

**Minutes**

Wednesday, October 20, 2021 21-22:03

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

**PRESENT**

Agtang, Darelle	Geitmann, Anja	Quitoriano, Nathaniel
Ahsan, Arshiyah	Girard-Lauriault, Pierre-Luc	Rassier, Dilon
Arseneault, Louis	Grignon, Chantal	Ravenscroft, Brenda
Bartlett, Joan	Guyatt, Claire	Richard, Marc
Beauchamp, Yves	Hébert, Terence	Riches, Caroline
Bede, Jacqueline	Hickman, Miranda	Robillard, Martin
Beech, Robin	Hunter, Mary	Rohrbach, Petra
Behzadi, Houman	Hurtubise, Jacques	Ronholm, Jennifer
Blanchette, Mathieu	Karaminassian, Roubina	Ruge-Murcia, Francisco
Breau, Sébastien	Kiester, Lucy	Salameh, Samer
Campbell, Angela	Kirk, Andrew	Saumier, Geneviève
Chan, Yolande E.	Kouchakji, Kristi	Sekhon, Harmehr
Chen, Jennifer	Labeau, Fabrice	Shariff, Shaheen
Collins, Paige	Leckey, Robert	Shor, Eran
Cook, Colleen	Lennox, Bruce	Sroka-Fillion, Nathalie
Crago, Martha	Levine, Alissa	Steinhauer, Karsten
Cumming, Julie	Levy, Jacob	Subramanian, Narendra
Cummings, Beth	Low, Bronwen	Theodore, David
Czemmel, Nancy	Manfredi, Christopher	Türel, Ipek
Deschenes, Jean	Mantere, Saku	Vachon, Brigitte
Dirks, Melanie	McCall MacBain, John	Vallée, Jean-Sébastien
Downie, Claire	Nalbantoglu, Josephine	Voudouris, Nellie
Dworek, Nikulas	Ndao, Momar	Weil, Carola
Eidelman, David	Nicell, Jim	Weinstein, Marc
Elbourne, Elizabeth	Nilson, Laura	Weinstock, Daniel
Elstein, Eleanor	Nycum, Gillian	Werber, Joshua
Emami, Elham	Nystrom, Derek	Willie, Bettina
Engle-Warnick, Jim	Perepichka, Dima	Winer, Laura
Eperjesi, Debbie	Poorhemati, Hossein	Yang, Kerry
Fortier, Suzanne	Qiao, George	Zorychta, Edith
Frona, Michael		

**REGRETS:** Bob Babinski, Darshan Daryanani, Susan Drouin, Gael Eakin, Madelyn Evans, Samer Faraj, Maiya Rachel Geddes, Kenneth Hastings, Srinivasan Krishnamurthy, Lucyna Lach, Margaret Levey, Jeffrey McKenzie, Catriona Moore, Carla-Elvira Olteanu, Ram Panda, Addy Parsons, Laurie Snider, Manon Vennat.

**1. Welcoming Remarks**

The Chair welcomed Senators to the third 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** (21:22-02)

Senate received the Report of the Steering Committee (21-22:02).

*Item 1. Approval of Minutes of Senate – September 22 and October 4, 2021 meetings.*

*Item 2. Approval of Confidential Minutes of Senate – September 22, 2021 meeting.*

*Item 3. Speaking Rights.* Upon approval of the report, speaking rights were granted to Dr Mark Weber, Director, Office of Innovation and Partnerships, for item IIB1 (506th Report of the Academic Policy Committee); and Professor Terri Givens, Provost’s Academic Lead and Advisor on the Action Plan to address Anti-Black Racism, for item IIB3.2 (Annual Report on the Implementation of the Action Plan to Address Anti-Black Racism).

*Item 4. Confidential Session - item IIB8, Report of Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee.*

*Item 5. Approval of the Agenda.*

*Item 6. Review of Questions and Motions.* No questions or motions were submitted for the October 2021 meeting of Senate.

*Item 7. Approval of Degrees, Certificates and Diplomas for Fall 2021 Convocation.* In accordance with its terms of reference, the Steering Committee approved in the name of Senate, on October 13, 2021, the list of degrees, certificates and diplomas deposited with the Secretary of Senate for the Fall 2021 Convocation 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 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 the number of positive COVID-19 cases on McGill's campuses over the past week remained low with no indication of transmission on campus. She indicated that the Minister of Higher Education, Danielle McCann, was pleased with the situation in universities and that the measures adopted in the higher education sector were proving to work well. She mentioned that, according to the data provided by the Ministry of Higher Education, 94.9% of McGill students are considered adequately protected against COVID-19, which is above the Quebec average. She noted that two more on-campus clinic dates were added to help make COVID-19 vaccinations as accessible as possible for members of the McGill community. The Chair stated that the University continues to be prudent while aiming to increase the percentage of in-person activities. She noted that planning was ongoing for an in-person Fall Convocation and that the dates of the ceremonies would be announced shortly. The Chair then shared that a Virtual Honorary Degree Ceremony would be held on October 21, 2021. She explained that the recipients who were approved to receive degrees at the Spring 2020 Convocation ceremonies (which were postponed due to the pandemic) were given the option of receiving their degrees virtually or at the Spring 2022 Convocation ceremonies, and four recipients selected the virtual ceremony: Mme Claire Bolduc (AES), Professor Andrew Cherlin (Arts), Dr. Gilles Patry (Engineering) and Mr. George Schindler (School of Continuing Studies).

Regarding government relations, the Chair reported that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that his new Cabinet would be named on October 26, 2021. At the provincial level, she reported that the Legault government prorogued the National Assembly and delivered a new opening address on October 19, 2021. Although unfinished legislation is dropped from the order paper when prorogation occurs, she highlighted that Bill 96, *An Act respecting French, the official and common language of Québec*, would likely be revived once the National Assembly reconvened, and that the University was closely following the evolution of this project.

The Chair then spoke about university rankings, reminding Senators that rankings are not scientific and are an imperfect measurement. She stated that McGill was ranked Canada's top medical/doctoral university for the 17<sup>th</sup> year in a row by Maclean's University Rankings and highlighted that the University ranked 17<sup>th</sup> in Law (16<sup>th</sup> last year) in the Times Higher Education (THE) 2022 Subject rankings

The Chair concluded her remarks by giving highlights of the kudos circulated prior to the meeting. She shared that a pair of student-led initiatives, Black Girls Gather and the WeCare Project, won top honours in their respective categories at the Forces AVENIR gala, and recent McGill graduate Élise Guerrero, won the Personnalité 1<sup>er</sup> Cycle (undergraduate) award. She congratulated Dr. Claudio Cuello (Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences) on being elected as an International Fellow of the Royal Academy of Medicine of Spain and Senator Leckey on receiving the Barreau du Québec's Advocatus Emeritus distinction. She also shared that Professor Elena Bennett

(Department of Natural Resource Sciences; School of Environment) was one of 16 Canadian sustainability leaders named to the Delta Management Group's top 'green' professionals list.

The Chair then called on Senator Arseneault to speak to the 2021 Centraide campaign, which he is co-chairing with Senator Geitmann. Senator Arseneault informed Senators of the campaign's goal of raising \$425K and encouraged Senators to donate as every dollar makes a difference to those in need.

## **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. 506<sup>th</sup> Report of the Academic Policy Committee (D21-08)**

Senator Manfredi presented this report for Senate's consideration. The report contained recommendations from the Academic Policy Committee (APC) to approve revisions to the *Policy on Inventions and Software* and to the *Policy on Copyright* (the "Policies"), the organizational restructuring of the School of Continuing Studies (SCS), and the transfer of the McGill Writing Centre from the SCS to the Faculty of Arts. The report also informed Senators that the APC established a working group on teaching evaluation and that the *Regulations on Graduate Student Supervision* were edited for clarification purposes.

Senator Kirk asked how McGill enforces copyright on the intellectual property of academic staff members, particularly with respect to teaching materials as they are often posted online without consent. Mr. Weber clarified that this issue does not fall under the scope of the Policies. It was indicated that copyright owners could contact the Associate Provost (Equity and Academic Policies). Senator Campbell stated that she could provide support or refer Senators to the appropriate unit depending on the issue, and noted that the University's jurisdiction is limited to acts committed by members of the McGill community.

Senator Bartlett commented that there was considerable overlap between programs in the SCS and other faculties and asked how the offerings within the SCS were determined. Senator Manfredi indicated that programs within the SCS are designed to respond to the needs of a particular set of learners and follow the University's regular governance processes for approval (i.e., consideration by the Subcommittee on Courses and Teaching Programs, the Academic Policy Committee and Senate). Senator Weil added that the SCS tries not to duplicate content from other departments, noting that many of the existing programs were approved years ago. She mentioned that the vast majority of the programs are offered on a part-time basis and developed in-line with McGill's strategic priorities, with a number of them being online or in another non-traditional delivery mode.

*On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved and recommended to the Board of Governors for approval the proposed revisions to the Policy on Copyright and Policy on Inventions and Software, as presented in D21-08 Appendix A.*

*On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved and recommended to the Board of Governors for approval the proposed academic organizational restructuring of the School of Continuing Studies, as presented in D21-08 Appendix B.*

*On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved and recommended to the Board of Governors for approval the proposed transfer of the McGill Writing Centre (MWC) from the School of Continuing Studies to the Faculty of Arts.*

**2. Report of the Senate Nominating Committee Part II (D21-07)**

Senator Manfredi presented this report for Senate’s consideration. He highlighted that the report contained recommendations for appointments to the Committee on Student Services and the Committee on Student Discipline. He reminded Senators that Part I of the report was approved at the special Senate meeting on October 4, 2021.

*On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the recommendations contained in the Report of the Senate Nominating Committee (D21-07).*

**3. Annual Reports**

**3.1 Report on the Implementation of the Strategic Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Plan (D21-09)**

**3.2 Report on the Implementation of the Action Plan to Address Anti-Black Racism (D21-10)**

Senator Campbell suggested that these reports be presented together. There being no objection to proceeding in this manner, Senator Campbell, accompanied by Professor Terri Givens, presented both items 3.1 and 3.2 for Senate’s information. Senator Campbell acknowledged that measuring progress on EDI is difficult, but that the University would continue to explore appropriate metrics, including comparisons with peer institutions in the U15. She highlighted that the overarching commitment with respect to EDI is about equal opportunity and dismantling barriers for all groups that face systemic obstacles. She noted that in the second year of implementing the plans, the University would engage with the McGill community through various platforms to solicit feedback and encouraged all Senators to participate.

Professor Givens highlighted that she had been working closely with the Dr. Kenneth Melville McGill Black Faculty and Staff Caucus, McGill Athletics and the Anti-Black Racism Working Group. She noted that her main focus is on faculty, specifically hiring, recruitment and retention, and shared that she has held many workshops and has been invited for speaking engagements on campus on her book, *Radical Empathy*.

Senator Mantere questioned the effectiveness of having a mandatory online learning module on systemic racism, based on his experience with the mandatory sexual violence module *It Takes all of Us*. He stated that having conversations on EDI issues and anti-black racism, such as at Faculty Council meetings, would be more conducive to change. Senator Ahsan agreed that a lot more work is needed for significant cultural and organizational change within the University. Senator Campbell mentioned that a mandatory sexual violence learning program is required by provincial legislation and the *Policy against Sexual Violence*. She expressed that although the module may not lead to transformative change, it has symbolic value. She stated that while students had requested that it be made mandatory for members of the McGill community to complete the online learning module, it was ultimately decided to only encourage its completion. She stated that it would be used as part of the University's onboarding for new faculty and administrative and support staff and may be included as part of frosh packages. Professor Givens added that there are many other initiatives at the University with respect to anti-black racism education. Senator Mantere expressed concern that the symbolic value would be negative and cause pockets of resistance. He also expressed concerns with the format of the module and the multiple-choice questions, noting that this does not permit learners to explore themes they find interesting. Senator Yang spoke in favour of the module being mandatory as it would allow the University to reach people that would not otherwise complete the module, noting that it was important to establish a baseline of understanding on this issue.

**4. Report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on COVID Academic Planning and Policies (D21-11)**

Senator Campbell presented this report for Senate's information, further to the approval of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference at the October 4, 2021 special meeting of Senate. She informed Senators that the Committee meets every Friday, noting that the meeting minutes are available on the Senate website. She highlighted that the Committee discussed various issues, including the importance of strong communication and the ambit of decision-making power at the central, faculty and individual levels. She stated that five principles were established by the Committee to guide decisions about whether a faculty can consider a course to be delivered remotely in full or in part, noting that they were sent to deans for feedback on how they could be operationalized. Finally, Senator Campbell reported that the Committee held a special meeting to discuss Winter 2022 academic planning as McGill wishes to increase the threshold for determining which courses would be taught fully via remote delivery, from enrolments of 150 to 200 students, noting this would reduce the number of students who would have only online courses next semester from approximately 6.8% to 2.6%.

Senator Nystrom noted that the Committee's meeting minutes indicated that classrooms would be allocated to courses without any overages. However, he shared that certain classes in his department were booked over capacity and was told by Enrolment Services that it was permitted as it was within the 107% ratio in relation to course enrolments. As a result, he stated that enrolment caps were lowered to prevent this issue. Senator Nycum agreed to look into this matter as it was inconsistent with planning for the Fall and Winter semesters. She also stressed that enrolment caps for courses booked centrally should not be changed without communicating with Enrolment Services.

Senator Kirk asked how members of the community could provide input to the Committee and raise concerns. Senator Campbell responded that such information would be forthcoming as the Committee is still new, noting that the discussions were held on the possibility of having open sessions and creating a resource email account.

Senator Ahsan asked about the accommodations that would be made for students who are unable to participate in-person. Senator Campbell responded that the Ad Hoc Committee would discuss this issue at its next meeting. She mentioned that it was not feasible to have hybrid teaching given the current IT infrastructure at the University.

Senator Fronza asked for clarification regarding the data on the number of students having only remote courses. Senator Nycum explained that as students are already registered for the Winter semester, the data on students enrolled exclusively in remote courses is available (although the data is dynamic as course registrations change). Senator Campbell stated that these students are mostly UOs in large undergraduate programs. The Chair indicated that she was pleased to see the efforts being made to increase the number of in-person activities for students. She shared that she received several communications from students and parents expressing their disappointment after finding out their courses were being delivered remotely.

Senator Rohrbach, a member of the Committee, encouraged Senators to submit questions and concerns to the Committee so that they can be addressed. She also highlighted that the terminology regarding teaching modes (blended learning; flipped classroom; online course; remote delivery or remote instruction; hybrid) was included in the Committee's meeting minutes as terms are often used incorrectly.

**5. Report from the Board of Governors to Senate** (D21-12)

Senator Zorychta presented this report for Senate's information. The Report provided an overview of matters considered by the Board on May 20, June 17, September 8 and October 7, 2021 as well as the Executive Committee on May 17, June 17, July 20, and October 4, 2021. Senator Zorychta highlighted a number of items approved by the Board and the Executive Committee, including grant agreements, construction projects and academic appointments and promotions.

**6. Notice of the Joint Board-Senate Meeting: November 11, 2021** (D21-13)

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 11, 2021. She noted that the topic of the meeting is "The Execution of McGill's Mission in a Changing World" and encouraged Senators to participate.

**7. Other Business**

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

**Confidential Session**

**8. Report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee** (D21-14)

Senate moved into confidential session to review the Report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee. The report contained recommendations 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 4:05 p.m.

**END**

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