



(November 7, 2011 meeting, in preparation for Senate meeting, November 16, 2011)

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SENATE

The minutes of the meeting of October 19, 2011 have been circulated. It is recommended that they now be considered for approval.

2. APPROVAL OF CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF SENATE

The Steering Committee reports that it has scrutinized the confidential minutes of the meeting of October 19, 2011 and has approved them on behalf of Senate. These minutes are not published or circulated but are available for perusal by Senators in the office of the Secretary of Senate.

3. FALL 2011 CONVOCATION APPROVAL OF DEGREES, CERTIFICATES AND DIPLOMAS

On October 19, 2011, in accordance with its terms of reference, the Senate Steering Committee, approved in the name of Senate the degrees, certificates and diplomas listed in Appendix A (attached document) and empowered the Secretary of Senate to make changes to the lists as necessary.

4. SPEAKING RIGHTS

The Senate Steering Committee requests speaking rights for Professor Cynthia Weston, Director (Teaching and Learning Services) for item IIA1; Ms Jana Luker, Executive Director (Services for Students) for item IIB2.2; and Professor Michael C. Mackey, Department of Physiology for item IIB3.

5. CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

The Steering Committee recommends that Senate enter into Confidential Session for discussion of item IIB1, the Confidential Report of Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee (D11-17).

6. ACADEMIC ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION AT A FUTURE MEETING

The Senate Steering Committee has decided to allot time on a future Senate agenda for discussion of issues of academic import at McGill that are not part of the regular business of Senate. These items will be for discussion only and are intended to give Senate an opportunity to debate such issues. The Committee reviewed one suggested topic – variations in student assessment practices across faculties – and agreed to further discuss this and other topics at a later date.

7. SPECTATOR ACCESS TO THE OCTOBER 19, 2011 SENATE MEETING

In response to concerns raised in an email to Steering Committee from Senator Janda about visitor access to the October 19 Senate meeting, the Secretary-General acknowledged that there had been some confusion and failure of communication with regard to the numbers in the Senate chambers. However, it was pointed out that there is an occupancy limit set for the chambers which is established by McGill University Services in accordance with applicable fire codes. This occupancy limit conflicts with spectator access as provided for in section III of the Senate Standing Rules of Procedure.

Present: Professor Heather Munroe-Blum (Chair); Professor Anthony Masi, Mr. Gregg Blachford; Ms. Emily Yee Clare; Professor John Galaty; Professor David Harpp; Mr. Stephen Stropole (Secretary).

Regrets: Professor David Covo; Ms Lily Han; Professor Richard Janda.