Lecours, ministre déléguée à l'Économie du Québec. The lab began operating in January and is a partnership between McGill and Alimentation Couche-Tard. She also noted that thanks to a partnership between McGill and private philanthropy, the University has already secured \$20M to make major renovations to Pollack Hall. October 29th saw the launch of a campaign to raise the remaining \$5M needed to complete the project.

The Chair concluded her remarks by giving highlights of the kudos circulated prior to the meeting. She shared that Dr. Gustavo Turecki (Department of Psychiatry/ Douglas Research Centre) was named as a member of the U.S. National Academy of Medicine. He was honored for his work in elucidating mechanisms whereby early-life adversity increases lifetime suicide risk. She congratulated Dr. Guy Rouleau (The Neuro) on his appointment as the first Vice-President of the World Federation of Neurology - one of the largest medical federations in the world and Dr. Paul Allison (Faculty of Dentistry) on being the recipient of the 2021 Canadian Association of Public Health Dentistry Merit Award. She also shared that two McGill researchers are among the latest recipients of the Prix du Québec, the highest distinction awarded by the government of Quebec in culture and science and offered her congratulations to Professors Morag Park (Prix Armand-Frappier) and Michel Tremblay (Prix Wilder-Penfield) (Rosalind & Morris Goodman Cancer Institute). In addition, she reported that *The Turn of the Screw*, produced at Opera McGill, was the winner of the Division III of the National Opera Association's annual opera video competition. Lastly, she highlighted that on November 4th, McGill's Administrative and Support Staff was presented with the Canada Awards for Excellence Silver certification in Healthy Workplace. She thanked the dedicated staff for the extraordinary work they do every day in support of McGill's academic mission and in making our University a wonderful place to work.

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. Reports of the Academic Policy Committee

1.1 507th Report of the Academic Policy Committee (D21-15)

Senator Manfredi presented this report for Senate's consideration. The report contained recommendations from the Academic Policy Committee (APC) to approve an M.Sc. in Urban Planning, Policy and Design; the creation of the Department of Equity, Ethics and Policy and the Department of Global and Public Health within the Faculty of Medicine and Health Science's School of Population and Global Health; the renaming of the Faculty of Dentistry to the Faculty of Dental Medicine and Oral Health Sciences; and the proposed Course Delivery Parameter for the Winter 2022 Academic Term.

Senate proceeded to approve the APC's recommendation with respect to the M.Sc. in Urban Planning, Policy and Design; the creation of the Department of Equity, Ethics and Policy and the Department of Global and Public Health within the Faculty of Medicine and Health Science's School of Population and Global Health. It also approved the renaming of the Faculty of Dentistry to the Faculty of Dental Medicine and Oral Health Sciences.

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the creation of the proposed M.Sc. in Urban Planning, Policy and Design (45 cr.).

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved and recommended to the Board of Governors for approval the creation of the Department of Equity, Ethics and Policy and the Department of Global and Public Health.

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved and recommended to the Board of Governors for approval the renaming of the Faculty of Dentistry to the Faculty of Dental Medicine and Oral Health Sciences.

Senators then discussed the recommendation concerning the proposed Course Delivery Parameter for the Winter 2022 Academic Term. Senator Kirk applauded the work of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Covid-19 Academic Planning and Policies. However, he noted that while the proposed Course Delivery Parameter for the Winter 2022 Academic Term would provide some flexibility by transferring the decision-making power to the faculties, it would have been preferable to establish a more collegial model rather than determining a threshold of 20% for all online activities. He mentioned that over the course of the last eighteen months, instructors had developed much content, some of which was more suitable for online delivery, and that the emphasis should be on continuing teaching methods that work well.

Senator Lennox clarified that the Faculty of Science had established four criteria for online activities that exceed the 20% threshold, noting that the required justification would not be onerous for instructors. Senator Campbell added that the threshold of 20% had been determined following much discussion and that the transfer of authority from the central administration to the decanal office aimed to distribute the decision-making in a fair and reasonable manner and to ensure a balance of instructors' autonomy and students' expectation of in-person classes.

In response to a question from Senator Quitariano on the current framework for online teaching, Professor Buddle noted that most courses had been designed as in-person courses and the parameters aimed to provide the possibility of blended learning. Senator Campbell added that a framework does currently exist in regard to the delivery of courses and that in light of the University moving to remote delivery during the Covid-19 pandemic, the objective was to provide for some latitude as the University returned to its normal mode of delivering classes in-person.

Senator Hickman commented on the value of the terminology related to online learning and suggested that the university community be informed of the resources available, namely regarding definitions of new terminology.

Secretary's Note: *For information on current modes of teaching and explanations of terminology, Senators may consult the Teaching and Learning Service's website on [Information for instructors about F21 teaching](#).*

Senator Nystrom commented that in certain situations, decisions were being made not on pedagogical efficacy but on health concerns, noting the need to discuss accommodations for instructors in the future.

In response to comments regarding the document’s status in relation to the University’s policy framework and a question from Senator Richard on the nature of the document being presented for approval, Senator Campbell indicated that the document presented a framework to guide decisions on course delivery for the winter 2022 term and that it was being presented for approval to Senate with the objective of assisting in collegial governance. Senator Manfredi spoke about Senate’s authority to approve this recommendation, in accordance with Senate’s mandate as provided for in the Statutes.

Senator Rohrbach, a member of the Ad hoc Advisory Committee, encouraged Senators to submit questions and concerns to the Advisory Committee so that they can be addressed, noting that the Committee is working on developing a question-and-answer platform.

Secretary’s note:

Senators may write to the Advisory Committee at Covidadhoc@mcgill.ca with questions, concerns or ideas about academic planning and policies in the Covid-19 context.

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the proposed Course Delivery Parameter for the Winter 2022 Academic Term.

1.2 Annual Report of the Academic Policy Committee (D21-16)

Senator Manfredi presented this report for Senate’s information, in accordance with the APC’s Terms of Reference. The report provided an overview of the APC’s activities in 2020-2021 and its plans and priorities for 2021-2022.

2. Report of the Senate Nominating Committee (D21-17)

Senator Manfredi presented this report for Senate’s consideration. He highlighted that the report contained recommendations for appointments to the McGill Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the recommendations contained in the Report of the Senate Nominating Committee (D21-18).

3. Annual Reports (2020-2021)

3.1 University Advancement (D21-18)

Senator Weinstein presented this report for Senate’s information. The report provided an overview of University Advancement’s achievements in FY21, as well as its objectives and priorities for the year ahead. Senator Weinstein noted that the Covid-19 pandemic presented several challenges, notably with respect to connecting with the University’s alumni, donors and friends, which had necessitated certain technological advancements in University Advancement. He highlighted that it was a testament to the loyalty and generosity of the University’s community that FY21 was the second-best fundraising year ever, with donations of almost \$180M in gifts and pledges. He mentioned that although the student phonathon was halted for much of the year, annual gifts totaled \$12.7M, including more than \$3.8M raised on McGill24, the University’s day of giving. In regard

to the Made by McGill Campaign, he highlighted that \$1.42B had been raised as at April 30, 2021, representing 71% of the total \$2B goal.

Senator Nystrom commended Senator Weinstein on his team’s work in light of the extraordinary circumstances resulting from the pandemic. He then inquired about the due diligence process relating to donors, noting his concern that the new windows that had been installed in the Leacock Building included the name of the Sackler Foundation, who had been involved in the opioid scandal, as a James McGill circle member. Senator Weinstein responded that he was unaware of the name being included and that he would look into the issue.

The Chair congratulated Senator Weinstein and his team on their recent awards.

3.2 Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (D21-19)

Senator Beech presented this report for Senate’s information, in accordance with the *Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures* (the Code). He informed Senate that while the Code outlines the responsibilities of students for both academic and non-academic matters, it does not take into account certain health situations that arise as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and cause a breach of the Code.

Senator Beech highlighted that the figures related to plagiarism (59.9%) and cheating (38.7%); were similar to past years where there had been a ratio of approximately 1.5 or 2 to 1. He explained that the current discipline process was not built to accommodate a large number of students being reported to a Disciplinary Officer at one time in a course and consequently, larger faculties and residences had begun to employ a “no contest” approach. This involves giving the student a choice after presenting evidence of an allegation – take a standard consequence (such as a 0 grade on the assessment) or proceed to the formal process with a disciplinary interview. Students selecting the “no contest” option avoid the formal discipline process.

He noted that there was an increase in non-academic offences, which could be explained by repeated violations of Covid-19 regulations in residences and fewer allegations of other non-academic articles due to the reduced number of students on campus during the 2020-21 academic year of remote delivery. Lastly, he thanked the Disciplinary Officers for all their hard work in light of the challenges resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Senator Quitariano asked if it would be possible to obtain the total number of cases, including those that were resolved as “no contest” cases. Senator Beech noted the value of this data but explained that the “no contest” decisions remained at the faculty level and as the annual report is on the disciplinary process, they are outside of the scope of the report.

In response to a question asked by Senator Kirk on addressing the increasing number of offences, Senator Winer explained that an important factor is that students were not required to be physically present on campus for exams, noting that the number of offences should decrease in light of new software and instructors being able to give synchronous online exams.

4. Report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Covid-19 Academic Planning and Policies (D21-20)

Senator Campbell and Professor Buddle presented this report for Senate’s information. Senator Campbell noted that the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee had been meeting weekly and focusing on two main points: the parameters for course delivery in Winter 2022 and student accommodations.

In regard to student accommodations, Senator Campbell indicated that the Committee was looking at various options for accommodating students who could not attend class for reasons related to Covid-19 and for supporting instructors who wished to provide accommodations to students, including methods allowing instructors to be accessible in real time to students. She highlighted that nevertheless, the University remained committed to delivering in-person classes.

Professor Buddle added that the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee had also been working on establishing definitions for new terminology resulting from the new modes of teaching, namely online synchronous participation, hybrid and blended learning.

5. Other Business

There being no other business to deal with, on a motion duly proposed and seconded, the meeting ended at 4:00 p.m.

END

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