

Minutes

Wednesday, January 18, 2023 22-23:05

Minutes of the meeting of Senate held on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at 2:30 p.m. in the Robert Vogel Council Room (Room 232) of the Leacock Building (future site of the Rimer Building).

PRESENT

Arseneault, Louis	Hansen, Patrick	Quitoriano, Nathaniel
Baron, Sam	Hastings, Kenneth	Rassier, Dilson
Bartlett, Joan	Hickman, Miranda	Richard, Marc
Beauchamp, Yves	Karaminassian, Roubina	Rogers, Dakota
Bede, Jacqueline	Khoury, Lara	Roosta, Alireza
Beech, Robin	Kirk, Andrew	Shapiro, Lisa
Behzadi, Houman	Kouchakji, Kristi	Shor, Eran
Blanchette, Mathieu	Labeau, Fabrice	Snider, Laurie
Borenstein, Bonnie	Lennox, Bruce	Soehl, Thomas
Campbell, Angela	Levey, Margaret	Sroka-Fillion, Nathalie
Cumming, Julie	Levine, Alissa	Theodore, David
Czemmel, Nancy	Levy, Jacob	Tonin, Patricia
D'Iorio, Luciano	Liu, Sonya	Tureli, Ipek
Dirks, Melanie	Low, Bronwen	Vachon, Brigitte
Eidelman, David	Manfredi, Christopher	Weil, Carola
Elbourne, Elizabeth	Mantere, Saku	Weinstein, Marc
Ellis, Jaye	Mittermaier, Anthony	Weinstock, Daniel
Emami, Elham	Moore, Catriona	Werber, Joshua
Fakih, Mustafa	Nalbantoglu, Josephine	Winer, Laura
Ferguson, Sean	Nicell, Jim	Wright, Risann
Fronza, Michael	Nilson, Laura	Yang, Kerry
Geddes, Maiya Rachel	Nycum, Gillian	Zorychta, Edith
Geitmann, Anja	Perepichka, Dima	
Grignon, Chantal	Poorhemati, Hossein	

REGRETS: Guylaine Beaudry, Maryse Bertrand, Sébastien Breau, Francesca Carrieri, Yolande Chan, Martha Crago, Beth Cummings, Jean Deschenes, Susan Drouin, Gael Eakin, Eleanor Elstein, Pierre-Luc Girard-Lauriault, Terry Hébert, Darlene Hnatchuk, Claire Hunter, Juliet Johnson, Svetlana Kochkina, Srinivasan Krishnamurthy, Robert Leckey, Jose Londono, John McCall MacBain, Jeffrey McKenzie, Ahmed Anwar Mohamed, Momar Ndao, Derek Nystrom, Étienne Poirier, Martin Robillard, Petra Rohrbach, Jennifer Ronholm, Francisco Ruge-Murcia, Harmehr Sekhon, Karsten Steinhauer, Narendra Subramanian, Mahidul Syed, Ghali Benjoullon Touimi, David Vaillancourt, Manon Vennat, Coco Jie Wang, Isabella Xia.

1. Welcoming Remarks

The Chair welcomed Senators to the fifth regular Senate meeting of the 2022-2023 governance year, held in-person in the Robert Vogel Council Room (Room 232) of the Leacock Building (future site of the Rimer Building). Senators and guests were reminded that the use of electronic devices was permitted for viewing meeting documents, but that the Standing Rules of Procedure prohibit the recording of sound or images, and as well the communication or posting of Senate deliberations. It was mentioned that the meeting was being livestreamed, and that the audio recording would be accessible until the meeting minutes are approved at Senate's next meeting.

2. Memorial Tributes

The Chair informed Senators that no memorial tributes had been submitted for the January 18, 2023, meeting of Senate.

3. Report of the Steering Committee (22:23-05)

Senate received the Report of the Steering Committee (22-23:05).

Item 1. Approval of Minutes of Senate. Meeting of December 7, 2022.

Item 2. Speaking Rights. Upon approval of the report, speaking rights were granted to Mr. Richard Martin, Executive Director (Analysis, Planning, and Budget), for item IIB3 (Budget Planning 2023-2024 Report I); and Professor Christopher Buddle, Chair of the Working Group on New Models of Academic Program Delivery, for item IIB5 (Update on New Models of Academic Program Delivery).

Item 3. Approval of the Agenda.

Item 4. Review of Questions and Motions. No questions or motions were submitted for the December 7, 2022, meeting of Senate.

4. Business Arising from the November 16, 2022 Minutes

There was none.

5. Chair's Remarks

The Chair began his remarks by reporting that The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, visited campus to discuss Canada's environmental policy and the fight against climate change with Chemical Engineering students from CHEE 401 (Energy Systems Engineering). Senator Arsenault briefed the Minister on campus priority projects, including the New Vic Project, and invited him to return to campus in the future to discuss the projects further. The Chair went on to share that, on December 8, 2022, Quebec Finance Minister Eric Girard presented Quebec's economic update. Senators were informed that the Provincial Government's budgetary deficit for 2022–2023 was anticipated to be lower than announced in

March 2022, decreasing from approximately \$6.5 billion to \$5.2 billion, though the return to a balanced budget was still planned for 2027–2028. It was mentioned that, in keeping with the global context, the economic outlook for the Province, and Canada at-large, for 2023 had declined, and Quebec's economic growth is expected to slow from 3.1% in 2022, to 0.7% in 2023. Despite this slowdown, Government investment in higher education is expected to increase over the next three fiscal years. This growth would mainly be due to the introduction of targeted programs that were previously announced, including scholarships in areas of labour shortages, and student aid measures. To mitigate the impact of inflation, the indexation rate of public services will be capped at 3%, effective January 1, 2023, for a period of four years- this cap will affect University-regulated tuition fees that apply mainly to domestic students enrolled in Undergraduate and Master's non-thesis programs, as well as to all students in Master's thesis and Ph.D. programs. The Chair informed Senators that the government intends to compensate universities for the difference between these increases, and the expected increases in expenditures due to inflation, though information regarding the level of compensation is currently unknown

Regarding Community Relations, the Chair shared that the Principal's Student Athlete Academic Honor Roll Gala had recently taken place, once again in-person. He explained that the annual event recognizes those varsity student athletes who were able to both compete in the last season, while concurrently maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or higher. It was reported that, in 2021-2022, 41%, or 207/501, of all varsity student athletes were recipients of the Honour Roll, and that all nine varsity teams that were unable to compete during the 2021-2022 seasons, have either made, or will make, a return for the 2022-2023 season. The Chair went on to extend his congratulations to the University community for raising \$421,000 in benefit of Centraide of Greater Montreal. He explained that some donations are still being processed, and so he remained hopeful that the fundraising goal of \$425,000 will be achieved. The Chair expressed his gratitude to all those who donated, as well as those who served on the McGill Centraide Committee, led by Senator Beauchamp and Senator Geitmann.

Concerning Reappointments, the Chair announced that the Board of Governors has approved two decanal reappointments at its meeting of December 15, 2022. Senator Emami was reappointed as Dean of the Faculty of Dental Medicine and Oral Health Sciences for a second five-year term, and Senator Weil was also reappointed as Dean of the School of Continuing Studies for a second five-year term. The Board also approved the extension of the current appointment of Senator Crago as Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation) for a one-year period.

Sharing selected Kudos, the Chair highlighted the achievements of Dr. Carolyn Freeman, Dr. Bernard Lapointe, and Dr. John Bergeron, all members of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, as well as alumni Samuel Gewurz, Philippe Lette, Frantz Saintellemy, and Dr. David Saint-Jacques, who were recently appointed to the Order of Canada by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary May Simon. Three University-led initiatives were included on the Quebec Science Top 10 list for 2022, being a joint research project on depression, a study on microbes in extreme environments, as well as a project on Leishmaniasis. Senators were also informed that Professors Charles Gale and Daryl Haggard both received medals from the Canadian Association of Physics (CAP) for their research.

SECTION II

Part "A" – Questions and Motions by Members

1. There were none.

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

Open Session

1. **Report of the Academic Policy Committee** (D22-30)

Senator Labeau presented this report to Senate for consideration. It provided an overview of matters considered and actions undertaken by the Academic Policy Committee at their meeting of December 8, 2022. The report included the Committee's recommendation that Senate approve the creation of a new Master's thesis program (M.Sc.) in Architecture (45 credits) in the Faculty of Engineering.

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the creation of the proposed M.Sc. in Architecture (45 credits).

2. **Report of the Senate Nominating Committee** (D22-31)

Senator Lennox presented this report to Senate for consideration. He explained that the report contained recommendations for appointments to Senate Standing Committees, more specifically, the Committee on Student Services, and the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee, arising from the Senate Nominating Committee's e-vote which concluded on January 10, 2023.

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the recommendations for appointments to Senate Standing Committees contained in the Report of the Senate Nominating Committee (D22-31).

3. **Budget Planning 2023-2024 Report I** (D22-32)

Senator Labeau presented this report to Senate for information. He explained that this report was the first of three presentations with respect to the planning of the 2023-2024 University Budget. It was noted that, based on actuals and commitments at September 30, 2022, as well as financial information collected from units and historical trends, the updated expectations was such that both revenues and expenses will be higher than originally anticipated, with an anticipated deficit of \$9.2M, including a \$5.5M remaining contingency, reduced from originally expected amounts of \$9.4M and \$20M, respectively. Senator Labeau reported that tuition and fee revenues had decreased, though revenues from the sale of goods and services had increased to a greater extent than expected. Increases to Administrative and Support Staff salaries accounted for some variance, as the costs incurred by the new Collective Agreement were higher than expected. He shared that some priorities for 2023-2024 were balancing the budget, furthering the University's Mission, maintaining competitive salary increases, and increasing student recruitment. It was noted that

turnover in certain areas of the University represented a challenge for Human Resources, though it would be addressed while maintaining fiscal responsibility. In terms of financed accumulated deficit, the target limit will be \$130M in 2023-2024. Senator Labeau informed members that, since the report was drafted, the increase in regulated tuition fees had been determined to be approximately 3%.

Senator Richard inquired if, regarding the reclassification of revenues, universities would be allowed more leeway in the use of targeted funding from the Ministry. Senator Labeau confirmed that while more flexibility was possible, universities were still required to report on the spending purpose of those funds. Regarding the anticipated FY2023 variance increase of \$13.4M brought on by the new collective agreement, Senator Hastings inquired if the increase was directly attributable to inflation, and what plans were being formulated for inflation going forward. Senator Labeau explained that the difference was due to the negotiated increase in salaries, and not inflation alone. He also noted that salary increases should continue around the current rate, which is indeed affected by inflation. Senator Elbourne inquired if staffing at the departmental level was seen as stable, to which Senator Labeau replied that the turnover rate was roughly 7%, as is usual, but noted that recruitment is more challenging post-pandemic. Senator Richard requested clarification on the subject of deregulated tuition increases, and Senator Labeau shared that the University was in the process of determining the fees that will be applied to deregulated students in self-funded programs.

4. Report from the Board of Governors to Senate (D22-33)

Senator D'Iorio presented this report to Senate for information. He explained that the report contained an overview of matters considered and discussions held by the Board of Governors at recent meetings. Concerning appointments and reappointments, he highlighted that the Board had approved the appointment of Professor H. Deep Saini as Principal and Vice-Chancellor of McGill University for a five-year term, renewable, starting April 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2028. He also mentioned the appointment of Ms. Maarika Paul as Vice-Chair of the Board for a two-year term commencing July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. Senator D'Iorio went on to share that the Board had also approved the Research Grant Agreement between McGill University, and Brain Canada, which was valued at approximately \$6.1 million, in support of the Virtual Integrated Patient Platform project. He noted that the Construction of Lot 1 of 3 of the New Residence Hall (Repairs to the Façade) was also approved, as was University Advancement's (UA) Customer Relationship Management System project.

5. Update on New Models of Academic Program Delivery (D22-34)

Professor Buddle presented this update to Senate for information. He highlighted that the purpose of engaging Senators on this topic was to gather feedback on the development of recommendations and ideas relating to academic program delivery. It was noted that Academic Accommodations, Accessibility, and Assessment were all connected to the work of the New Models of Academic Program Delivery Working Group. Professor Buddle provided an overview of the draft recommendations relating to online/blended learning, and underscored the importance of adopting uniform nomenclature and definitions regarding these methods of instruction, as well as developing unit/department/faculty-specific guidelines on them as well. He shared that consistent

definitions of program types (i.e. blended program, online program, etc.) are also recommended, along with the robust development of the University’s credit and non-credit summer activities, with particular attention to non-thesis Master’s that may be completed within twelve months by fully utilizing the summer term. The enhancement and support of experiential learning opportunities was also outlined in the draft recommendations, as well as the importance of the University maintaining flexibility in response to needs as they develop and emerge.

Senator Baron requested further clarification on the University’s approach to paid vs. unpaid experiential learning opportunities. Professor Buddle replied by confirming that there exists great diversity in the variety of opportunities, and Senator Labeau commented that the University aimed to maximize paid opportunities, while managing unpaid ones, through avenues such as need-based financial support. Senator Kirk noted his appreciation for the broad recommendations, as well as for the more ‘local’ approach of unit/department/faculty guideline development, though he expressed concern regarding the potential increase in workload for instructors. He also stressed that blended learning requires a strong commitment to teaching philosophy and achieving objectives. Senator Quoriano inquired how the Working Group envisioned the rollout of the recommendations, and if any business models had been created. Professor Buddle indicated that the Working Group would submit their final report to the Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic) no later than March 1, 2023, and that some applicable recommendations may be presented to Senate before year’s end. He noted that business models would be developed in support of the review of summer activities and program offerings. Senator Elbourne suggested that a broad survey of the current student cohort’s experience with respect to online and blended learning may be useful, as well as a fundraising initiative in support of investment in instruction, to which Professor Buddle indicated his support. Senator Yang inquired if the reallocation of resources to support the implementation of any recommendations would be necessary, or if it was intended to obtain funding through other means. Professor Buddle replied by noting that some recommendations may require resources, while others may not, and that discussions would be had to consider the development of classroom upgrades and investments. Senator Hastings suggested that acute accommodations with respect to blended learning may be best handled by instructors alone, without needing unit/department/faculty approval. Senator Baron voiced support for Senator Elbourne’s suggestion to survey the current student cohort, on the grounds that the current cohort experienced student life and learning before, during, and after the COVID-19 pandemic. Senator Cumming supported Senator Hastings’ suggestion with respect to acute accommodations, and noted that investment in classroom technology could allow for the replacement of outdated systems while concurrently facilitating certain forms of blended learning and student accommodations. Professor Buddle thanked Senators for their comments and suggestions.

6. Annual Report of the Advisory Council on the Charter of Students’ Rights (D22-35)

Senator Levy presented this report to Senate for information. He indicated that the Advisory Council did not convene in 2021-2022 as no requests for review were received, and thus had no business to report on.

Senator Richard expressed that the Senate cover memo template may benefit from revisions to the ‘Sustainability Considerations’ section to allow for ease of understanding and completion.

(Secretary’s Note: Following the meeting, the relevant section of the memo was reviewed, and the updated template will be used for the presentation of documents at future meetings of Senate).

Senator Baron inquired if the Advisory Council only convened upon receipt of a request for review. The Chair informed him that this was indeed the case. The Secretary-General elaborated by explaining that, indeed, the Advisory Council only meets to consider allegations that regulations or policies of the University are in breach of, or incompatible with, the provisions of the [Charter of Students’ Rights](#).

7. Other Business

There being no other business to deal with, on a motion duly proposed and seconded, the meeting ended at 3:29 p.m.

END

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