



Minutes of the meeting of Senate held on November 14, 2012, at 2:30 p.m. in the Robert Vogel Council Room (Room 232, Leacock Building.)

PRESENT

Aitken, Ellen
Algieri, Stefano
Azmy, George
Bachelet, Stephanie
Beheshti, Jamshid
Belanger, Laurence
Bell, Graham
Bernard, Daniel
Bouchard, Adam
Boudreau, Andrew
Breitner, Leslie
Carriere, Segre
Cecere, Renzo
Cowan, Brian
Cuello, Claudio
Dedek, Helge
Di Paola, Antonia
Dinel, Haley
Doucette, Elaine
Espinosa, Rodrigo
Ferguson, Sean (*Chair*)
Ferrie, Frank
Galaty, John
Gale, Charles
Gehring, Kalle
Gillon, Brendan
Goldstein, Rose
Grant, Martin

Grütter, Peter
Gutman, Jimmy
Harpp, David
Heath, Nancy
Hebert, Terence
Henry, Evan
Hepburn, Allan
Herrick, Shannon
Hurtubise, Jacques
Hynes, Andrew
Ismail, Ashraf
Jacobs Starkey, Linda
Jonsson, Wilbur
Jutras, Daniel
Kalil, Alex
Kirby, Torrance
Kirk, Andrew
Kreiswirth, Martin
Kucij, Maya
Kuzaitis, Ruth
Lametti, David
Lane-Mercier, Gillian
Lefsrud, Mark
Lennox, Bruce
Lu, Catherine
Madramootoo, Chandra
Masi, Anthony
McCullogh, Mary Jo
Mendelson, Morton

Michaud, Mark
Misra, Arun
Mooney, Jonathan
Nasr, Mo
Ngadi, Michael
Nystrom, Derek
Pekeles, Gary
Perrault, H el ene
Peterson, Kathryn
Potter, Judith
Price, Cynthia
Raz, Amir
Redel, Josh
Richard, Marc
Riches, Caroline
Roulet, Nigel
Rush, Avi
Snider, Laurie
Srinidhi, Nikhil
Stromvik, Martina
Thordardottir, Elin
White, Lydia
Wolfson, Christina
Xu, Boran
Yalovsky, Morty
Zidel, Max
Zorychta, Edith
Strople, Stephen
(*Secretary*)

REGRETS: Paul Allison, Daniel Boyer, Renzo Cecere, Stuart Cobbett, Colleen Cook, David Covo, Michael Di Grappa, Gregory Dudek, David Eidelman, Ziad El-Khatib, Christopher Harman, Eric Laverdiere, David Lowther, Christopher Manfredi, Olivier Marcil, Heather Munroe-Blum, Melvin Schloss, Honora Shaughnessy, Ada Sinacore, Peter Todd, Isabel Vivas, Marc Weinstein, Ji Zhang.

In the Principal's absence, Senate approved Senator Ferguson as Chair for the meeting.

SECTION I

1. Resolution on the death of Manuel Phillip Langleben

Senator Grant rose and read the following death resolution, which Senate subsequently unanimously approved:

Senate members, it is with regret that I inform you of the death of Emeritus Professor M. Phillip Langleben, on March 19, 2012, at the age of 87.

Phil Langleben was born in Poland and came to Montreal with his family in his early childhood. He received his entire academic training at McGill University, which started in 1945 when he entered our institution as a BSc student in physics after having completed his war service with the Royal Canadian Navy. He completed an MSc in physics in 1950, and then a PhD in atmospheric physics in 1953, under the supervision of Stewart Marshall. Upon his graduation he spent one year as a postdoctoral fellow at the Dunstable Meteorological Office in England, and he returned to McGill the following year as a Research Associate in the Stormy Weather Group. Phil joined our academic staff in 1957 as a lecturer in the Department of Physics. He rose through the ranks, and became a Full Professor in 1968.

After his return to McGill University in the mid-fifties, Professor Langleben switched his research interests from atmospheric physics to ice physics, and joined the Ice Research Project headed by Professor Elton Pounder. For the next 30 years he devoted himself to the study of the physics of ice, and of the interaction of sea ice with the atmosphere above and the ocean below. Phil was renowned for carefully designed experiments, frequently done with ingenious instrumentation of his own, and often performed under adverse Arctic conditions. Professor Langleben was a world-class expert, which made him a much sought-after consultant and saw him elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

Professor Langleben was also a devoted teacher, spending long hours preparing his lectures, and an active member of the university community. He has served as Director of McGill's Center for Northern Study from 1977 to 1980, and was Associate Chair of the Department of Physics from 1984 up to his retirement in 1989. Even if Professor Langleben has spent his entire academic career studying snow and ice, he was a warm and compassionate person, with great clarity of thought and a sound judgment.

We have lost a valued colleague who greatly enriched the life of the university. The Senate extends its condolences to his wife Rose, to his children Adrian, David, Louise, to his daughters-in-law Ruth and Vicky, and to his grandchildren Isaac, Samuel, Debra, Ian, Julia, and Hayley.

2. Report of the Steering Committee

(12:13-03)

Item 1. Recommendation of Senator Ferguson as Chair of Senate. On motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved Senator Sean Ferguson as chair.

Item 2. Approval of Minutes of Senate. On motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the minutes of the October 17, 2012 meeting.

Item 3. Approval of Confidential Minutes of Senate. The Chair informed Senate that the Steering Committee had reviewed the confidential minutes of the meeting of October 17, 2012 and had approved them on behalf of Senate.

Item 4. Fall 2012 Convocation Approval of Degrees, Certificates and Diplomas. The Chair informed Senate that the Steering Committee approved the Convocation degrees, certificates and diplomas on behalf of Senate and empowered the Secretary of Senate to make changes to the lists as necessary.

Item 5. Speaking Rights. On motion duly proposed and seconded, speaking rights were granted to Ad Hoc Committee members Professor Pierre-Emmanuel Moyse, Mr. Jean-Guy Tremblay and Mr. Alex Pritz for item IIB3 (Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Recording and Transmission of Senate Meetings) and for Professor Jim Nicell, Associate Vice-Principal (University Services) for item IIB5 (Annual Report from the Senate Committee on Physical Development).

Item 6. Confidential Session On motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate agreed that it would enter into Confidential Session for discussion of item IIB1, Report of Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee.

Item 7. Senate Open discussion Topic. The Chair stated that Senate would be having an open discussion on the topic of “McGill’s Innovative Learning Environments” at the January 23 meeting.

Item 8. Business Arising from the Agenda. There was no business arising at this time.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

On motion duly proposed and seconded, the agenda was adopted

SECTION II

Part "A" – Questions and Motions by Members

There were no questions submitted.

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

Closed Session

1. Report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee (D12-14)

Senate moved into confidential session to discuss the Report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee (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").

Open Session

2. Research Matters

2.1 Annual Report on Research Performance and Innovation (D12-15)

Dr. Rose Goldstein, Vice Principal (Research and International Relations) presented the Annual Report on McGill's Research Performance and Innovation for Senate's information.

Vice-Principal Goldstein told Senate that McGill had improved its U15 research intensity ranking from 4th to 2nd in Canada from 2009 to 2011. In response to a question, she added that this was a mix of improved performance in existing grants as well as winning some major grants. Despite McGill's improved ranking, she explained that the University's ability to obtain more public funds would face the challenge of constrained government support and increased competition from less-research-intensive universities. In response, Vice-Principal Goldstein said that McGill and its researchers would need to diversify funding sources outside of government grants to continue to grow and excel at the international level. Vice-Principal Goldstein added that McGill's ability to attract Research Chairs, fellowships and other awards depends on its research funding performance.

Vice-Principal Goldstein told Senate that McGill would be looking at ways to commercialize its strength in research. She suggested that McGill could improve its intellectual property licensing and income-generation, but might need to fundamentally rethink its approach.

Vice-Principal Goldstein then went over what McGill would do going forward. She told Senate that the University had increased its translation and support services for Quebec-based grants and was working toward implementation of the McGill University Business Engagement Centre (MUBEC) and Quartier de l’Innovation incubation centre. Vice-Principal Goldstein ended her presentation by calling on researchers to do their part by always asking for maximum amounts of funding; getting to know funders and their needs; emphasizing quality and excellence and utilizing internal and external review processes and support services.

Senator Gillon said that it was important to monitor the balance between curiosity-based and goal-oriented research as McGill diversified its funding sources. Vice-Principal Goldstein agreed to look into this, but added that it could only be done in a quasi-precise way.

Senator Wolfson asked about researchers who straddle between the University and affiliated institutions like the MUHC or MNI. Vice-Principal Goldstein answered that her office was supporting all McGill researchers, but without duplicating services provided elsewhere.

Senator Grutter asked how the University was assessing the quality of its research. Vice-Principal Goldstein said that funding amounts somewhat reflected success.

Senator Zidel asked how McGill would ensure that its research collaborations with industry allowed researchers to remain independent, considering their dependence on funding. Senator Gutman asked whether the increased focus on industry would leave Arts research underfunded. Vice-Principal Goldstein replied that McGill was working to define its relationships with industry through MUBEC and that these would be based on McGill’s ethics and principles. She also said that Arts researchers had lower costs, but that all McGill initiatives applied to them as well, including aspects of the Quartier de l’Innovation.

2.2 Strategic Research Plan 2013-2017

(D12-16)

Vice-Principal Goldstein then presented the Strategic Research Plan 2013-2017 (SRP). She explained that the SRP was required by the major federal funding agencies, but it would also provide a reference for promoting existing research at McGill and enabling researchers to enhance the University’s research capacity. She told Senate that the SRP would provide a flexible framework that would allow all researchers to benefit.

Vice-Principal Goldstein explained that the SRP was the result of a long consultation process, following which the plan identified five core commitments: ideas; innovation; sustainability; collaboration and partnership; and social engagement. She then described McGill’s seven “areas of research excellence”:

- Examine fundamental questions about humanity, identity, and expression
- Strengthen public policy and create a deeper understanding of social transformation
- Capitalize on the convergence of life sciences, natural sciences, and engineering
- Support health research and improved delivery of care
- Unlock the potential of the human brain and the entire nervous system
- Advance knowledge of the foundations and applications of technology in the Digital Age
- Explore the power of the Earth, space, and the universe

Vice-Principal Goldstein ended her presentation by providing an overview of the SRP implementation strategy and signalling the research highlights of the 2011-2012 year.

Senator Ismail asked how McGill would address problems related to defined timeframes in which research grants have to be spent, saying that these often inhibited research and impacted valuable research assistants’ employment. Senator Lu cited how a lack of infrastructure support made it difficult for researchers to properly spend their grant money. Vice-Principal Goldstein responded that career development of valuable people would be taken into consideration as the SRP was implemented and that space needs would be part of grant applications.

Senators raised concern about the SRP’s long list of research excellence that would be supported. They asked how such a long list could be considered “strategic” and whether areas of research not listed would be excluded from the implementation. Vice-Principal Goldstein clarified that the list provided numerous examples and that it would be more helpful for researchers to consider how their work fit with the SRP’s broader themes. She added that the SRP was a living document.

Senator Bell said that he supported the SRP, but asked that it contain specific language to be included in grant applications. Senator Gehring asked that the Vice-Principal’s office take into consideration the added administrative burden, post-grant. Senator Mooney asked that McGill develop metrics for defining “research excellence” in addition to funding and consider research as an educational experience, not just a labour experience.

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate endorsed the overall vision, core commitments, areas of research excellence, and implementation strategy outlined in the Strategic Research Plan 2013-2017.

3. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Recording and Transmission of Senate Meetings (D12-17)

Senator Madramootoo, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Recording and Transmission of Senate Meetings, delivered this report for Senate's approval. He began by explaining that the committee saw its recommendations as being in the interest of Senate and the University community and showing leadership with regard to openness and transparency. Senator Madramootoo read the Report's recommendations before moving that Senate approve the Report. He explained that the costs indicated in the Report reflected Network and Communications Service billing for meetings in the previous year.

Several Senators raised concerns with Recommendation 4, which said that meeting recordings will not be archived or viewable at a later date. Senators suggested that many members of the McGill community might not be able to log-in during the Senate meetings and would be interested in viewing the recording at a later time. They added that making viewing available outside of the time of Senate meetings would be important evidence to properly review the effectiveness of live-streaming. Senator Algeri suggested that archiving the footage would allow the University to ensure authenticity.

Senator Cuello raised concerns that the video feed would affect the intimacy of Senate discussions and that a disclaimer would not ensure that the images were not misused. Senator Bell asked whether there were legal implications that could arise from archiving the materials.

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Recording and Transmission of Senate Meetings and agreed to implement the Committee's recommendations for a one-year trial period.

4. 441st Report of the Academic Policy Committee (D12-18)

Professor Anthony C. Masi, Provost, presented this report for Senate's information. Senator Mendelson pointed out that the Report should say that there were 5 courses approved.

5. Report of the Senate Nominating Committee (D12-19)

The Provost presented the Report of the Nominating Committee for approval.

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the appointment of Nikhil Srinidhi to the Academic Policy Committee for a term ending August 31, 2013.

6. Annual Report from the Senate Committee on Physical Development (D12-20)

Professor Jim Nicell, Associate Vice-Principal (University Services) presented this Report for Senate's information. Senators asked questions about the projects listed in the Report and Professor Nicell explained that the Committee focused its work on the most cross-cutting projects. Senator Mooney asked about work on the University entrances. Professor Nicell said that it presented complications as McGill tried to improve traffic flows while honouring the original architecture.

Senator Madramootoo thanked Professor Nicell for his many contributions in his time as Associate Vice-Principal (University Services) and as Chair of the Senate Committee on Physical Development. Senate applauded Professor Nicell.

7. Annual Report of the Committee on Student Services (D12-21)

Professor Morton Mendelson, Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning) presented this Report for Senate's information. He described the Committee's work over the past year and informed Senate that the Committee would be looking to make changes to its terms of reference in the coming year.

8. Annual Report of the Committee on Enrolment and Student Affairs (D12-22)

Professor Morton Mendelson, Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning) presented this report for Senate's information. He reported that over the past eight years, McGill had doubled the number of students receiving need-based aid and had more than tripled the average amount that each student received. He also informed Senate that merit-based scholarships had not increased as quickly, as they depend on the endowment.

Senators asked about students whose work-study jobs terminated partway through their studies. Professor Mendelson said that there were more available jobs than students in the program, and that these jobs are communicated to work-study students. Senators also asked whether programs with deregulated tuition for international students were able to attract a broad spectrum of students. Professor Mendelson explained that the tuition increases supported student aid, but that the University was looking at non-pecuniary issues that impacted students from underrepresented communities and developing pipeline projects through the SEDE office and faculties. He added that Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies was working to obtain maximum aid from international students' home countries as well.

9. Annual Report of the Committee on Student Discipline

(D12-23)

Dr. Linda Jacobs Starkey, Interim Dean of Students, delivered this report for Senate's information. She explained that the Report included matters carried out by disciplinary officers as well as the Committee itself. Senator Mendelson thanked Dr. Starkey for her work as interim dean and for her dedication to McGill and McGill students. Senate applauded Dr. Starkey.

Senators asked about the large increases in the number of non-academic offenses in the 2011-2012 year, which Dr. Starkey attributed to the increase in students living in McGill residences, to increased complaints about bothersome emails and online postings and the special circumstances of the 2011-2012 academic year. In response to a question about security services, Dr. Starkey explained that security personnel fill out incident reports that are observational and allow disciplinary officers to assess possible infractions.

Senators also asked about possible changes arising out of the Report of the Open Forum on Free Expression and Peaceful Assembly. Dr. Starkey reminded Senate that the Report would be provided to the committee currently conducting a review of the *Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures*.

10. Report from Board to Senate

(D12-24)

Professor Amir Raz, representative of the Board of Governors to Senate, presented this Report for Senate's information.

11. Other Business

There being no other business to deal with, on motion duly proposed and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.

END

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