

**Minutes**

Wednesday, October 21, 2020 20-21:02

Minutes of the meeting of Senate held on Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 2:30 p.m. via the Zoom Conferencing Application.

**PRESENT**

Arseneault, Louis	Kemme, Bettina	Riddle-Merritte, Leela
Bartlett, Joan	Kiester, Lucy	Robillard, Martin
Beauchamp, Yves	Kirk, Andrew	Rohrbach, Petra
Bede, Jacqueline	Komarova, Svetlana	Ronholm, Jennifer
Brulé-Champagne, Emile	Kouchakji, Kristi	Rose, Jessica
Campbell, Angela	Krishnamurthy, Srinivasan	Ruge-Murcia, Francisco
Cook, Colleen	Labeau, Fabrice	Salameh, Samer
Cumming, Julie	Lach, Lucyna	Salmasi, Kamal
Cummings, Beth	Laywine, Alison	Sekhon, Harmehr
Daryanani, Darshan	Leckey, Robert	Shrier, Alvin
Deschenes, Jean	Lennox, Bruce	Snider, Laurie
Dias, Dahlia	Loftus, Mary Lynne	Sparks, Tabitha
Dorval Courchesne,	Low, Bronwen	Sroka-Fillion, Nathalie
Noémie-Manuelle	Maioni, Antonia	Stephens, David
Drouin, Susan	Manfredi, Christopher	Tessier, Adrienne
Earle, Jemark	McKenzie, Jeffrey	Theodore, David
Eidelman, David	Nalbantoglu, Josephine	Tippler, Maria
Elbourne, Elizabeth	Ndao, Momar	Tureli, Ipek
Elstein, Eleanor	Nicell, Jim	Uttamchandani, Krishna
Emami, Elham	Nilson, Laura	Vallée, Jean-Sébastien
Engle-Warnick, Jim	Nycum, Gillian	Vennat, Manon
Eperjesi, Debbie	Nystrom, Derek	Voudouris, Nellie
Faraj, Samer	Parsons, Addy	Webb, Tracy
Fortier, Suzanne	Perepichka, Dima	Weinstein, Marc
Frizzle, Brooklyn	Qiu, Haoyi	Willie, Bettina
Geddes, Maiya Rachel	Ramnawaz, Shaainee	Winer, Laura
Geitmann, Anja	Rassier, Dilson	Yalovsky, Morty
Gonnerman, Laura	Ravenscroft, Brenda	Yang, Mu Rong
Grignon, Chantal	Reev, Joella	Zabowski, Glenn
Hakim, Joseph	Richard, Marc	Zorychta, Edith
Jorgensen, Jan	Riches, Caroline	

**REGRETS:** Bob Babinski, Tatiana Bedjanian, Avery Bonair-Cyrus, Sébastien Breau, Martha Crago, Gael Eakin, Michael Fronda, Kenneth Hastings, Terence Hébert, Jacques Hurtubise, Arnav Manchanda, Michael Meighen, Ram Panda, Nathaniel Quitarano, Geneviève Saumier, Shaheen Shariff, Eran Shor, Narendra Subramanian, Carola Weil, Eric Wilkinson.

## **1. Welcoming Remarks**

The Chair welcomed Senators to the second 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 for Professors Jarrett Rudy, Stefan Sinclair and Robert Lynn Carroll**

Senator Maioni read the following memorial tribute for Professor Rudy, which Senate subsequently unanimously endorsed:

Professor Jarrett Rudy passed away on April 4, 2020, two weeks after undergoing quintuple bypass surgery.

An Ontario native, he made the city of Montreal and the history of Quebec his home. After completing his Ph.D. at McGill in 2001, he joined the Department of History and Classical Studies in 2004 as an assistant professor. He received tenure in 2010 and served as Director of Quebec Studies as well as Undergraduate Program Director. His first book *The Freedom to Smoke: Tobacco Consumption and Identity* (2005) is a socio-cultural history of smoking in Montreal; he was close to completing a major book on the history of time-telling in Quebec.

Jarrett embraced Montreal and Quebec and had a respect for the tolerance and goodness of Quebecers, even when he disagreed with some of them. He was committed to French as Quebec's public language, worked to publish French-language scholarly works in the series *Studies on the History of Quebec* he co-edited, and served on various francophone committees. Jarrett appreciated the complexities of Quebec society and explored them in the classroom, around the seminar table, and in his research and publications. He was hugely influential in his teaching, supervision of graduate students, and cutting-edge research in cultural history. While a historian, he never confined himself to a single disciplinary silo; Jarrett had been Director of Quebec Studies and an editor of the successful interdisciplinary text *Quebec Questions* with Stéphan Gervais and Christopher Kirkey.

Jarrett drew upon his enormous energy, view of history, and keen sense of social justice to fuel his activism. It is impossible to separate Jarrett's passion for history, Montreal, and Quebec from his progressive politics. He took to the streets to promote equity, sexual diversity, and gender equality, to fight colonialism, racism, and climate change, and to seek peace during international conflicts. He had a striking maturity; he could criticize and demonstrate against discrimination and ethnic nationalism but he never rejected Quebec. Jarrett was keenly involved in local politics, and in the face of anti-Semitism in

Outremont demonstrated support publicly by reaching out to Hasidic neighbours and by dancing in the streets with Hasidic men.

Jarrett was an extraordinarily warm, generous, and happy person. We miss him terribly.

Senator Maioni then read the following memorial tribute for Professor Sinclair, which Senate subsequently unanimously endorsed:

The Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures notes with sadness the death of our colleague, Stéfán Sinclair. Stéfán died in Montreal on August 20 at age 47.

Stéfán arrived at McGill in 2011 with the charge of building programs in digital humanities. By all measures he far exceeded expectations. McGill now has a graduate program in Digital Humanities, is on its way towards developing an undergraduate minor, and thousands of students have benefitted from his teaching and mentorship in applying computational tools to the study of complex questions regarding human culture.

Stéfán's research focused on the development of computational tools for the study of literature and culture that were designed to be accessible by general users. One of his greatest achievements was the creation of Voyant, a web-based platform for the digital study of texts. What made Voyant so special was the way it aimed to serve users of all abilities and levels. Stéfán did not see digital text analysis as something for experts and academics only, but a way of thinking that could benefit the general public. Voyant is available in a dozen languages and is one of the most widely used tools on the Compute Canada national research infrastructure with tens of thousands of users per month.

Stéfán's interest in accessibility and openness when it came to computing perfectly captures his generous nature as a colleague, teacher, and student mentor. In addition to supervising numerous students over the years, Stéfán contributed enormously to the development of the digital humanities both in Canada and internationally. He was a true pioneer of the field, serving as President of the *Association of Computers and the Humanities*, Vice-President of the Canadian Society for Digital Humanities, and as an editor of *Digital Humanities Quarterly*. His final book was co-authored with Geoffrey Rockwell: *Hermeneutica: Computer-Assisted Interpretation in the Humanities* (MIT Press, 2016), which received the 2017 Canadian Society for Digital Humanities Outstanding Contribution Award.

Stéfán is survived by his wife, Dr. Stephanie Posthumus, also a professor in the Department, his two daughters, his sister and his parents. His last days passed in peace at the St. Raphael's palliative care centre, where he was able to be with his family. We mourn the loss of a kind, thoughtful, and caring colleague.

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

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of Dr. Robert Lynn Carroll, Professor in the Redpath Museum, McGill University. Bob was born and raised on a farm near Lansing, Michigan. From an early age he became fascinated in palaeontology and spent many summer family camping trips in the Green River Formation of Wyoming and White River Badlands of South Dakota hunting fossils. After receiving his BSc in Geology at Michigan State University and his PhD at Harvard under the supervision of Al Romer, he visited the Redpath Museum for a short postdoctoral fellowship. When packing up his belongings to move onto another postdoctoral position in London, the Director of the Redpath offered him a full time position when he returned.

Bob began at the Redpath Museum in 1964 and was to become the most important figure for the museum after William Dawson himself. Not only did Bob revise the famous Joggins Fossils Dawson collected, he was instrumental in maintaining the museum as a research unit through the 60s, 70s, and 80s. He wrote what we in the field refer to as the ‘big silver book’ (that over 30 years later is still the standard reference for vertebrate palaeontology) and over 150 publications. He named over a dozen new fossil species, was early to adopt the field of developmental evolutionary biology to palaeontology, and supervised an extraordinarily large number of graduate students who now hold prominent positions worldwide. Although never self promoting, his prolific work earned him awards ranging from the Paleontological Society’s Charles Schuchert Award, the Geological Association of Canada’s Billings Medal, the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology’s Romer-Simpson Medal, the Royal Society of Canada’s Miller Medal, and the Order of Canada. Perhaps his greatest honours are the over half dozen fossil species named after him.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Dr. Carroll’s wife, Anna, his son David and granddaughter Juliette. His loss was felt throughout the vertebrate palaeontological world. Although his bellowing voice has been noticeably absent from the Redpath Museum, a portion of the permanent galleries will be dedicated in his honour. He will be greatly missed.

**3. Report of the Steering Committee** (20:21-02)

Senate received the Report of the Steering Committee (20-21:02).

*Item 1. Approval of Minutes of Senate – September 22, 2020 meeting.*

*Item 2. Speaking Rights.* Upon approval of the report, speaking rights were granted to Ms. Martine Gauthier, Senior Director, Student Services, and Ms. Ffion Hughes, Co-Chair of the Committee on Student Services (2019-2020), for item IIB5.1 (Annual Report of the Committee on Student Services, D20-10).

*Item 3. Approval of Confidential Session– item IIB9, Report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee (D20-14).*

*Item 4. Approval of the Agenda.*

*Item 5. Review of Questions and Motions.* No questions or motions were submitted for the October 2020 meeting of Senate.

*Item 6. Approval of Degrees, Certificates and Diplomas for Fall 2020 Convocation.* 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 the Fall 2020 Convocation and empowered the Secretary of Senate to make changes to the lists as necessary.

Regarding the wording of the September 22, 2020 Senate minutes, Senator Riddle-Merritte asked for clarification on whether the Chair indicated that the discussion on remote learning would continue at a town hall organized by the University or at another venue. The Secretary-General confirmed that town halls were mentioned as an example of the types of venues that would be held on the subject.

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

#### **4. Business Arising from the September 22, 2020 Minutes**

The Secretary-General informed Senators that, further to the interest expressed on the topic of remote learning, a number of events were held over the past two weeks to provide an additional opportunity for Senators and other members of the McGill community to discuss some of the comments that were raised at the last meeting. The events included Faculty or Program-specific discussion sessions and town halls, a student leadership forum and a student survey.

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

The Chair began her remarks with an update on the situation at McGill for Fall 2020 and Winter 2021 in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. She acknowledged the work of the Emergency Operations Centre and reminded Senators that McGill's Coronavirus website contains information on the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases reported to McGill. She mentioned that there have been some cases in student housing, noting that there was currently no indication of transmission on University campuses. The Chair reported that the Fall Convocation ceremonies would be held virtually and Winter 2021 courses would be delivered primarily through remote platforms with enhanced in-person teaching activities if the situation permits. She then informed Senators that resources are available to help students and staff experiencing anxiety or stress.

Regarding government relations, the Chair reported that as of October 20<sup>th</sup>, the Government of Canada opened the border to international students registered at a Designated Learning Institution with a COVID-19 readiness plan. She confirmed that McGill was approved as one of these institutions, noting that part of the University's plan includes providing facilities for the students during the mandatory 14-day quarantine period.

Regarding community relations, the Chair announced that McGill received a \$15M gift from McGill alumni Marc Bieler (DipAgr'58, BA'64) and Marie Bieler (BSc (Agr) '80). This transformative gift will build resources for the Bieler School of Environment to tackle critical environmental and social issues.

Regarding the senior administration, the Chair reported that McGill's Board of Governors approved the appointment of Professor Robin Beech as McGill's new Dean of Students, effective November 1, 2020. She thanked Senator Zabowski for serving as Interim Dean of Students since January 2020.

The Chair then spoke about university rankings, reminding Senators that rankings are not scientific and are an imperfect measurement. She shared that McGill has been ranked Canada's top medical/doctoral university for the 16<sup>th</sup> year in a row by the Maclean's University Rankings.

The Chair concluded her remarks by giving highlights of the kudos circulated prior to the meeting. She shared that Professor Emmanuelle Charpentier (McGill D.Sc. *honoris causa*) was this year's co-winner of the Nobel Prize for Chemistry. She congratulated the three McGill researchers (Massimiliano Orri, Wei-Hsiang Huang and Budhachandra Singh Khundrakpan) who were awarded Young Investigator Grants from New York's Brain & Behavior Research Foundation (BBRF). Finally, she noted that initiatives led by McGill students were recognized at the recent Forces AVENIR virtual Gala (project MealCare and project Clinique *Interprofessionnelle Montréalaise Étudiante*) and congratulated Victoire Kpadé, a third-year Medical student, on being named one of the Excellence award winners.

The Chair then called on Senator Arseneault to speak to the 2020 Centraide campaign, which he was co-chairing with Senator Leckey. Senator Arseneault stated that this was a difficult year due to the COVID-19 crisis, noting that the pandemic had taken a great toll on those already experiencing poverty and social exclusion. Senator Leckey mentioned some of the fundraising activities planned and encouraged members of the McGill community to participate.

Senator Earle asked for more information on the resources that were made available to support students' mental health. Senator Labeau stated that the Student Wellness Hub was operational and mentioned some of the new services added last year, including the Keep.meSAFE mental health counselling service. He acknowledged that students in residences can feel very isolated, noting that Study Hubs are open and that the University was looking into providing other spaces for students within residences.

Senator Daryanani asked how concerns regarding remote learning would be addressed for the Winter 2021 term. Senator Manfredi indicated that the Academic Planning Group would review the feedback from the town halls that are being held within Faculties.

## **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. Open Discussion: McGill’s Action Plan to Address Anti-Black Racism (D20-06)**

Senators discussed McGill’s Action Plan to Address Anti-Black Racism (the “Plan”). The Plan was developed by Senator Manfredi pursuant to wide consultation with the McGill community. Senator Manfredi introduced the Plan, stressing that it would evolve throughout the implementation process. He highlighted some of the progress made on action items thus far. For example, he mentioned that the initial phase of development of the systemic racism online module was underway, the draft terms of reference for a working group that would examine the African and Black Studies curriculum were in development and the posting for the position to oversee the implementation of action items in the plan would be published online shortly. He also shared that McGill has joined Universities Studying Slavery (a consortium advocating for universities to confront their ties to slavery and racism) and would begin discussions on collaborating with key historically black colleges and universities (HBCU). Senators then engaged in small group discussions on key questions related to the open discussion topic using the breakout rooms on the Zoom conferencing application.

The first question focused on action items department chairs, deans, academic staff and students should prioritize to address anti-Black racism in research and knowledge and student experience. Senators suggested prioritizing administrative support and institutional access for any new positions or working groups created pursuant to the Plan, noting that most of the work against racism has been done by unpaid students in the past. It was also suggested that the Black Student Affairs Liaison provide support for Black advocacy (instead of simply being a messenger between Black students and the administration) and be given authority or influence in decision-making. Other priorities identified included supporting advocacy and the well-being of Black students; community outreach; increasing Black representation on campus and in governance; anti-racism education; creation of an African studies unit; resources for units seeking guidance on matters regarding equity, diversity and inclusion; and the hiring of a Black historian to be involved in the McGill history project.

The second question focused on steps university actors can take to ensure the work of implementing the Plan does not overburden Black members of the McGill community. Senators identified various steps, including allyship training and embedding anti-racism messages into curriculums. It was suggested that working groups or subcommittees be created and include compensation for members and guidelines with respect to their responsibilities. Senators also discussed identifying the responsible officer for each action item, setting priority lists, and holding the senior administration more accountable with respect to progress.

The third question focused on how academic staff should respond to the Plan’s call to develop pedagogy and curricula that represent demographic diversity, without interfering with the freedom of individual instructors to determine course content. It was noted that methods would vary depending on faculties and fields of study. Some of the strategies identified included hiring a more diverse faculty; ensuring that diversity is a consideration in recruitment and admissions;

and ensuring students see themselves and their classmates in the examples and authors being taught in their courses. Senators suggested enhancing collaboration with colleagues and putting together a community of practice to discuss best practices, share ideas on diversifying syllabi and engage in deeper epistemological conversations. Senators also discussed the importance of leadership teams, signalling the importance of conversations on diversity, and noting that the Schulich School of Music was currently engaging in discussions with faculty and students on inclusivity and diversity and how these concepts can be applied in the particular context of the School.

The last two questions focused on how departments and faculties should address the challenge of increasing the complement of Black tenure-track and tenured professors and on actions that should be taken to meet the interim hiring target of at least 40 Black tenure-track and tenured professors by 2025. Senators identified a need for a well-defined framework for advertising, selecting and interviewing candidates. They spoke in favour of targeted recruitment (e.g., inviting prospective faculty members to speak at the University; expanding networks through increased engagement in conferences and other means; utilizing social media; etc.) and new advertising strategies to ensure Black candidates are applying to available positions. It was suggested that Black students at McGill be mentored and encouraged to continue their studies and consider careers in academia. Other recommendations included funding post-doctoral fellowships to allow potential candidates to become familiar with the University and seek faculty positions in the future; increasing support and guidance for hiring committees; including more opportunities for input from students in the hiring process; expanding criteria for excellence so as not to focus on one metric or stereotyped ideas of excellence; fostering retention; and ensuring the University is an inclusive and welcoming environment for potential candidates. Senators also discussed the allocation of resources for units that actively expand their pool of candidates and evaluate excellence in broader ways, including additional hiring licenses or dedicated post-doctoral positions, and raising awareness of these resources among hiring managers.

Senator Leela-Merritte asked about the rationale of using a slide deck for the Plan. Senator Manfredi indicated that the goal was to make the Plan accessible and capture the attention of the McGill community. Senator Campbell added that this format made it easier to find and refer to key items in the Plan.

Regarding the Research & Knowledge axe of the plan, Senator Daryanani expressed that the University should prioritize a team of Black scholars to carry out the work on the expanded McGill history project investigating McGill's connections with the transatlantic slave trade. He also commented on the lack of specificity with respect to the funding of the African Studies Program and spoke in favour of the creation of a department on Black studies, which the Black Students' Network has been advocating for since the 1970s. Senator Frizzle echoed Senator Daryanani's comments. Senator Manfredi explained that new academic units are proposed by faculties and not imposed by the central administration.

Senator Ramnawaz asked how the 5% and 6.8% workforce targets for M-level and Executive staff were determined. Senator Campbell indicated that the targets were set in collaboration with the Equity team and Human Resources based on population data and discussions with the Dr. Kenneth Melville McGill Black Faculty Caucus.



Senator Dias commented on the underrepresentation of Black students and faculty at McGill and spoke in favour of outreach programs and targeted recruitment activities in order to attain the targets set out in the Plan. Senator Faraj suggested exploring ways that existing processes could be modified to reach the targets and mentioned expanding the selection criteria for admission as an example.

Senator Parsons asked what would be done to ensure that students have a safe learning environment and that professors are held accountable for non-inclusive or discriminatory teaching practices. Senator Manfredi highlighted that the Plan provides for resources to enhance the capacity within Teaching and Learning Services to support the development of inclusive pedagogies without interfering with the freedom of individual instructors to determine the content of their courses.

Senator Daryanani asked for details about the relocation of the James McGill statue (currently located on the lower campus close to the Roddick Gates) noting that students have been demanding the removal of the statue. Senator Manfredi indicated that further information was not yet available. He explained that a process would be put in place to determine the statue's most suitable setting and that a decision would be made by the end of the Bicentennial year.

Senator Manfredi thanked Senators for their input, noting that many practical suggestions were shared to implement the Plan. The Chair reiterated that the Plan was dynamic and members of the community would continue to be consulted throughout its implementation.

## **2. 500<sup>th</sup> Report of the Academic Policy Committee** (D20-07)

Senator Manfredi presented this report for Senate's consideration. The report contained recommendations from the Academic Policy Committee to approve three new teaching programs, a proposal for the creation of a Department of Critical Care Medicine within the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, and two names changes.

Senator Salameh asked about the impact of the proposed Department of Critical Care on the curriculum for Undergraduate Medical Education (UGME) students and their training. Senator Eidelman explained that the impact would be on Postgraduate Medical Education (PGME) as most students have their critical care experience when they are residents; although some students may do electives in critical care. He stated that the impact on UGME would be mainly indirect due to professors teaching in other disciplines.

*On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the creation of the proposed Certificate in Applied Cybersecurity (30 cr.).*

*On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the creation of the proposed Graduate Certificate in Nurse Practitioner – Adult care (21 cr.) and the Graduate Diploma in Nurse Practitioner – Adult Care (30 cr.).*

*On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved and recommended to the Board of Governors for approval the creation of a Department of Critical Care Medicine within the McGill Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences.*

*On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved and recommended to the Board of Governors for approval the renaming of the McGill AIDS Centre to the McGill Centre for Viral Diseases (MCVD).*

*On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved and recommended to the Board of Governors for approval the renaming of the McGill University and Genome Quebec Innovation Centre to the McGill Genome Centre (MGC).*

**3. Report of the Senate Nominating Committee (D20-08)**

Senator Manfredi presented this report for Senate’s consideration. He highlighted that the report contained recommendations to fill vacancies on the Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity and various committees arising from University regulations.

*On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the recommendations contained in the Report of the Senate Nominating Committee (D20-08).*

**4. Notice of Motion to Amend the Standing Rules of Procedure, Governing the Proceedings of the Senate of McGill University (D20-09)**

The Secretary-General gave notice that Senate would receive a motion to amend the Standing Rules of Procedure (the “Rules”), in accordance with section XIV of the Rules. She noted that the motion for approval would be presented at the November 18, 2020 meeting of Senate. The Secretary-General highlighted some of the key amendments being proposed and thanked Senator Richard, Senator Campbell and former Senator Madeline Wilson for serving on the working group formed in Winter 2020 to review the Rules.

Senator Parsons expressed concern with respect to the discretionary power of the chair to determine the relevancy of an argument or commentary and make a ruling on a Point of Order, indicating that this could prevent certain Senators from being heard. The Secretary-General indicated that the role of the chair is to keep order at meetings and ensure they proceed efficiently and effectively. She stressed that the Rules provide for a framework within which the authority of the chair is exercised. She stated that open discussion and debate were a critical part of Senate proceedings and this was reflected in the role and responsibilities of Senators and the chair. She also explained that rulings of the chair may be challenged following the process described in the Rules. Senator Richard shared that the Working Group had thoroughly examined the matter of Senators expressing their views, as this issue arose during the previous governance year in the context of the Chair ending discussion when comments were deemed to be veering off-topic. He highlighted that two amendments were being proposed to address this concern, namely the addition of a provision to ensure the chair does not close debate on an item prematurely (s. 17) and the addition of the section on Points of Order (s. 19).

Senator Winer commented that, apart from items requiring confidential treatment, Senate meetings are open to observation by any member of the University community and accredited press, subject to limitations of space and good conduct. She questioned whether the language used in the new section on meetings held by electronic means (s. 4.3) limited the commitment to openness. The Secretary-General confirmed that was not the intention. Senator Richard added that the new provision did not grant the Secretariat authority to decide whether spectators or members of the press were permitted to attend open meetings of Senate. He explained that it referred to how the access would be granted in a remote setting given the technological issues involved that may vary from meeting to meeting depending on the platform used.

Senator Nystrom asked why recordings of Senate meetings are not archived to ensure the accuracy of the minutes. The Secretary-General responded that the process used was a recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee to Review the Livestreaming of Senate Meetings, which was approved by Senate in March 2014. She stated that Senators have an opportunity to validate that the official record reflects the meeting proceedings when they are asked to approve the minutes at the start of each meeting.

Senator Kiester asked about the possibility of holding hybrid meetings of Senate where some participants gather in-person while others attend remotely. The Secretary-General confirmed that a hybrid model is addressed by the provision allowing the Steering Committee to recommend that a meeting, or part thereof, be held remotely.

Senator Riddle-Merritte asked if further revisions to the Rules would be considered before presenting them for approval at the next meeting. The Secretary-General confirmed that based on the feedback received, she did not believe that revisions were required but indicated that she would review the comments made by Senators more closely in preparation for the next meeting.

## **5. Annual Reports (2019-2020)**

### **5.1 Committee on Student Services (D20-10)**

Senator Lach presented this report for Senate's information. The report contained a summary of the Committee's activities in 2019-2020 and its plans and priorities for 2020-2021. Senator Lach highlighted that the work of the Committee centered on a myth-busting campaign, a strategic plan for Student Services, the creation of a student suicide prevention and postvention framework, as well as reviewing progress on the development of the Student Wellness Hub. She also noted that the Committee received summaries of key accomplishments and challenges from each department in Student Services for information, which were included in the Committee's report to Senate.

### **5.2 University Advancement (D20-11)**

Senator Weinstein presented this report for Senate's information. The report provided an overview of University Advancement's achievements in FY20, as well as its objectives and priorities for the year ahead. Senator Weinstein highlighted that the Made by McGill campaign was ongoing and had raised \$1.2M so far, which represents 62% of the \$2M goal, and that

\$2.9M was raised through the McGill24 campaign. He mentioned that even though COVID-19 has impacted fundraising and engagement, the FY20 results were positive. He provided an overview of initiatives to adapt to COVID needs (including a partnership with the MUHC Foundation and the Code de Vie Ventilator Challenge) as well as initiatives to support students and keep the McGill community engaged. Finally, he noted that priorities for the year ahead include celebrating and leveraging the Bicentennial and continuing to support and champion McGill's priorities.

Senator Daryanani asked for information on the performance of the bursary to support Lebanese students who were affected by the August 4, 2020 explosion in Beirut. Senator Weinstein responded that the fund was being promoted and has not yet reached the fundraising goal.

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

Senator Zorychta presented this report for Senate's information. The Report provided an overview of matters considered by the Board on May 21 and October 1, 2020 as well as the Executive Committee of the Board on April 20, June 12 and 18, July 17 and August 25, 2020.

Senator Zorychta highlighted some of the items approved by the Board and the Executive Committee, including two funding agreements in support of research related to the COVID-19 pandemic; the submission of the *Dossier d'opportunité* for the New Vic Project to the Quebec government; proceeding with the functional programming and design stage of the Fiat Lux Library Project and supporting the development of its *Dossier d'affaires*; the new *Policy on Enterprise Data Governance* as well as revisions to the *Policy on the Responsible Use of McGill Information Technology Resources*, the *Gift Acceptance Policy*, and the *Statement of Investment Policy*. Senator Zorychta also mentioned that the Board endorsed the 2020-2025 ITS Strategic Plan and its five-year Road Map.

**7. Notice of the Joint Board-Senate Meeting: November 12, 2020** (D20-13)

In accordance with the Statutes of McGill University, the Board of Governors and the Senate meet on an annual basis. The Secretary-General reminded Senators that this year's joint meeting will be held by remote participation on Thursday, November 12, 2020. She noted that the topic of the meeting is "Pandemic Planning and Preparedness: Local Impact of Global Health Crises" and encouraged Senators to participate.

**8. Other Business**

*Secretary's note:* Senator Richard commented on Senator's Winer question pertaining to the revisions of the Rules. His comment has been integrated into minute IIB4 above.

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**

**9. Report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee (D20-14)**

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 Lifetime Achievement Award for Leadership in Learning 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 6:10 p.m.

**END**

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