



Minutes

Wednesday, December 3, 2014 14-15:04

Minutes of the meeting of Senate held on Wednesday, December 3, 2014 at 2:30 p.m. in the Robert Vogel Council Room (Room 232, Leacock Building.)

PRESENT

Algieri, Stefano
 Allison, Paul
 Ayukawa, Courtney
 Bader, Darine
 Bell, Graham
 Benrimoh, David
 Bernard, Daniel
 Coderre, Terence
 Cook, Colleen
 Corkery, Christopher
 Costopoulos, Andre
 Covo, David
 Di Grappa, Michael
 Doucette, Elaine
 Dumont, Marie-Josée
 Elstein, Eleanore
 Ferguson, Sean
 Fortier, Suzanne
 Fuhrer, Rebecca
 Gehring, Kalle
 Gold, Richard
 Goldstein, Rose
 Green, Garth
 Greenspon, Jacob
 Grütter, Peter
 Harman, Christopher
 Harpp, David
 Hastings, Kenneth
 Heath, Nancy

Hébert, Terence
 Henderson, Ian
 Hiles, Natalie
 Hill, Reghan
 Hooton, Brett
 Hurtubise, Jacques
 Ibrahim, Kareem
 Ismail, Ashraf
 Kalil, Alex
 Kamen, Amine
 Kreiswirth, Martin
 Kucij, Maya
 Kuzaitis, Ruth
 Lach, Lucyna
 Lametti, David
 Lane-Mercier, Gillian
 Lu, Catherine
 Madramootoo, Chandra
 Manfredi, Christopher
 Marcil, Olivier
 Martone, Lydia
 Masi, Anthony
 McCullough, Mary Jo
 Meighen, Michael A.
 Moore, Timothy
 Mucci, Alfonso
 Murray, Jennifer
 Munteanu, Alexandru
 Nicell, Jim
 Nystrom, Derek

Oxhorn, Philip
 Pinto, Juan
 Ponech, Trevor
 Potter, Judith
 Price, Cynthia
 Rassier, Dilson
 Ray, Saibal
 Richard, Marc
 Riches, Caroline
 Robaire, Bernard
 Rourke, Chloe
 Saroyan, Alenoush
 Scebba, Maximillion
 Snider, Laurie
 Snyder, Dan
 Stewart-Kanigan, Claire
 Stromvik, Martina
 Stropole, Stephen
(Secretary)
 Ulemek, Marina
 Waters, Natalie
 Weinstein, Marc
 White, Lydia
 Yalovsky, Morty
 Yang, Yuanhang
 Yue, Stephen
 Zhang, Ji
 Zorychta, Edith

REGRETS: Amine Arezki, Mindy Carter, Stuart Cobbett, Gordon Crelinsten, Rosemary Cooke, Masad Damha, Antonia Di Paola, Gregory Dudek, Ollivier Dyens, David Eidelman, Jim Engle-Warnick, John Galaty, Nabeel Godil, Martin Grant, Morgan Grobin, John Gyakum, Daniel Jutras, Sarah Kimmins, Ram Panda, Elin Thordardottir, Rui Hao (Leo) Wang.

SECTION I

1. Welcoming Remarks

The Chair began by welcoming Senators to the fourth Senate meeting of the 2014-2015 governance year. In particular, she welcomed Chancellor Michael A. Meighen who was attending his first meeting since his installation as Chancellor on October 29, 2014. She then reminded Senators, guests and spectators that the use of electronic devices are permitted for viewing meeting documents, but that the *Senate Rules of Procedure* prohibit the recording of sound or images, and the communication or posting of Senate deliberations.

2. Memorial tribute: Professor Emeritus David Fate Norton

Senator Manfredi read the following memorial tribute, which Senate subsequently unanimously approved:

It is with real sorrow that the Department of Philosophy notes the death of an emeritus colleague, Professor David Fate Norton. David was born in southern Michigan, in a farming family, on February 7, 1937. He did graduate work at the University of California, San Diego, from which he received the PhD degree in 1966. After teaching and receiving tenure at the same University, he was invited to join the McGill Department of Philosophy, which he did in 1971. At McGill, besides his teaching, he contributed to the academic life of the Department of Philosophy, Faculty, and University, by occupying, and devotedly discharging a number of major positions, including that of Senator (1974-1977) and Chair of the Department (1996-1998). Among other achievements, he was responsible for reviving the McGill-Queen University Press at a time when it could have gone under.

But David's academic activities extended far beyond the confines of McGill. Because of his widely recognized expertise in the philosophy of David Hume, he was a Charter Member of the Hume Society and was very active in its development, serving several terms on the Executive Committee. He also served as editor of the *Journal of the History of Philosophy*. Above all, he was charged by the Hume Society to produce an edition of Hume's *A Treatise of Human Nature*, emended to represent the (now lost) original manuscript, and supported by a critical apparatus that would include the history of the work's reception from its inception until Hume's death. This project led to a number of major publications, and culminated in 2007 with a two-volume critical edition of Hume's *Treatise*. In this editing work, as David never failed to mention, he was assiduously aided by the expertise of his wife Mary.

David was the recipient of several honours: Member of the School of Historical Studies at the Institute for advanced Studies, Princeton, NJ (1986); Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, University of Edinburgh (1987); Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (1989); at McGill, the Macdonald Professor of Moral Philosophy (1990).

David's many activities were affected, but by no means diminished, by multiple sclerosis, a condition for which he was diagnosed not long after coming to McGill. He retired in 1999, and moved to Victoria, BC. He was named Professor Emeritus in 2000. In 2001, he and his wife Mary established the Norton Fellowship in Philosophy at McGill, and the Indigenous Governance Fellowship at the University of Victoria. He died at Victoria General Hospital on November 8, 2014, from complications of MS.

David Norton made significant and lasting contributions to McGill and to the study of the history of philosophy. He and his work will be remembered. His surviving colleagues will remember him as a loyal and caring friend.

Our condolences go to his widow, Mary Norton.

3. Report of the Steering Committee (14:15-04)

Senate received the Report of the Steering Committee (14-15:04).

Item 1. Approval of Minutes of Senate – November 19, 2014.

Item 2. Approval of Confidential Minutes of Senate – November 19, 2014.

Item 3. Speaking rights. Upon approval of the report, speaking rights were granted to Mr. Real Del Degan, Interim Director (Office of the Budget) for item IIB2 (Budget Planning 2015-2016: Report I).

Item 4. Confidential Session. On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate agreed that it would enter into Confidential Session for discussion of item IIB7, Report of Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee (D14-28).

Item 5. Approval of the Agenda

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

4. Business Arising: In-Year Budget Adjustments Resulting from Provincial Government Funding Cuts

The Provost, Senator Anthony C. Masi, responded to a follow-up question from the Question Regarding Budget Reductions Announced at the Open Forum on McGill's Financial Situation, for which a written response had been provided to Senate at its November meeting. The follow-up question concerned whether funds not matched by the University, due to budgetary reductions, would be made up in a later fiscal year. The Provost indicated that this depended on the University's financial situation in later fiscal years.

5. Chair's Remarks

The Chair began her remarks by highlighting that the Board of Governors approved the appointment of Professor Christopher Manfredi, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Senator, as

Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic) starting July 1, 2015. She explained that during his two terms as Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Senator Manfredi has demonstrated strategic leadership and a track record of significant accomplishments. She also noted that the search for the next Provost entailed an extensive selection process which had been advertised locally, nationally and internationally. The Chair congratulated Senator Manfredi and Senators applauded. She also thanked Senator Masi for his ten years of exemplary service as Provost, and mentioned that the University will be formally recognizing his service closer to the end of his term in June 2015.

The Chair subsequently discussed government relations. She explained that the University continues to face a challenging fiscal environment as the province attempts to balance its budget in the next fiscal year. To diversify the University's reliance on provincial government funding, McGill continues to promote greater flexibility with respect to tuition for international and out-of-province undergraduate students by advocating that the provincial government's clawing back of international student fees be capped. Such a model would allow universities to keep differential student fees beyond the capped amount. The Chair mentioned that this issue is currently being considered by the Quebec government; in fact, Lucienne Robillard, the head of the province's budget review commission, has called for full deregulation of differential fees in the recent proposal she tabled calling for cuts to Quebec's government programs.

The Chair then discussed Bill 10, indicating that McGill, represented by Senators David Eidelman, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Vice-Principal (Health Affairs) and Olivier Marcil, Vice-Principal (Communications and External Relations), appeared before the Parliamentary Commission studying the legislation. She indicated that although McGill supports many aspects of the Bill, amendments were proposed to better protect the teaching and research missions of university teaching hospitals and to strengthen the role of universities in the governance of these institutions. The University's submission also expressed concern with respect to the importance of preserving the longstanding socio-cultural, linguistic and demographic characteristics of the soon-to-be-merged institutions.

The Chair shared highlights from her recent trip to Hong Kong. She explained that she met with many alumni and friends of McGill, who are very connected, supportive and loyal to the University.

The Chair subsequently reminded Senators that last March, she shared a vision to create a more open, connected and purposeful University that came from the community, and that the result was the development of five priorities; three are centered on McGill's academic mission: student life and learning, research and community engagement; while the other two relate the supporting the University's mission: our work culture and transforming our physical and virtual campus. She explained that over the last several months, the administration has held consultations with the University community and is turning the vision into concrete projects with short- and long-term goals. She added that the projects and other information are available on the McGill website.

The Chair then called on Senator Michael Di Grappa, Vice-Principal (Administration and Finance), to provide an update on the construction on McTavish Street. Senator Di Grappa indicated that the City of Montreal has informed McGill that asphaltting was scheduled to occur from November 25 to 28, but could not be completed due to inclement weather. The City

reassured the University that the work would be completed shortly and that McGill would have full access to the street by December 5. He added that the street is slated to undergo a landscape transformation in Spring/Summer 2016.

Moving on to kudos, the Chair extended congratulations to two students, Joanna Klimczak (Desautels Faculty of Management) and Benjamin Mappin-Kasirer (Faculty of Medicine), who were awarded Rhodes Scholarships. She also acknowledged McGill's Symphony Orchestra which performed in memory of Franz Paul Decker on November 29, 2014. She concluded by congratulating the Provost, and his team, for their hard work on the 2014-2015 Budget Book, which received the "Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association"; this is the fourth year in a row that McGill receives this award.

SECTION II

Part "A" – Questions and Motions by Members

1. Question Regarding McGill's Strategy for Building an Interdisciplinary Learning Community

Senators Greenspon, Rouke, Ibrahim and Stewart-Kanigan submitted the following question:

Whereas, creating a campus community "connected across disciplines" is included in the Principal's Plans¹,

Whereas, an Open Discussion on "Breaking Down Silos: Interdisciplinary Collaborations"² was held in Senate in February 2014 at which interdisciplinarity was identified as a priority for students and faculty, and strategies were suggested for facilitating progress in this area,

Whereas, barriers to interdisciplinarity identified at the Open discussion included "absence of institutional infrastructure to encourage, enable and foster interdisciplinarity" and lack of "recognition and reward mechanisms for tenure-track faculty members" for promoting interdisciplinary work,

Whereas, at the annual Joint Board-Senate meeting in November 2014, Senators and Board members jointly agreed that interdisciplinary opportunities are essential to innovation,

Whereas, interdisciplinary programs are often found by students to be less supportive given the division of the responsibility of supporting students between multiple faculties or departments,

¹ <http://publications.mcgill.ca/reporter/2014/03/principal-to-mcgill-community-openness-to-change-will-determine-our-future-success/>

² http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d13-45_open_discussion_memo_-_breaking_down_silos.pdf

What concrete measures are currently being undertaken to promote interdisciplinary collaboration and to break down barriers faced by students seeking to pursue interdisciplinary studies?

Has the “absence of institutional infrastructure to encourage, enable and foster interdisciplinarity” been addressed?

Has the lack of “recognition and reward mechanisms for tenure-track faculty members” for promoting interdisciplinary work been addressed?

What resources is the university planning to dedicate to achieve these stated goals of better supporting interdisciplinary programs and opportunities, and will the University develop a University-wide strategy for supporting interdisciplinary learning?

Senator Masi provided the following written response:

The February 2014 Senate Open discussion on “Breaking down silos: interdisciplinary collaborations,” to which this new set of questions refers, understood “interdisciplinary collaboration” to include trans-, inter-, multi- or cross-disciplinary collaborations.’ The same broad definition has been used here.

The encouragement of creative, interdisciplinary scholarship at all levels has long been a cornerstone of McGill’s mandate. *Achieving Strategic Academic Priorities (ASAP)*, released in 2012, maps a five-year plan for institutional development that commits significant energies and resources to innovation in research and teaching. *ASAP 2012* (p. 18) specifically includes the broad goal of “developing and facilitating stronger connections across Faculties, Schools, Departments, Institutes, Centres and other academic units to enhance educational opportunities for students, interdisciplinary and interdepartmental research and teaching collaborations for faculty...”. *ASAP* also affirmed the University’s commitment to pursuing a ‘cluster hire’ model whereby certain searches would be conducted with a view to attracting researchers with similar interests across a variety of disciplines. Similarly, the 2007 and 2013 Strategic Research Plans both emphasized opportunity for interdisciplinary work, with the 2013 iteration noting a plan to “Encourage interdisciplinary dialogue and provide additional support for team approaches to addressing large, complex research questions” (15) as part of the goal to enhance the university’s research capacity.

In line with these goals, for example, McGill supported the creation of the Institute for the Public Life of Arts and Ideas in 2009. IPLAI is a collaboration led by researchers in eight faculties and schools - Arts, Education, Engineering, Law, Management, Music, Religious Studies, and the Libraries – and promotes innovative, interdisciplinary research and teaching in the humanities that reorients the university toward the world. IPLAI Faculty Fellows offer team-taught, interdisciplinary undergraduate courses in the ‘PLAI’ series. This year, for example, IPLAI is offering a course on “Youth as Cultural Producers: Rethinking Education and Entrepreneurship,” which will be taught by Fellows Jui Ramaprasad from the Faculty of Management and Bronwen Low from the Faculty of Education. Faculty Fellows join a community of researchers from across the university,

with opportunities for cross-disciplinary exchange of ideas and support for the development of collaborative, interdisciplinary research projects.

Approximately 12% of tenured and tenure-track faculty at McGill have joint appointments, with roughly one quarter of these appointments spanning two or more Faculties (i.e., 203 TT staff out of 1664 total; 156 joint appointments in the same Faculty; 47 cross-Faculty). Tenure review for all jointly-appointed assistant professors is undertaken by a single committee representing all relevant departments and/or faculties to ensure that the tenure candidate's dossier is considered as a whole and that none of our pre-tenure joint appointments are left in the position of having to satisfy competing expectations from multiple quarters. Reviews for reappointment and promotion are accomplished similarly. Both tenure and promotion files are assessed by external reviewers as well, with opportunity for the candidates to participate in the choosing of evaluators. Nearly half of the 203 professors with joint appointments have been at McGill for fifteen years or more, and just over half of all jointly-appointed faculty hold the rank of full professor.

Just for illustration, from Budget Book FY2015, we included:

- a) an interdisciplinary program envelope has been set aside for promoting interdisciplinary programs [\$0.8 million]
- b) other programs are being considered (e.g. Bioengineering, Digital Humanities, IPLAI, Public Policy)
- c) matching funds for the two CERCs: pain genetics and green chemistry
- d) UNIWeb is being explored as a tool for increased visibility and potential for collaboration across units.

With regard to “cluster hires”, we have had some success in bioinformatics, social statistics, in previous rounds of academic appointments and in population studies most recently.

McGill researchers have also shown themselves to be world-class leaders in innovative, collaborative research, regardless of whether they have formal joint appointments. In the last four years, for example, nine faculty members have been awarded prestigious Partnership Grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council in support of ambitious, international projects that involve researchers from across campus and across the world. Each grant brings funding for faculty and student research in the millions of dollars. Grants have been awarded to faculty members in Arts (3), Music, Education (2), Social Work, Geography, and Environmental Studies, thus underscoring the breadth of ‘Social Sciences and Humanities’ research at McGill. CIHR has also recently awarded multimillion-dollar team grants to researchers working on genetics, neurology, neurosurgery, pharmacology, and family medicine. McGill is also the host to a large multi-disciplinary and multi-university Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE)-funded BiofuelNet project.

The Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Music Media and Technology (CIRMMT) is a FQRSC-funded world-class research facility based in the Schulich School of Music, with participation from researchers and students from Université de Montréal, Université

de Sherbrooke, Concordia University, Ecole de technologie supérieure, INRS and Marianopolis College. McGill faculty from Music, Psychology, Information Studies, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Computer Engineering, Philosophy, Kinesiology, Communications, and Neurology all participate in CIRMMT's research programs.

At the graduate level, the University has implemented a very successful interdisciplinary graduate program in the neurosciences and established academic and administrative structures to support this and future interdisciplinary programs. The Integrated Program in Neurosciences is Canada's largest, with more than 180 affiliated faculty members from the Departments of Biology, Pharmacology, Psychology and Physiology as well as seven other McGill research centres. The program has more than 300 active students at the MSc and PhD levels. Interdisciplinary MSc and PhD programs in Biological and Biomedical Engineering are undergoing the approval process and interdisciplinary MSc and PhD programs in Quantitative Life Sciences are in the last planning stages.

Graduate Options in Bioinformatics, Chemical Biology, Computational Science and Engineering, Development Studies, Environmental Engineering, Gender and Women's Studies, Language Acquisition, Neotropical Environments, Psychosocial Oncology, and Social Statistics, as well as combined MBA-Law, MD-MBA and MSW-Law degree programs all offer students the opportunity to pursue research and training that transcends conventional disciplinary boundaries.

A candidate for a graduate degree may also, in consultation with his or her supervisor, put together an interdisciplinary thesis committee that includes faculty from other programs. In exceptional circumstances students wishing to engage in interdisciplinary research programs at the master's and doctoral levels may pursue *Ad Personam* programs with *joint supervision* by two faculty members in different department or faculties. In such cases, petition must be made to GPS, with written support from the proposed supervisors. Implicated departments or faculties would also be required to agree and adhere to a plan to share responsibility for financial support of the student. A single degree would be conferred at graduation, with both disciplines recognized.

As the FY2015 Budget Book recognized, the Faculty of Law's "undergraduate program provides the benchmark for an interdisciplinary, transnational perspective on law, governance and public policy, and is regarded as a model on the global scene."

Roughly half of McGill undergraduates earn their bachelor's degrees in three years (having begun their postsecondary studies at one of Quebec's CEGEPs), which does mean they have a shortened period in which to gain the necessary depth of knowledge and experience in their chosen major subject. While this constrains somewhat the possibility of more exploratory study at the undergraduate level, there are nonetheless a range of options available to undergraduates wishing to incorporate interdisciplinary study into their academic programs.

The undergraduate courses offered by IPLAI have already been noted. The Institute for the Study of International Development offers interdisciplinary honours, major and minor

programs, with the possibility of pursuing a joint honours program along particular streams. The Institute for Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies offers a minor program in Sexual Diversity Studies with support from fifteen departments in five faculties. The Faculty of Arts also offers interdisciplinary major and minor programs in North American Studies and in Quebec Studies as well as minor concentrations in World Cinemas, the History and Philosophy of Science, and Catholic Studies. Of course, over 15 years ago, McGill School of the Environment was forged with efforts from three Faculties (Science, AES, Arts) and two others are now associated with it (Law, Engineering). McGill undergraduates have also had the option of pursuing a Bachelor of Arts & Science degree since 2005.

Other programs such as the BSc in Agricultural and Environmental Sciences invite students to design their own program of study by combining a major subject with one or more specializations. Science students may also pursue a minor in Interdisciplinary Life Sciences, for example, or a field minor in Interdisciplinary Tropical Studies, with 15 of the required 18 credits completed on site at the Bellairs Research Institute in Barbados.

With respect to resources allocation specifically: all allocations from McGill's budget are targeted to be in line with academic priorities, which have been outlined at length in ASAP 2012, the Strategic Research Plan, and other University documents, all of which are publicly available. Resource allocation at the level of academic programs is a matter for the Faculty Deans, determined in consultation with the Provost and other members of the senior administration.

There are always new and emerging needs as well as programs that may no longer be relevant. We must be willing to make choices about discontinuance as well as about creation. With the proliferation of major-minor options, the pathways to an undergraduate degree at McGill are quite numerous.

We can always do more and we can also always do better, but we must recognize the restraints imposed by resources, be they financial, physical, or based on the expertise available to us regarding interdisciplinarity.

Senators asked about the details of the \$800,000 interdisciplinary program funding, how provincial government budget reductions may affect this envelope and whether this allocation is higher than in previous fiscal years. The Provost indicated that allocations already made will not be clawed back in this fiscal year and that he would verify the allocation made to this program in FY2014. Senators also discussed barriers to and motivations for creating an interdisciplinary learning environment. The Provost noted that key factors include academic staff members' willingness to develop interdisciplinary programs and physical space constraints.

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

Open Session

1. Annual Report on the Financial State of the University (D14-23)

Senator Di Grappa presented this item for information. He informed Senators that a \$3.2 million surplus in the University's operating budget, due to positive variances in the University's revenues, and a \$12.5 million decrease in the University's pension liability, caused McGill to post a \$15.7 million surplus for FY2014. Senator Di Grappa highlighted that provincial and federal governments' funding accounts for over 50% of the University's revenue, noting the need to diversify McGill's revenue sources. He explained that even with contingencies factored into the current fiscal year's budget, such as funds earmarked for special projects, it appeared that the University's expenditures were slightly over budget, with a projected deficit of \$10 million for FY2015, \$3 million more than had been projected in April 2014. Moving forward, Senator Di Grappa indicated that pressures on the University's budget include issues such as compensation and deferred maintenance, for which the administration is developing a plan.

Senators discussed McGill's accumulated deficit in comparison to other universities in Quebec, noting that the Université du Québec's deficit was significantly larger than other universities.

Senator Robaire suggested that a graph be included in future presentations to illustrate the Quebec government's funding grant (in dollars) over the past few years. The Provost indicated that this information is located in the Budget Book, but that it could be included as part of his presentation in the future.

Senator Saroyan suggested that performance indicators could be linked with the University's mission, and asked what constitutes "Other" expenses. Senator Di Grappa replied that "Other" expenses refers to items such as supplies, energy costs, travel, furnishings, office equipment, etc.

Senator Hastings asked whether posting a surplus for FY2014, which included reductions in the provincial government's grant to the University, would harm McGill in that it absorbed budget cuts and posted a surplus. Senator Di Grappa explained that the surplus demonstrates that the University is financially prudent.

Senator Benrimoh asked how the administration intends to address deferred maintenance during a period of budget reductions. Senator Di Grappa replied that the University is developing a plan to address deferred maintenance challenges through various channels, including potentially fundraising.

2. Budget Planning 2015-2016: Report I (D14-24)

The Provost presented this item for information. He reminded Senators that the budget is being developed in alignment with the University's strategic priorities, as laid out in the University's academic plan. He explained that such priorities include: attracting and retaining academic talent; continuing professorial recruitment; enhancing research quality and productivity,

implementing the University's strategic enrolment plan; encouraging the Principal's "Proposed Vision and Priorities"; and supporting the goals and objectives of Faculties and administrative units.

The Provost underlined that budget risks stem mainly from uncertain provincial government funding, which continues to decrease. He also noted that since enrolment was below established targets in 2014, this will have an impact on revenues. The Provost explained that in FY2016 and beyond, the University plans little or no growth in enrolment given current capacity issues, the desire to ensure high quality teaching, research and learning environments (e.g. maintaining undergraduate student to staff ratios) and additional resources required to support a larger student population. Tuition fees also remain uncertain as the Quebec government is considering deregulating international student fees.

Subsequent discussion focused on enrolment matters and the possible deregulation of international tuition fees. Senator Bernard asked how the deregulation would impact the University's finances. The Provost indicated that if all international students were deregulated (including French students who pay Quebec tuition rates), the University would likely receive less funding than it currently receives given that many international students are studying at the graduate-level, which is relatively costly.

Senator McCulloch indicated that as the government considers deregulation of student fees, this creates uncertainty for prospective students who plan to study at McGill. She asked how the University could pressure the provincial government to make its decision before students are required to decide at which university they will study. The Provost replied that the University will continue to lobby the Quebec government on the matter.

Senator Benrimoh asked if the University would admit more international students if their fees were deregulated. The Provost indicated that while the University does not intend to drastically alter its student demographic, it strives to have a student body from the following origins: 25% Anglophones from Quebec, 25% Francophones from Quebec, 25% Canadians from the rest of Canada, and 25% international. Further discussion ensued on 2014 enrolment targets.

Senators also discussed deferred maintenance issues. Senator Robaire noted that McGill's potential acquisition of the Royal Victoria Hospital (RVH) may further contribute to the University's deferred maintenance backlog. The Chair replied that while the government has not yet indicated what would be the future of the RVH site, McGill's acquisition is dependent on large capital investments from the provincial and federal governments to assist the University in redeveloping and maintaining the historic site. Senator Bernard suggested that the administration take advantage of the RVH site, and to help make the University's acquisition of the RVH more attractive, he proposed that McGill partner with other Montreal-based universities, such as Université de Montréal, to create an innovation hub at the RVH site. The Chair reiterated that the administration is actively pursuing the acquisition of the RVH, subject to sufficient capital investments by the provincial government. She added that the Université de Montréal is pursuing similar major initiatives (Gare d'Outremont and Hôtel Dieu).

3. 460th Report of the Academic Policy Committee (APC)

(D14-25)

a) Senator White, the Associate Provost (Policies, Procedures and Equity), presented this item, on behalf of the Provost, for approval. She indicated that approval was required for the proposed *Regulations on Cyclical Academic Unit Reviews*. These regulations reflect feedback received from review committees, and intend to streamline and improve the review process. Following discussion, Senate approved the proposed regulations.

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the proposed Regulations on Cyclical Academic Unit Reviews.

b) Senator White presented the APC recommendation to Senate to approve the proposed *Policy on Late Withdrawals*. She explained that when a student withdraws from a course after the add-drop deadline, a “W” appears on the official transcript. The recording of a “W” on an official transcript may be subject to misperception and reportedly causes anxiety and prejudice to students, especially when applying to graduate school or professional programs. The intention of this Policy is to set accurate, fair and compassionate guidelines to address exceptional circumstances students may encounter, such as mental and physical illness, and personal tragedies, which result in a full term withdrawal. In such cases, the revisions would allow for courses and grades to be removed from the official transcript.

Discussion focused on whether the Policy should be expanded to allow students to withdraw for personal reasons from selected courses, without having a “W” appear on their transcript, rather than having the revision apply only to withdrawal from all courses in a semester.

Student Senators asserted that students who experience a tumultuous period may still be able to pursue some coursework. In such situations, requiring these students to choose between withdrawing from all courses in order to avoid “W”s appearing on their transcript, or withdrawing from some courses and receiving “W”s results in additional mental stress. They added that they strongly supported the spirit of the proposed policy, highlighting that the “W” notation on transcripts is not as neutral as originally supposed.

Academic staff members on Senate expressed concern about the policy change, and especially any potential expansion to include individual course withdrawals, citing integrity-related concerns of the University’s transcripts that would occur if it were possible to modify their academic records. They suggested that universities generally undertake sympathetic readings of transcripts, and reference letters can often help overcome any adverse perceptions associated with “W”s.

After extensive debate, Senator White, with the approval of the seconder, withdrew the motion related to this APC recommendation.

Senator Benrimoh then introduced a motion to suspend the *Standing Rules of Procedure*, but the resolution failed to gain the required three-fourths majority. Senator Benrimoh subsequently introduced a notice of a motion of reconsideration, to be presented at the next Senate meeting.

**Secretary's Note:* As set out in *Robert's Rules of Order*, since the motion was disposed of without being put to a vote, the rules provide that the motion may be renewed at a subsequent session without need of a motion of reconsideration.

c) Senator White explained that the final approval item contained in the APC report was the proposed name change for the “McGill Centre for the Study of Host Resistance” to the “McGill International TB Centre.” Senator Corkery proposed a friendly amendment that “TB” be spelled out to read “tuberculosis” for greater clarity. Senator White accepted the friendly amendment.

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved, and recommended that the Board of Governors approve, the proposed name change for the “McGill Centre for the Study of Host Resistance” to “McGill International Tuberculosis Centre” (MITBC).

4. Annual Report of the Committee on Libraries (2013-2014) (D14-26)

Senator White presented this item on behalf of Professor Ghyslaine McClure (Chair of the Committee on Libraries), for Senate’s information. Subsequent discussion focused on the quality of access to print materials and the digitization of print materials once they are removed from the shelves.

5. Report of the Advisory Council on the Charter of Students’ Rights (2013-2014) (D14-27)

The Secretary-General, Mr. Stephen Strople, presented this report for Senate’s information, noting that the Council did not convene as no matters were referred to it.

6. Other Business

No other business items were raised. The Chair wished student Senators luck with their exams, and all Senators a relaxing and joyful Holiday period.

Confidential Session

7. Report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee (D14-28)

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).

There being no other business to deal with, on a motion duly proposed and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

END

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