



## Minutes

Wednesday, September 17, 2014 14-15:01

Minutes of the meeting of Senate held on September 17, 2014 at 2:30 p.m. in the Robert Vogel Council Room (Room 232, Leacock Building.)

### **PRESENT**

Algieri, Stefano  
 Ayukawa, Courtney  
 Arezki, Amine  
 Bader, Darine  
 Bell, Graham  
 Benrimoh, David  
 Carter, Mindy  
 Crelinsten, Gordon  
 Coderre, Terence  
 Cook, Colleen  
 Cooke, Rosemary  
 Corkery, Christopher  
 Costopoulos, Andre  
 Covo, David  
 Damha, Masad  
 Di Grappa, Michael  
 Di Paola, Antonia  
 Doucette, Elaine  
 Dudek, Gregory  
 Dumont, Marie-Josée  
 Dyens, Ollivier  
 Eidelman, David  
 Elstein, Eleanore  
 Fortier, Suzanne  
 Fuhrer, Rebecca  
 Galaty, John  
 Gehring, Kalle  
 Godil, Nabeel  
 Goldstein, Rose

Grant, Martin  
 Green, Garth  
 Greenspon, Jacob  
 Grobin, Morgan  
 Gyakum, John  
 Harman, Christopher  
 Harpp, David  
 Hastings, Kenneth  
 Heath, Nancy  
 Hébert, Terence  
 Henderson, Ian  
 Hill, Reghan  
 Hooton, Brett  
 Hurtubise, Jacques  
 Ibrahim, Kareem  
 Jutras, Daniel  
 Kalil, Alex  
 Kamen, Amine  
 Kimmins, Sarah  
 Kreiswirth, Martin  
 Kucij, Maya  
 Kuzaitis, Ruth  
 Lach, Lucyna  
 Lametti, David  
 Lane-Mercier, Gillian  
 Lu, Catherine  
 Manfredi, Christopher  
 Marcil, Olivier  
 Martone, Lydia  
 McCullough, Mary Jo

Moore, Timothy  
 Murray, Jennifer  
 Nicell, Jim  
 Nystrom, Derek  
 Oxhorn, Philip  
 Panda, Ram  
 Pinto, Juan  
 Ponech, Trevor  
 Potter, Judith  
 Rassier, Dilson  
 Ray, Saibal  
 Richard, Marc  
 Riches, Caroline  
 Rourke, Chloe  
 Scebba, Maximillion  
 Snider, Laurie  
 Snyder, Dan  
 Stewart-Kanigan, Claire  
 Stromvik, Martina  
 Strople, Stephen  
*(Secretary)*  
 Thordardottir, Elin  
 Ulemek, Marina  
 Wang, Rui Hao (Leo)  
 Waters, Natalie  
 Weinstein, Marc  
 White, Lydia  
 Yalovsky, Morty  
 Zorychta, Edith

**REGRETS:** Paul Allison, Daniel Bernard, Stuart Cobbett, Jim Engle-Warnick, Sean Ferguson, Peter Grütter, Natalie Hiles, Ashraf Ismail, Chandra Madramootoo, Anthony Masi, Michael A. Meighen, Alfonso Mucci, Cynthia Price, Bernard Robaire, Alenoush Saroyan, Stephen Yue, Ji Zhang.

## **SECTION I**

### **1. Welcoming Remarks**

The Chair began by welcoming returning, re-elected and newly elected Senators to the first Senate meeting of the 2014-2015 governance year. She thanked Senators for their engagement and commitment to the University community. She also expressed her hope that Senators had a relaxing, fulfilling summer and that they were able to attend today's lunch for all members of the University community, which she hosted.

The Chair also reminded Senators that guests and spectators are welcome to attend and observe Senate meetings. Regarding the use of electronic devices, the Chair noted that their use is 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. She reminded Senators that, in accordance with the recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee to Review the Livestreaming of Senate Meetings, a recording of the livestream would be accessible on the Senate webpage until the meeting minutes are approved at the October meeting.

### **2. Memorial tribute: Professors Ellen Aitken and Roderick Macdonald**

The Chair noted that over the summer, the McGill community was deeply saddened by the loss of two of its prominent members: Professors Ellen Aitken (Faculty of Religious Studies) and Roderick Macdonald (Faculty of Law). She also welcomed Mr. Bill Porter, the husband of Dean Ellen Aitken, who attended a portion of the meeting to participate in Senate's memorial tribute to his late wife. Senator Henderson then read the following memorial tribute, which Senate subsequently unanimously approved:

Madam Chair, I rise to invite the Senate to join the staff, students and professoriate of the Faculty of Religious Studies in remembering and celebrating the life and work of Ellen Bradshaw Aitken. Ellen Aitken came to McGill in 2004 as an Associate Professor in Early Christian History and Literature. Scarcely three years later, she became the ninth Dean of the Faculty of Religious Studies. As Dean, she passionately served the Faculty, the University and the wider Academy until her death on June 14<sup>th</sup> of this year, after a brief, but aggressive illness.

Ellen began her University studies in Classics, at Harvard University, beginning a life-long interest in the representation of the heroic in Greek Literature and Religion. A year abroad at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, began a parallel intellectual and spiritual formation in Christian Theology and Ministry. In 1986 Ellen completed a Master of Divinity degree at the University of the South and was ordained into the ministry of the Episcopal (Anglican) Church. From Sewanee she returned to Harvard, this time to the Divinity School, to take her Doctorate in Theology, graduating in 1997; characteristically her doctoral dissertation under the historian of Early Christianity, Helmut Koester, and the Classicist, Gregory Nagy, combined insights from the Christian tradition with a broader religious and cultural understanding of the ancient world. The dissertation was later published as the volume, *Jesus' Death in Early Christian Memory: The Poetics of the Passion* (2004). Ellen remained at the Harvard Divinity School as Assistant Professor of New Testament until McGill recruited her

in 2004. During those Harvard years Ellen pursued her interest in religious commemoration of heroic death in a collaboration with Jennifer K. Berenson Maclean which led to the publication of a notable series of books, editions and articles on the Greco-Roman writer Flavius Philostratos.

Here at McGill, Ellen continued her cross-over research in Classics, Religious Studies and Christian Biblical Theology with a SSHRC-funded study of relationships between Greco-Roman hero cults and ancient Christianity. Even as Dean Ellen maintained a heavy load of undergraduate teaching and graduate supervision. Again and again, her combined gifts of scholarship, administration and friendship led her into leadership roles in the wider Academy and the wider Church. Ellen was especially successful in articulating the vision of an intensely pluralist, yet deeply engaged study of religions as a necessary component of University education and research for the coming century. Ellen was deeply instrumental in facilitating the establishment in the Faculty of Religious Studies of the new Barbara and Patrick Keenan Chair in Interfaith Studies. Similarly Ellen worked tirelessly to position McGill as a leader among the thirty universities in the Faith and Globalisation network initiated by The Tony Blair Faith Foundation.

In her whole scholarly career and years of administrative service, Ellen Aitken modelled the deep compatibility of critical learning with sincere faith. Ellen found time and vision to serve local Christian communities both in Massachusetts and in Quebec. As a theological educator, Ellen challenged, inspired and mentored women and men in both academic and pastoral callings. She treasured a vital spiritual relationship with the Anglican monastic Society of Saint John the Evangelist. She was strongly committed to the work of the Montreal Diocesan Theological College, the Anglican college affiliated with McGill.

Madam Chair, Ellen Aitken was a remarkable scholar of religious traditions and also a remarkable builder of meaningful community. Typically, yet specially, in the last weeks of her life she and her husband, Bill Porter, who is here with us today, opened their hearts to an astonishing range of friends, colleagues, and students from Ellen's Harvard network, from her Church and professional networks, and from across McGill. I invite the House to join me in expressing undying gratitude for the life and vision of the Reverend Professor Ellen Bradshaw Aitken.

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

A teacher, first and foremost, Roderick A. Macdonald will be remembered as one of the most important scholars and thinkers in McGill University's history. He was a mentor and inspiration to generations of students and law professors, and a transformative force at the Faculty of Law, the University, in Canadian society, and in the broader world. For Professor Macdonald, every moment was a teaching and learning moment; every professor was a learner as well as a teacher; and every student was worthy of deep respect and consideration. He always knew how to appeal to each person's better self.

Le professeur Macdonald s'est joint au personnel enseignant de l'Université McGill en 1979. Son mandat à titre de doyen de la Faculté de droit, entre 1984 et 1989, a constitué un bond en

avant pour McGill. Sa vision audacieuse de l'éducation juridique, son extraordinaire énergie en tant que chercheur, sa capacité à redéfinir et à réinventer le cadre du droit, son engagement profond envers la justice, son intégrité sans faille et son dévouement absolu à ses étudiants et à ses collègues définissent encore la mission et les aspirations de la Faculté de droit de McGill.

Born in Ontario in 1948, Rod Macdonald spent his formative years leading summer camps in Northern Ontario, and developing a taste for folk music and protest songs that never abandoned him. Rod Macdonald completed his legal education in Ontario, and took his first position as a legal academic at Windsor University's Law Faculty, one of a group of scholars committed to access of justice and law reform initiatives. He came to Montreal a few years later, joining a Faculty that was already defined by mixity and métissage, in civil law and common law, in French and in English. McGill's path as a bilingual, cosmopolitan institution was in the works, and Macdonald gave it a rich and principled grounding in a pluralistic conception of law.

Professor Macdonald was also one of the most influential legal scholars of his generation. His work redefined each of the fields to which he turned his attention. His curiosity and imagination was boundless, and his capacity to bring unique and original insight to the broadest range of issues in public law and private law will remain unparalleled.

Professor Macdonald was convinced of his duty to serve the community at large, and remained throughout his life an engaged academic and public actor, contributing to or leading several government mandated commissions on key issues of public interest.

Roderick Macdonald was universally regarded as one of Canada's most distinguished intellectuals. In November 2008, Professor Macdonald was elected the 111th president of the Royal Society of Canada (RSC) at its annual general meeting in Ottawa. He was and remains the only law professor ever to have been elected president of the RSC. Over the course of his career, Roderick Macdonald received many prestigious awards underlining his extraordinary contributions. He was appointed a Fellow of the Pierre Elliott Trudeau, received the Killam Prize for the Social Sciences, the Sir William Dawson Medal for the Social Sciences of the Royal Society of Canada, and honorary doctorates from Université de Montréal and Osgoode Hall Law School. He was an Officer of the Order of Canada. At McGill, Professor Macdonald is the only professor to have received both of the University's highest awards: the Lifetime Achievement Award for Leadership in Learning, in 2011 and the McGill University Medal for Exceptional Academic Achievement, which was awarded in absentia at the 2014 Law Convocation, two weeks before he passed away on June 13, 2014.

With deep sadness and gratitude, the Faculty of Law at McGill University bids farewell to one of its most generous, brilliant and dedicated members – a wonderful, original, caring and passionate human being and scholar, a model for us all. We express our deep condolences to Roderick Macdonald's immediate family: his wife Shelley Freeman and his two children Madeleine and Aidan. We also express our condolences to the many students, professors, public actors, judges, lawyers, academics, friends, and citizens whose lives and souls have been touched by this great man.

### **3. Report of the Steering Committee**

(14:15-01)

Senate received the Report of the Steering Committee (14-15:01).

*Item 1. Approval of Minutes of Senate – May 14, 2014.*

*Item 2. Speaking rights.* Upon approval of the report, speaking rights were granted to Ms. Jana Luker, Executive Director (Student Services) for items IIA2 (Question Regarding Follow-up to the Joint-Board Senate Meeting on Mental Health), IIA3 (Question Regarding the Promotion of Consent and Safer Spaces on Campus) and IIB3 (Annual Report of the Committee on Student Services (2013-2014)); Professor Abraham Fuks, Research Integrity Officer, for item IIB1 (Annual Report Concerning the Investigation of Research Misconduct 2013-14); and Professor Dan Nicolau, Chair of the Department of Bioengineering for item IIB2 (457th Report of the Academic Policy Committee).

*Item 3. Confidential Session.* On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate agreed that it would enter into Confidential Session for discussion of item IIB8, Report of Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee (D14-07).

*Item 4. Approval of the Agenda*

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

### **4. Business Arising**

The Chair noted that this section on the agenda has been added in compliance with the recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee on the Enhancement of Senate Meetings. She explained that the purpose of this section is to allow her to report on any follow-up actions taken on various items brought to Senate at a previous meeting.

The Chair used this opportunity to discuss some steps taken to implement the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Enhancement of Senate Meetings. She reminded Senators that following the May 2014 Senate meeting, which was held in the Moot Court on a trial basis, Senators were canvassed to gauge whether they believed the Moot Court would be a more suitable space to hold meetings. She reported that the majority of Senators felt that Leacock 232 was better equipped for Senate meetings, and that the Moot Court could be used as an alternate meeting space.

The Chair then discussed the possibility of moving the Senate meeting time to 1:30 p.m. She explained that this was not feasible since it would conflict with many Senators' teaching schedules and room availability.

Also in accordance with the recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee on the Enhancement of Senate Meetings, she mentioned that student groups have been informed of the meeting dates and times, and have been encouraged to set up bake sales in the Leacock lobby to allow Senators to purchase snacks for meetings.

The Chair concluded by indicating that changes to the format of Senate meetings, which had been implemented last year, will continue. For instance, presenters will be asked to limit PowerPoint presentations to a few slides and responses to questions will be circulated in advance of Senate meetings.

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

The Chair began her remarks by thanking the University's student leadership, members of the McGill community, the *Service de Police de la Ville de Montréal* and the Milton Park community for this year's extremely successful Frosh week. She then provided a few facts about the incoming class, noting that the total student body was roughly exactly the same size as last year's. She also mentioned that 56.6% of the student body was female and that 52.3% of students came from Quebec, 23.3% came from the rest of Canada, and 24.1% were of international origins, with top representations from the United States, France, China and India.

The Chair subsequently discussed university rankings. She explained that in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings, McGill maintained its ranking of 21, which was just behind the University of Toronto. She noted that this is the eleventh year in a row that QS has ranked McGill in the top 25 of the world's universities. The Chair explained that the University's ranking is truly remarkable given the substantially more limited resources available to McGill in comparison to its peers. Regarding McGill's ranking in the Shanghai Academic Ranking of World Universities, the Principal noted that the University had slipped from 58<sup>th</sup> to 57<sup>th</sup>. She informed Senators that Shanghai's methodology is generally viewed as less sturdy because it uses a relatively narrow set of criteria. More generally, the Chair noted that the rankings of Canadian universities have been improving, which in turn, helps establish Canada as a leader in higher education and related activities.

Regarding government relations, the Chair explained that last week, she participated in a policy development forum, *Forum des Idées pour le Québec*, which had been organized by the Quebec Liberal Party. She reported that senior government officials, Ministers and the Premier attended the forum in which she chaired one of the panels and served as a panelist on another. At the federal level, she explained that pre-budget consultations will begin in the Fall and that McGill's submission to the federal Finance Committee will call on Ottawa to maintain predictable investments in research, to continue funding excellence-based recruitment programs, to invest in successful research training initiatives, and to create an additional knowledge infrastructure envelope with the New Building Canada Plan. Concerning the federal government's Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF), the Chair said that the details of how the funds will be allocated are not yet known, but that it is anticipated that a call for proposals could occur before the end of the calendar year. The Chair concluded this part of her remarks by mentioning that she will be chairing the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada's Committee on Digital Infrastructure in which she will collaborate with colleagues at Canadian universities to determine how best to upgrade our digital infrastructure on university campuses.

The Chair then called on Senator Di Grappa to provide an update on the McTavish Street project, as requested by Senators. Senator Di Grappa explained that the City of Montreal is expecting construction to last until mid-to late-October. While McGill expects to have full access to the

street by early November, every effort is being made in the meantime to minimize inconveniences and to keep pedestrians safe.

Moving on to kudos, the Chair acknowledged prominent McGill researchers who received major grants under the Canada Brain Research Fund. She noted that Dr. Alan Evans (James McGill Professor of Neurology and Neurosurgery, Psychiatry and Biomedical Engineering) was awarded the Margolese National Brain Disorders Prize by the University of British Columbia for his outstanding contributions to the treatment, amelioration and cure of brain disorders. She also mentioned that Professor Jeffrey Mogil received a multi-million dollar grant for his research on distinct neuro-immune interactions driving sex differences in chronic pain.

The Chair then mentioned that the Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of Health, who had recently announced the launch of the Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging, which is headquartered at the Jewish General Hospital, and led by McGill professor Dr. Howard Chertkow, who is also the co-founder and director of the Jewish General Hospital/McGill Memory Clinic.

The Chair subsequently noted that three innovative research partnerships at McGill have received significant long-term investments from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council partnership grants program, totaling more than \$6.8 million. The McGill researchers are professors Ichiro Fujinaga (Schulich School of Music), Andrew Piper (Languages, Literature & Culture), and Peter G. Brown (School of Environment).

The Chair then acknowledged four faculty members [Professor Adelle Blackett, Professor François Crépeau, Dean Daniel Jutras and Adjunct Professor Marie Deschamps] and three alumni [Me Caroline Ferland (BCL/LLB'95), Me Marie Christine Kirouack (BCL/LLB'91) and Me Simon V. Potter (BCL'71)] who had received the advocatus emeritus title from the Quebec Bar Association for their remarkable careers, outstanding contributions to the legal profession and constructive community work.

The Chair concluded her remarks by sharing that, this month, the Royal Society of Canada announced 90 new Fellows, including the following four McGill researchers and scholars from the Faculties of Science and Medicine: Professors Nigel Roulet, Peter S. McPherson, Constantin Polychronakos and Daniel Wise. She added that Mr. John Ralston Saul, a McGill alumnus, became an honorary member.

In the subsequent discussion, Senator Richard added that a recent BBC news report provided insight as to what is required to rank highly in global university rankings, highlighting that financial resources was emphasized as an important factor. The Chair explained that this demonstrates why McGill's high rank is outstanding since the University is able to compete with the world's top universities, but with significantly fewer resources.

## **SECTION II**

### **Part "A" – Questions and Motions by Members**

1. Question Regarding the Potential impact on McGill of the 2014-2015 Quebec Budget and Spending Estimates

Senators Greenspon, Rourke, Godil and Benrimoh submitted the following question:

Whereas an email memorandum released by the Provost on June 5<sup>th</sup> 2014 outlined the potential impact on McGill of the 2014-2015 Quebec Budget and Spending Estimates, including changes to the prior government's plans for global funding to Quebec Universities and whether cuts to "salary mass overall...and administrative operating expenditures" would apply to the University, and this email stated that the full implications of the Quebec budget would be known by the end of June at which point they would be communicated to Senators by the Provost,

Whereas the follow-up email including details of this year's budget outlook has not yet been sent to Senators, and efforts to attain this information from the Office of the Provost have been unsuccessful,

Whereas a primary concern and duty of the University, as is stipulated in the Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities is to make "every reasonable effort to maintain the quality of education it dispenses" and "provide an appropriate environment for learning", and both missions are impacted by potential cuts to the University's operating budget,

Whereas students share these values regarding quality of education and the learning environment, and wish to be partners with the University in protecting them during the budget development process,

What is the current situation regarding government funding and potential cuts to the operating budget alluded to in the discussed memorandum? Specifically:

- i) Have we received confirmation regarding the amount of funding we will receive this year? If so, how does it affect our operating budget?
- ii) If changes to the operating budget are anticipated, what is the plan for consultation with stakeholders--such as students--regarding the specific nature of these cuts?

The Chair, in her capacity as Principal, provided the response appended as Appendix A.

Senator Greenspon asked whether budget cuts would add to the University's projected deficit, or would result in reduced budget allocations to Faculties. The Principal explained that the University's 2014-2015 budget included provisions for additional investments if promised funding would materialize; since this additional funding is unlikely to be provided, these investments would not be made.



Referring to the answer provided on the budget question, Senator Hastings noted the presence of consultations with the community, and asked for more information about the nature of consultations with the University community. The Principal indicated that consultations with members of the University community occurred in the context of the budget development process and that additional consultations may be required once the impact of the imposed cuts are better known. She added that McGill only recently received provincial government's *Règles Budgétaires* which is complex, 180-page document which remains to be fully analyzed by the University.

Senator Stewart-Kanigan asked when the University will know the full impact of the budget cuts and what the effects would be on the University's budget. The Principal explained that exact numbers are fully known once all accounting has been completed at the *end* of the fiscal year and asked Senator Di Grappa to provide greater insight. Senator Di Grappa added that at a meeting earlier in the day with his counterparts at other Quebec universities, it was agreed that he would participate in a meeting in the coming weeks to better understand some unclear points contained within the *Règles Budgétaires*. Therefore, the impact of the imposed cuts will only understood in the coming months. Senator Stewart-Kanigan suggested that Senate hold its next open discussion on the impact of the provincial government's budget cuts on McGill. The Principal replied that the suggestion will be considered by the Senate Steering Committee at its next meeting.

## 2. Question Regarding Follow-up to the Joint Board-Senate Meeting on Mental Health

Senators Rourke and Stewart-Kanigan submitted the following question:

Whereas, in March 2014, a Follow-up to the Joint Board-Senate Meeting on Mental Health was presented to Senate by the Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning),

Whereas, a project entitled "Survey / Consultation on services and support for students" tasked to the Mental Health Working Group (MHWG) chaired by Prof. Fitzpatrick and Student Services was included in the list of ongoing initiatives,

Whereas, the "pre-arrival advising (course simulator)" initiative described as "[consisting] of a series of tools that will address key, stressful transitions in a student's life (from high school/CEGEP to university, and from 1st to 2nd and 3rd cycles)" was stated to be "currently under development at Teaching and Learning Services"

Whereas the promotion of the well-being of McGill community members is an ongoing focus of students,

- a) What is the status of the release of the report of the Mental Health Working Group?
- b) What is the status of the development of the pre-arrival advising tools, such as the course simulator?
- c) Are steps being taken towards developing a University-wide strategy for the promotion of student mental health following the Joint Board-Senate Meeting on Mental Health,

including implementing the recommendations of the report of the Mental Health Working Group?

Senator Dyens provided the following response:

- a) The report of the Mental Health Working Group has been completed and will soon (by the end of the September) be posted to the Student Services website as a public document. Implementation of the recommendations are well underway; specifically, the following: harmonization of administrative policies between Counselling and Mental Health Units, which began in 2013; wait list referrals between the two services; mental health first aid training for staff; Mental Health unit review in January 2015.
- b) The University has developed a number of pre-arrival advising tools in previous years. These include:
  - The “Advising Checklist,” which has hopefully helped clarify some of the advising-related steps that new students should be taking and when.
  - Two McGill 101 videos were produced, explaining the importance of academic advising and the different types of advising resources to which students have access.
  - Advising and registration information targeted at newly-admitted students was updated and improved on the courses and programs website.
  - Increasing the visibility of “Ask an Advisor” as a resource for new students through:
    - inclusion in the Advising Checklist
    - inclusion in the McGill 101 videos
    - making Recruitment and Welcome Centre staff aware that it is available to newly-admitted students
    - inclusion in the new McGill App
    - holding in-person drop-in hours at Service Point from August 22 – September 5 (including residence move-in weekend). In total, 224 of the 267 students seen during this time were new students.
  - Advising-related information directed at new students is included in both phases of the Ask McGill project.

One could argue that the Early Alert System addresses and/or potentially avoids or contains stress and certain mental health issues.

- c) The terms of reference for such an endeavour are currently being drafted, and we anticipate awarding a two-year contract to a consultant commencing in January 2015 to work with stakeholders across the University.

Senator Ibrahim asked whether mental health resources were also available to staff. Senator Dyens asked Ms. Jana Luker, the Executive Director (Student Services) to respond. Ms. Luker indicated that the University’s staff does have access to mental health services, if needed.

Senator Benrimoh asked what concrete actions are being taken to deal with the volume of help

needed and asked what role the consultant mentioned in response c) would play. Ms. Luker indicated that waiting times for students to consult with a mental health professional are less than two weeks, which meets the University's target. She also noted that McGill has a plan to address any unexpected spikes in demand by providing access services beyond the campus. Regarding the role of consultants, Ms. Luker explained that the process is still in its initial stages and will involve consultation with members across the University community. Senator Rourke asked what channels for student consultation are being planned. Ms. Luker replied that students will play an integral part of the process.

Senator Ayukawa asked how often tools, such as "Ask and Advisor," are used. Senator Costopoulos indicated that the statistics have been compiled and would be circulated to Senators (also attached as Appendix B).

### 3. Question Regarding the Promotion of Consent and Safer Spaces on Campus

Senator Ibrahim and Stewart-Kanigan asked the following question:

Whereas, in an MRO sent to the McGill community in November 2013 by the Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning) in response to the investigation of three McGill students with sexual assault, it was stated that "[McGill] will take proactive measures to ensure that our community values respect for others, both on and off campus," including hosting an annual Dean of Students Forum on Safe Space,

Whereas, the University committed to "expanding [McGill's] programming, like Rez Project and to work collaboratively with others, including the student-run Sexual Assault Centre of the McGill Students' Society (SACOMSS),"

Whereas, it was stated that the University "will also continue to evaluate the role, responsibilities and obligations of all students who serve as role models and ambassadors for the University" and had "scheduled a discussion of this issue" with the Athletic Advisory Board,

- a) What steps have been taken to expand our current programming relating to consent and safer spaces and continue this conversation on campus?
- b) What were the conclusions of the discussion with the Athletic Advisory Board regarding the responsibilities and obligations of all students who serve as role models and ambassadors for the University, and what actions have been and plan to be taken following this discussion?
- c) What is the current status of the annual Dean of Students Forum on Safe Space, and what efforts are being made to reach out to and collaborate with students?

Senator Dyens provided the following response:

- a) 1. Revamped and revised training session for frosh coordinators, leaders & orientation

staff (Health Promotion with Campus Life and Engagement (CL&E)). This training included information on inclusivity, being sensitive to individuals' various backgrounds and experiences. Regarding consent, we included information about the bystander effect with an emphasis on 'checking in' and the underlying assumptions about why people don't check in with situations. Supporting survivors was also discussed, and resources were integrated both into the "myWeek Gateway" and the "How to Frosh" Leader Handbook.

Frosh coordinators facilitated the training and also took extra steps to send information about consent and bystander intervention to their future leaders and orientation staff. Orientation staff were also trained to be the "eyes and ears" of situations to check in on throughout Orientation, especially when alcohol was present.

2. Consent information was included in all 6000 health kits that were distributed during Orientation Week (also a collaboration between CL&E and Health Services). All alcohol messages also included discussions of consent and how it is difficult to get real consent when alcohol or drugs are present.

Bianca Tétreault, from the Dean of Students Office, has been spearheading the consent campaign. Healthy McGill will be running sexual health/consent workshops in residences throughout the semester to continue education in residences on these issues

Other projects:

- "How to Frosh" sessions run by Campus Life & Engagement (CL &E) in collaboration with Student Housing and Hospitality Services (Rez Life) and the student Frosh coordinators which included points on respect and consent.
  - SSMU and CL&E partnered on different communication projects throughout the summer that spoke to topics related to respect and the need for consent.
  - This year, new students registering for Orientation events on the McGill Orientation website were asked to review and agree to different "terms of Orientation", which in most part centred on the importance of acting responsibly, respectfully, and safely.
- b) The McGill Athletics and Recreation Advisory Board tasked the McGill Varsity Council to revise the "McGill University Athletics and Recreation Guide to Varsity Sports for Student-Athletes," and to define precisely of what the "Varsity Student-Athlete Context" and the "Varsity Sport Guiding Principles and Policies" consist. Two new sections have been added to the "Recreation Guide," one for each topic.

Revisions to the document were submitted by the Council to the Advisory Board and have now been sent to Legal Services for review. The final version will be posted on McGill's website in the near future.

- c) - The Consent Campaign, to be launched in October 2014, will be taking over the role of the Safer Spaces Forum. This campaign has been created in collaboration with a variety

of stakeholders at McGill including staff, faculty, students, and other community members.

- Website on sexual violence is being developed for the McGill site.
- McGill's Harm Reduction Coordinator will be facilitating workshops through SEDE entitled *Sexual Assault and Consent Awareness Raising*, open to all staff, faculty and graduate students.
- Rez is developing posters that will address myths on sexual assault and consent. The posters will also serve as a promotional piece for the Consent Campaign.
- Rez project has redesigned their gender and sexuality workshop to include a more detailed discussion on consent and sexual assault.
- A bystander intervention program has been purchased, and will be launched in the winter semester. This program will train community members on how to be an active bystander and prevent sexual violence. Athletics has agreed to be the first to train their staff and coaches in this program, later this semester.
- The Frosh Leader Training was also redesigned, to include a section on consent, bystander intervention, and how to support someone affected by sexual violence. Condoms and condom packages were developed to address consent when engaging in sexual activity. These packages were distributed in the Frosh kits, along with coasters for drinks that also included information on safety.
- EUS runs a gender identity/consent workshop for first year students. This workshop was redesigned to include more hands-on information on consent and sexual assault.

Senator Snyder asked how revisions to the various guides mentioned in response b) were communicated to students. Senator Dyens explained that the McGill Athletics and Recreation Advisory Board includes students and revised guides are posted on the appropriate McGill website.

Senator Stewart-Kanigan asked whether the University intends to institutionalize consent training for McGill athletes. She also asked if there is discussion at the University regarding the suspension of athletes during behaviour-related investigations. Regarding the former question, Senator Dyens replied that the University has no intention to target athletes for consent training as all McGill students should be treated equally. In response to the latter follow-up question, Senator Costopoulos said that discussion is on-going and explained that section 21 of the *Code of Student Conduct* allows for the suspension of students during investigations.

Senator Ibrahim acknowledged the efforts made to ensure safety of all participants during Frosh and asked what other efforts are made beyond Frosh. Senator Dyens indicated that the University's harm reduction advisor is developing a campaign, but explained that Frosh is an important focus because it is at the beginning of the academic year. Senator Costopoulos added

that Frosh is an important vehicle for communication since it is the first McGill experience for entering students and establishes standards for behaviour.

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

### Open Session

#### 1. Annual Report Concerning the Investigation of Research Misconduct (2013-2014) (D14-01)

Senator Goldstein, Vice Principal (Research and International Relations), introduced Professor Abraham Fuks, the Research Integrity Officer, who presented this report for Senate's information. Professor Fuks provided an overview of the number of research misconduct allegations, highlighting that six allegations were received in 2013-2014 and that the majority of these allegations were lodged by members outside the University community. He subsequently thanked members of the community who were involved in the investigation of the allegations.

Senator Hastings asked why allegations of research misconduct tend to be lodged by members outside the University community. Professor Fuks replied that this reflects an increased awareness of research misconduct within the global research community. He also indicated that in an era of reduced resources earmarked for research, researchers feel additional pressure to generate grant funding and may sometimes engage in research misconduct to do so.

#### 2. 457<sup>th</sup> Report of the Academic Policy Committee (D14-02)

Senator White, Associate Provost (Policies, Procedures and Equity), presented this item for Senate's approval. She explained that Senate approval was required for the creation of a Bachelor in Engineering (Major in Bioengineering), which had previously been approved by Senate, but which the provincial government asked be revised. These revisions were incorporated into the degree currently being presented for Senate's consideration

Senators had no questions concerning this item.

*On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the proposed B.Eng; major in Bioengineering (141-151 cr.).*

#### 3. Annual Report of the Committee on Student Services (2013-2014) (D14-03)

Senator Dyens, Deputy Provost (Student Life & Learning), presented this report for Senate's information. The report provides an overview of the issues that the Committee addressed during the 2013-2014 academic year and its plans for 2014-2015.

Senator Lu noted that of the students availing themselves of mental health services on-campus, 30% are international students, primarily from the United States; she indicated that students from some cultures may be less likely to access such services and asked what the University is doing to counter this. Senator Dyens acknowledged that research shows that students, particularly from Asian cultures, tend to be less likely to seek mental health assistance. To overcome cultural

obstacles, he replied that the University is working with student groups, such as the Post-Graduate Students' Society, to develop testimonial videos in mother tongue languages targeted to the aforementioned cultural groups.

Senator Rourke noted that 80% of those seeking mental health services at the University live on-campus, which means they are first-year students, and enquired why. Ms. Luker explained that access and awareness are two important factors which inherently increase for students who live on-campus. She also mentioned that once students move off-campus, they are more likely to seek mental health services in their communities.

Senator Bader added that Continuing Studies students are not currently eligible to receive mental health services at the University, but that the McGill Association for Continuing Education Students would like to discuss with the Deputy Provost the possibility of providing mental health services to this group of students.

**4. Annual Report on the Policy on Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law (2013-2014)** (D14-04)

Senator White presented this report for information, highlighting that there were fewer complaints filed in 2013-2014 than in the previous year.

Senator Benrimoh noted that many complaints tend not to be pursued to the point of investigation; he inquired why and asked what the University is doing to address this. Senator White explained that, sometimes, individuals contact assessors for information or advice on their specific situation; however, many may not continue under the Policy since there are multiple avenues to address a given situation. In addition, she noted that it is difficult to track where individuals go to seek recourse or when issues are resolved through other means. Senator Lu suggested that the University study how best to track this. Senator White replied that while she would be willing to look into this matter, confidentiality rules will affect the ability to obtain more information. She reminded Senators that basic information, such as one's name, is not required when speaking to an assessor.

Senator Snyder asked whether assessors receive mediation and sensitivity training to help them fulfill their duties. Senator White replied that mediation training is beyond assessors' roles, but that sensitivity training is provided to all assessors.

**5. Annual Report of the Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity (2013-2014)** (D14-05)

Senator White presented this report for information. She highlighted that the second competition for the Award for Equity and Community Building took place in Winter 2014, and that this award will be more advertised to the McGill community. She also indicated that the newly created Subcommittee on Family Care is being populated and will be studying family-related issues on-campus in the 2014-2015 governance year. She concluded her presentation by stating that the Committee supports a revision to the University's mission statement to include McGill's embrace of diversity; this is currently under review.

Senator Ibrahim noted that the report of the Subcommittee on Persons with Disabilities indicated that the office of Social Equity and Diversity Education (SEDE) was working on increasing the accessibility of single person and gender-neutral washrooms on campus. He inquired as to why and whether this would be a task better suited for McGill Facilities. Senator White explained that multiple stakeholders (such as Facilities, SEDE, the Subcommittee on Persons with Disabilities) are collaborating on this project.

Senator Stewart-Kanigan asked why the request to raise the Hiawatha Wampum Belt flag on campus during significant days of the year, such as Aboriginal Day, was unsuccessful. The Secretary-General indicated that the University was unable to fully analyze the request to raise the flag for Aboriginal Day on June 21, 2014 in time for that date. He added that a special webpage had been created for the event. Going forward, he indicated the Secretariat's willingness to consider raising the flag in 2015.

**6. Report of the Senate Nominating Committee** (D14-06)

Senator Grant presented this report for Senate's approval. He explained that the report contained recommendations to fill vacancies on various Senate Standing Committees and Committees Arising from the University Regulations.

*On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the recommendations contained in the Report of the Senate Nominating Committee (D14-05) to fill vacancies on various Senate Standing Committees,*

*Senate further approved the recommendations to fill vacancies on various Committees Arising from the University Regulations.*

**7. Other Business**

No other business items were raised.

**8. Report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee** (D14-07)

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 C).

There being no other business to deal with, on a motion duly proposed and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

END

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