



Minutes

Wednesday, March 23, 2016 15-16:07

Minutes of the meeting of Senate held on Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at 2:30 p.m. in the Robert Vogel Council Room (Room 232, Leacock Building)

PRESENT

Bader, Darine	Fuhrer, Rebecca	Mills, Devin
Bajeux-Besnainou, Isabelle	Galaty, John	Mineau, Guy
Bartlett, Joan	Gehr, Ronald	Moore, Timothy
Bede, Jacqueline	Gehring, Kalle	Moye, Felicia
Benrimoh, David	Goldstein, Rose	Mucci, Alfonso
Bernard, Daniel	Gore, Genevieve	Nalbantoglu, Josephine
Brunot, Benjamin	Green, Garth	Nicell, Jim
Campbell, Angela	Gruenheid, Samantha	Panda, Ram
Carter, Mindy	Gyakum, John	Potter, Judith
Chainani, Parvesh	Harpp, David	Rassier, Dilson
Chatel-Launay, Nicolas	Hastings, Kenneth	Richard, Marc
Chu, Kathleen	Hébert, Terence	Riches, Caroline
Cobbett, Stuart	Ibrahim, Kareem	Roulet, Nigel
Coderre, Terence	Jutras, Daniel	Rourke, Chloe
Cook, Colleen	Kaartinen, Mari	Saroyan, Alenoush
Cooke, Rosemary	Kalil, Alex	Smailes, Marina
Covo, David	Kamen, Amine	Snider, Laurie
Crelinsten, Gordon	Kpeglo-Hennessy	Sobat, Erin
Damha, Masad	Alexander	Steinhauer, Karsten
Di Grappa, Michael	Kuzaitis, Ruth	Stephens, David
Di Paola, Antonia	Lane-Mercier, Gillian	Strople, Stephen
Doucette, Elaine	Lennox, Bruce	(Secretary)
Dumont, Marie-Josée	Levey, Margaret	Thon, Joshua
Dyens, Ollivier	Lowther, David	Toccalino, Danielle
Eidelman, David	Manfredi, Christopher	Waters, Natalie
Elstein, Eleanore	Marcil, Olivier	Weinstein, Marc
Farid, Doaa	Martel, Michel	Winer, Laura
Ferguson, Sean	Massey, Kathleen	Yalovsky, Morty
Fortier, Suzanne	McCulloch, Mary Jo	Zorychta, Edith
	Meadwell, Hudson	

REGRETS: Paul Allison, Lisa Barg, Daniel Cere, Allen Chen, Julie Choi, Andre Costopoulos, Gregory Dudek, Jim Engle-Warnick, Anja Geitmann, Richard Gold, Peter Grütter, Reghan Hill, Amanda Holmes, Brett Hooton, Ashraf Ismail, Lucyna Lach, Marcelo Lannes, Michael A. Meighen, Tomer Noyhouzer, Philip Oxhorn, Trevor Ponech, Cynthia Price, Saibal Ray, Fiona Ritchie, Bernard Robaire, Devon Sanon, Josefina Zalba,

SECTION I

1. Welcoming Remarks

The Chair welcomed Senators to the seventh Senate meeting of the 2015-2016 governance year. She reminded Senators, guests and spectators that the use of electronic devices 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.

2. Memorial Tributes

There were none.

3. Report of the Steering Committee (15:16-07)

Senate received the Report of the Steering Committee (15-16:07).

Item 1. Approval of Minutes of Senate – February 17, 2016.

Item 2. Approval of Confidential Minutes of Senate – February 17, 2016.

Item 3. Speaking rights. Upon approval of the report, speaking rights were granted to Mr. Glenn Zabowski, Associate Dean of Students, for item IIB3 (Proposed Revisions to the University Student Assessment Policy) and Ms. Cara Piperni, Director, Scholarships & Student Aid Office, for item IIB5 (Annual Report on Scholarships and Student Aid (2014-15)).

Item 2. Confidential Session – Item IIB10, Report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee.

Item 4. Approval of the Agenda.

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

4. Business Arising from Previous Senate Minutes

Senator Kpeglo-Hennessy asked if any progress has been made on the matter of course outlines, which was discussed at the last Senate meeting. Senator Dyens agreed to provide an update at the April Senate meeting.

5. Chair's Remarks

The Chair began her remarks by congratulating Ms. Edyta Rogowska on her appointment as Secretary-General, effective July 1st, 2016. She also thanked Mr. Stephen Strople, the current Secretary-General for the great work he has done

The Chair then informed Senators that the Committee to Advise on Matters of Social Responsibility (“CAMSR”) delivered its final report on Divest McGill’s submission to the University’s Board of Governors (the “Board”) at a special meeting earlier that day. She reminded Senators that in February 2015, Divest McGill submitted a comprehensive report to CAMSR which identified fossil fuels as a leading source of climate change, and asked that McGill divest itself of investments in fossil fuel companies. She explained that instead of recommending divestment at present, CAMSR recommended that the University undertake a series of important actions to mitigate climate change. She stated that in endorsing CAMSR’s report, the Board has asked its Investment Committee to consider and report on actions to address principles of socially responsible investment. The Board has also asked the University administration to provide it with a preliminary overview of all current sustainability-related activities. This overview will provide the basis for integrating, and possibly expanding, those initiatives to create a comprehensive climate action plan. The Chair noted that addressing climate change in a manner consistent with the University’s mission is a McGill priority. She stressed that this is an issue that all members of the administration are committed to and that the Board will include in its stewardship role. The Chair encouraged all Senators to review CAMSR’s report, which is available on the Secretariat’s website.

The Chair then discussed the Quebec and federal budgets, which were tabled last week. With respect to the provincial budget, the Chair noted three key aspects. Firstly, she noted that there are no cuts in funding to universities. Secondly, modest funding increases were announced for each year over the next three years. Finally, a number of targeted investments were made, several of which will benefit McGill. These investments include investments for infrastructure, the McGill Agrifood Innovation Network, and support for a number of initiatives in which McGill is a partner, such as the creation of the *Institut nordique du Québec*, and maintenance of the Coriolis II oceanography research vessel. The Chair also noted that the provincial government announced additional investments to accelerate the growth of the digital economy, aerospace industry and life sciences sector, with the expectation that university communities would participate with those sectors to advance science and innovation.

The Chair then shared key aspects of the federal budget. She noted that up to \$2 billion over three years, starting in 2016-17, will be allocated to the new Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund. Eligible projects include conversion of under-utilized space into new research labs, and the retrofit of existing buildings for research and development. The Chair then noted that the budget contained investments for investigator-driven research funding. She explained that starting in 2016-17, an additional \$95 million per year has been allocated on an ongoing basis to the granting councils, on top of the \$46 million per year in additional funding beginning in 2016-17 that was allocated in last year’s federal budget. She also mentioned that the budget provided for two additional Canada Excellence Research Chairs in fields related to clean and sustainable technology (in addition to the anticipated twenty new Chairs) and for up to \$800 million over four 4 years, starting in 2017-18, to support innovation networks and clusters as part of the Government’s upcoming Innovation Agenda. Finally, the Chair noted that the budget put forward a series of student-related measures in order to make post-secondary education more affordable for low income students and families.

The Chair then shared that approximately forty expressions of interest were received by the Principal's Task Force on the Academic Vision and Mission of the RVH Site from McGill groups interested in moving to the RVH site. The Task Force is examining the submissions carefully and will then meet with the groups who made submissions.

Regarding community relations, the Chair reported that McGill24, the University's first-ever day of giving, raised \$793,187, making it the most successful one-day fundraiser of its kind in Canadian university history. She then shared that she attended meetings in the United Arab Emirates with Senator Weinstein, alumni, supporters and potential academic partners. They also met with representatives of the Crown Prince Court in Abu Dhabi to follow up on the major agreement that McGill signed last year to provide generous funding for graduate fellowships in STEM disciplines, and to explore further areas of cooperation. Finally, she spoke about her participation in an Advancement evening with alumni in New York. She explained that the event was organized in conjunction with the concert of the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal (OSM) at Carnegie Hall, noting that the OSM includes 24 McGill graduates and faculty members.

The Chair concluded her remarks by giving highlights of the kudos circulated prior to the meeting. She shared that six McGill law students were chosen in this year's recruitment round to clerk at the Supreme Court of Canada and that the Faculty of Law finished in first place in three national moot competitions: the Gale Cup, the Laskin Moot, and the Tribunal-école interfacultaire Pierre-Basile Mignault. She then congratulated Professors Jinxia J. Liu (Civil Engineering), Subhasis S. Ghoshal (Civil Engineering), Stephen Yue (Materials Engineering), Janine Mauzeroll (Chemistry), and François Barthelat (Mechanical Engineering) on receiving a total of over \$2.4 million in NSERC Strategic Partnership Grants for 2016. She noted that the five awards will fund projects working to either mitigate environmental impact or produce more efficient manufactured goods.

The subsequent discussion focused on the special Board meeting and the additional security measures at the Senate meeting. Certain Senators expressed their discontent with the Board meeting agenda being available online only that same morning and with Divest McGill not being invited to the meeting. The Secretary-General explained that the meeting was a special meeting, a notice for which was only sent out last week. He agreed that the agenda should have been posted on the Secretariat's website earlier and accepted responsibility for the oversight. Senator Cobbett added that everyone is welcome to attend open sessions of Board meetings but it is not common practice to send invitations. He stated that in the past, contentious items led to disruptions and even though Divest McGill has been respectful, there were reasons to believe the added security was necessary.

Senator Benrimoh stated that even if the measures taken were not deliberate to silence student dissent, there was an appearance of lack of openness and transparency. He suggested a memorandum of apology from McGill stating that it was inappropriate, in the context of a free and open discussion at a university, to have the Board meeting right before Senate and to block off Senate via an increased security presence. The Principal responded that the appearance of transparency needs to be balanced with the responsibility of ensuring the safety of the McGill community. She noted that the demonstrations on campus have generally been peaceful and

conducted in a respectful manner. However, the safety of the community is taken very seriously, especially with all the tragic events occurring around the world. Senator Cobbett explained that CAMSR made a commitment to issue a decision before the end of March (before the exam period and before the student body dispersed for the summer). He noted that other factors and meetings already scheduled earlier in the week, such as the Board Retreat and the Joint Senate Steering-Board Executive committees meeting made it difficult to schedule the Board meeting on another day.

In response to Senator Sobat's comment on the lack of public consultation, the Principal responded that all governance processes were diligently followed. She stated that as part of CAMSR's deliberations, there were four meetings with representatives of Divest McGill as well as other consultations with members of the community, who had an opportunity to speak and make presentations in support of the submission. She explained that ultimately it is CAMSR's responsibility to make recommendations to the Board. She noted that CAMSR shares the view of Divest McGill that climate change is an important issue but specified that it reached different conclusions as to the course of action required.

Senator Brunot commented that he was a victim of theft last week at the Faculty of Law. He noted that many of his colleagues have experienced systemic violence at the University and feel unsafe on campus but do not benefit from increased security. He also stated that voicing legitimate concerns in a democratic assembly with elected representatives and the right to peacefully protest and express dissent is unrelated to acts of terrorism occurring around the world. He then expressed disappointment over the timing and the way decisions and events are communicated to the community, noting that many events are not recognized by the University. He suggested that students be consulted before communications are released to allow the administration to receive feedback on how the message will be perceived by the student body. The Principal thanked Senator Brunot for his suggestions. She agreed that it is important to reach out to the leadership in the student body and the staff when speaking on behalf of the University, despite the fact that it is not always possible to speak with a common voice.

SECTION II

Part "A" – Questions and Motions by Members

1. Question Regarding the Ethical Conduct of Suppliers

Senator Hébert submitted the following question:

Whereas, Section 3.1.4 of McGill's Procurement Policy reads as follows:

McGill University values suppliers who preserve irreproachable ethical behavior and are committed to good corporate values. Adhesion by the suppliers to the ethical and professionalism expectations set by the University is a condition to any contract award;

Whereas, the vital role of responsible animal use in advancing health and biomedical research and its public perception is undermined by institutions and companies that do not conform to ethical standards in animal care;

Whereas, there is clear value in ethical institutions communicating their repudiation of such practices and to publicly communicate a responsible and ethical position on the use of animals in research;

1. What mechanisms exist to ban or otherwise end commercial relationships with suppliers who fail to meet our ethical standards according to McGill procurement policies?
2. How do we determine if such a mechanism should be applied to specific suppliers?
3. How does McGill become aware of such practices and what is the procedure to notify the University administration of alleged unethical behaviour by suppliers?

Senator Di Grappa provided the following written response prior to the Senate meeting:

1. There are several ways by which this can be achieved:
 - By virtue of Clause 4.2.2 (c) of McGill University's Procurement Policy, Procurement Services can issue Procurement Directives "when urgent realignment of a practice is required due to non-compliance". In such instances, Procurement Services can ban and/or restrict the purchase of goods and services from suppliers who are unethical or who fail to comply with the law;
 - By including the McGill Supplier Code of Conduct in all purchase orders. The first draft of McGill Supplier Code of Conduct is expected to be adopted and implemented by May 2016;
 - By the terms and conditions of individual contracts with suppliers.
2. For the moment, the University's expectations for the ethical and lawful behaviour of its suppliers are detailed in the University's Procurement Policy and in certain contracts with suppliers. Procurement Services staff have been trained to uphold the Procurement Policy and to recognize suppliers' unethical and/or unlawful behaviour.

Procurement Services seeks to validate non-compliance allegations when a supplier's activities are recognized as inconsistent with the provisions of the Procurement Policy. It also assesses with key stakeholders the potential impact of a ban or restriction of a supplier's products. Depending on the outcome, Procurement Services would take one or more of the following steps:

- informing McGill's senior administration of the situation;
- issuing a formal letter to the supplier to request immediate corrective measures;
- communicating a Procurement Directive with McGill end-users, informing them of the ban (or restriction) on purchases from the supplier;

- communicating with the relevant authorities, as applicable;
 - sharing McGill's findings and actions with other Canadian universities.
3. Procurement Services is overseeing purchases from approximately 20,000 different suppliers and merchants in a complex supply chain spanning the globe. McGill's administration (through Procurement Services) can take action but must be informed of suppliers' unlawful or unethical behaviour.

As part of its Sustainable Procurement Strategy (<https://www.mcgill.ca/procurement/sustainability/plan>), McGill University's Procurement Services has drafted, and will soon adopt, its first Supplier Code of Conduct, which establishes the University's expectations for engaging in business relations with suppliers. The document, which was reviewed by Legal Services, and "tested" with a diversified group of suppliers, covers social, environmental and ethical principles, and encompasses respecting the internationally recognized Five Freedoms for animals. McGill community members, researchers, or actors along the University's supply chain will be prompted to be vigilant and inform Procurement Services (via a dedicated email address) if they are aware of or witness to irregularities or activities conflicting with the University's Supplier Code of Conduct. The Supplier Code of Conduct will be available on the Procurement Services website.

Senator Hébert stated that the question was related to a particular supplier, namely Santa Cruz Biotechnologies. He asked for an update further to the University's inquiries about the complaints against that supplier for animal welfare violations. Senator Di Grappa responded that the answers received from Santa Cruz Biotechnologies were deemed unsatisfactory and orders continue to be placed with other suppliers. He noted that in situations where researchers are required to order materials from the same supplier, the University works with the researchers to find alternate suppliers or make other arrangements for them.

In light of McGill's decision regarding divestment, Senator Smailes asked if the Supplier Code of Conduct and other areas of procurement would be examined to create a more sustainable procurement policy for McGill. Senator Di Grappa responded that the Office of Sustainability is working closely with Procurement Service and that the draft Supplier Code of Conduct includes sections with respect to ethical principles for university suppliers, accountability, social principles for suppliers, human rights, labour rights, health and safety, environmental principles, etc. However, he emphasized that divestment is a separate matter.

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

Open Session

1. 471st Report of the Academic Policy Committee (D15-41)

Senator Manfredi introduced this report, which contained seven items for Senate's consideration.

Firstly, Senator Manfredi moved to approve the proposed creation of a BSc Joint Honours in Computer Science and Biology, which was duly seconded.

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the creation of a BSc Joint Honours in Computer Science and Biology within the Faculty of Science.

Senator Manfredi then moved to approve the proposed revisions to the *Regulations on Graduate Research Progress Tracking*, which was duly seconded. Regarding section 2.9 of the Regulations, Senator Farid stated that the graduate program director (“GPD”) and the supervisor are often the same person and wondered who would sign the progress tracking reports in such cases. Senator Nalbantoglu responded that in cases of conflict of interest, an associate GPD, co-GPD or the chair of the relevant department would sign the reports. Senator Farid suggested the clarification be included in the regulations.

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the proposed changes to the Regulations on Graduate Research Progress Tracking, as detailed in Part A, Appendix B of D15-41.

Senator Manfredi then moved to approve the proposed revisions to the *Regulations on Graduate Student Supervision* which was duly seconded. Senator Farid suggested that section 2.8 of the Regulations be changed to make signing a letter of understanding mandatory instead of a recommendation for the moment. Senator Nalbantoglu responded that the intention was to keep it as a recommendation. She noted that the templates are available on the Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (“GPS”) website and GPS is meeting with different units on this matter.

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the proposed changes to the Regulations on Graduate Student Supervision, as detailed in Part A, Appendix C of D15-41.

Senator Manfredi then moved to approve the proposed changes to the *Admission of Former Students Policy*, which was duly seconded.

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the proposed changes to the Admission of Former Students Policy, as detailed in Part A, Appendix D of D15-41.

Senator Manfredi then moved to approve the proposed changes to the *Time Limitation Policy*, which was duly seconded. In response to Senator Mills’s question on the effective date of the policy, Senator Manfredi explained that students are governed by the policies in force when they enter McGill. Senator Campbell added that certain policies could have retroactive application if it is expressly stipulated in the policy. Senator Mills then moved to add a retroactive provision to the policy in order for the revisions to apply to current students as well. Due to the substantial impact of the proposed amendment, Senators agreed to refer this matter to the Academic Policy Committee for further review.

Senator Manfredi then moved to approve the creation of a Graduate Certificate in Information Architecture and Design, which was duly seconded.

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the creation of a Graduate Certificate in Information Architecture and Design within the Faculty of Arts.

Finally, Senator Manfredi moved to approve the proposed Statement of Academic Freedom, which was duly seconded by Senator Lowther. He noted that the proposed Statement of Academic Freedom is the result of a joint initiative by the McGill Association of University Teachers and the University. The Chair explained that Senate approved a new mission statement last April wherein academic freedom was listed as one of the principles; there was therefore a need to define it. Senator Manfredi added that, going forward, the Statement of Academic Freedom would be taken into account when developing new policies and revising existing ones. Senator Richard supported the motion on the understanding that the administration would be honoring that commitment.

Senator Chainani expressed the view that a reference to teaching and learning practices belongs in the statement and asked whether scholarly members had an obligation to ensure good pedagogical practices. Senator Galaty responded that teaching is included, as per the first sentence of the statement. He explained that one of the principles of drafting the statement was that it be succinct and therefore detailed enumerations similar to the ones found in regulations were avoided. Senator Brunot suggested including a list of responsibilities in the statement to increase awareness. Senator Campbell noted that the responsibilities are found in the University's regulations and policies. Senator Winer asked for clarification regarding the term "scholarly members of the university", which is used in the statement. Senator Manfredi responded that a broad term was chosen to avoid the exclusive application of the statement to tenure-track faculty. He explained that the statement extends to all members of the University community engaged in scholarly activity, notably research and teaching. Senator Lowther added that it even includes all students involved in activities that may be considered scholarly within the context of the University.

On a motion duly proposed by Senator Manfredi and seconded by Senator Lowther, Senate approved, and recommended to the Board of Governors for approval, the proposed Statement of Academic Freedom, as detailed in Part B, Appendix B of D15-41.

2. Report of the Senate Nominating Committee (D15-42)

Senator Manfredi presented this report for Senate's consideration. He explained that it contained recommendations to fill upcoming vacancies on the Statutory Selection Committee, the University Tenure Committee, the University Appeals Committee and an existing vacancy on the Appeal Committee for Student Discipline and Grievances.

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the recommendations contained within the Senate Nominating report (D15-42).

3. Proposed Revisions to the University Student Assessment Policy (D15-43)

Senator Dyens presented this report for Senate's consideration, noting that this is the first in a series of revisions. He explained that the majority of the proposed revisions are relatively minor to add clarity and the most important one is found in subsection 6.1.3 to make 75% the

maximum for final exams (except for the Faculty of Law) and closes existing loopholes. He then moved to approve the proposed changes, which was duly seconded.

Senator Zorychta stated that subsection 6.1.3 of the policy is confusing since students already have the option of writing deferred exams. Mr. Zabowski explained that the intention is to ensure students are not forced to write a final examination worth more than 75%. In cases of extenuating circumstances, when a student misses an evaluation, the points are often added to the final examination. However, students would like to be provided with an alternate choice of assessment. Senator Zorychta suggested that the last sentence of the subsection be removed since it does not reflect the intended goal. Senator Saroyan expressed the same concerns and also suggested that subsection 5.8.1 of the policy be written in complete sentences instead of as a numbered list. Senator Ferguson echoed this suggestion. Senator Harpp expressed the view that adding an extra component of work, such as an assignment, would be difficult for a professor to assess and assign. He suggested that the policy indicate that the assessment be a traditional exam. Mr. Zabowski took note of his suggestion and stated that professors can avoid this situation by having multiple assessments in their evaluation scheme. That way, when the points of a missed assessment are added to the final examination, the total would not add up to over 75%. Senator Toccalino noted that the policy states that exceptions could be made where a student has been offered the choice in advance. She asked whether professors can satisfy this requirement by indicating in the course syllabus that the points from a missed midterm would automatically be added to the final exam. Mr. Zabowski responded in the negative. Senator Dyens agreed to further revise the last sentence of subsection 6.1.3 and return to Senate with a new draft this academic year.

Senator Mills suggested that the expression “student response system” be defined and asked if it includes clickers. Senator Winer responded that clickers are included but they are being phased out therefore the policy had to be revised.

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the proposed revisions to the University Student Assessment Policy (D15-43), except for part of the revisions in subsection 6.1.3 of the Policy.

4. Annual Report on Enrolment and Strategic Enrolment Management (D15-44)

Senators Dyens and Massey presented this report for Senate’s information. Senator Dyens highlighted that McGill has the top undergraduate entering class in Canada, the top average R-score in Quebec, the highest first-year retention and the second highest graduate rate in Canada. He noted that Quebec enrolment is strong, the student body is very engaged in research and the political process, and graduate enrolment has increased. However, declining yield rates are still a challenge, mainly due to students applying to many universities and new policies in Ontario that are making the tuition there more affordable. Finally, he noted that the McGill Commitment is a response to requests made by students and parents for acquiring practical experience. Senator Massey added that the yield challenges identified in the report are one of the primary reasons the University has made earlier offers of admission this year. She also noted that Quebec admissions and enrolment are priorities and the University would like to see a higher yield rate for students from French CÉGEPS.

Senator Chatel-Launay suggested that recruiters mention to future students interested in programs at the Macdonald campus where the campus is located and in which part of the city they should secure an apartment to be near the campus. He shared that every fall, many students are surprised to discover they have to spend an hour commuting to class from their apartment in the Plateau.

Senator Smailes asked whether retention and graduation of students can be examined in a more holistic way and suggested there may even be a link with mental health issues. In particular, she noted that many students worry about their future and experience stress over not knowing what to do at McGill or after graduation. Senator Dyens responded that this is being looked at. For instance, he mentioned that his unit is focusing on transition points (i.e. transitions from high school or CÉGEP to university and from university to the job market or to graduate studies) and would like to work closely with University Advancement for different initiatives, such as connecting students to the University's large alumni network as early as at the time of their recruitment or admission.

Senator Mills noted that the report lists research regarding the competitiveness of the McGill brand as part of upcoming consultations, research and planning. However, he encouraged the administration to put forth research with regard to student funding. He noted that the McGill brand would speak for itself when the University becomes more competitive within the market and is able to recruit the top students without any financial burden. Senator Massey stated that Enrolment Services works closely with the Scholarship and Student Aid office to prepare financial offers, whether scholarship or financial aid, and a lot of extra effort has gone into provide additional funding.

Senator Sobat pointed out that the report contains data regarding incoming students, such as gender identity. He asked whether data is collected with respect to other categories. Senator Massey responded that she is looking at ways to collect a broader range of information about the student body, including asking the entering class to complete an admission survey.

Senator Bernard expressed concern over Senator Dyens' comments regarding focusing on the job market. Senator Dyens responded that the University respects the wishes of students and their parents. However, he clarified that the McGill Commitment is to provide an education that is richer than just the traditional classroom experience. As examples, he mentioned music students may be given an opportunity to sing in an opera and law students may be able to clerk at the Supreme Court.

5. Annual Report on Scholarships and Student Aid

(D15-45)

Senator Dyens presented this report for Senate's information. He stated that part of the McGill Commitment is to support students regardless of their country of origin or residency (which is unique in North America) through need-based and merit-based programs. He highlighted that the McGill financial aid program has tripled from \$11.6 million to \$30 million in ten years.

Senator Brunot noted that "N/A" is usually written on the cover memo in the section concerning sustainability issues and urged Senators to make an effort when filling out this section.

Senator Benrimoh asked about the decrease in aid going to first generations attending post-secondary education and students with dependents. Ms. Piperni responded that this needs to be examined more closely in upcoming years since it is unclear whether the decrease is due to a lack of self-identification or a decrease in diversity. Senator Benrimoh then asked if the increase in student aid is the result of an increase in the number of students. Senator Dyens responded that is partly the reason. He added that there have also been increased efforts to advertise the financial aid program and to make it more available. He noted that there has also been an increase in graduate students requesting financial aid.

Senator Thon asked whether the University is more committed to need-based or merit-based scholarships and wondered whether that had an effect on the yield rate. Senator Dyens responded that the University is committed to student financial aid and the categories are not mutually exclusive.

6. Annual Report from Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (D15-46)

Senator Nalbantoglu presented this report for Senate's information. She provided a summary of the focus and role of GPS, graduate enrolment data for 2015-2016 and the unit's strategic objectives. She highlighted that 49% of the PhD students are international students, noting this trend is unsustainable with the University's current funding.

Senator Chatel-Launay asked whether funding data is available for each faculty. Senator Nalbantoglu responded in the affirmative but specified that only partial information is available for the Faculty of Medicine because a large portion of the funding occurs at the research institutes and GPS does not have access to that data. She mentioned that the data might be made available in the next few years. Senator Mills wondered if measures are being taken to increase funding and to keep track of the funding allocated to students across the University. He stated that this would allow, for example, to reallocate internal awards to students in need in situations where a student receives ample funding from an external award. Senator Nalbantoglu responded that those measures are already in place. She indicated that faculties are not imposed thresholds with respect to the amount of funding per student but are asked to determine their own limits and to commit to respecting them. Senator Saroyan expressed concern over international student funding and guaranteed multi-year funding. Senator Nalbantoglu reiterated that the current proportion of international students is unsustainable. She stated that 40-42% would be reasonable. She mentioned that since graduate students normally do not finish a PhD program in three years, funding for the fourth and fifth year is a challenge. Senator McCulloch suggested examining whether the expectations created at the time of recruitment are being met in years four and five as this might explain the drop in retention.

7. McGill University Staffing Report (D15-47)

Senator Manfredi presented this report for Senate's information. Senator Richard stated that this is the third consecutive year where the staffing report indicates that the Office of the Provost and the Dean of Libraries are examining the decline in the number of full-time tenure-track/tenured librarian staff. He asked whether the analysis will be done next year. Senator Manfredi responded in the affirmative.

Senator Hastings noted that only one third of the academic staff is tenure-track academic staff. Senator Manfredi mentioned that there is a planned gradual increase of tenure-track staff and explained that the report includes all academic staff members, including those hired for special purposes. He stated that the proportion of courses actually taught by full-time tenure-track and contract academic staff is high.

In response to Senator Harpp's question regarding the drop in staff counts in the Faculty of Education, which is presented in Table 1 of the report, Senator Manfredi responded that it is due mostly to the transfer of the School of Information Studies to the Faculty of Arts.

Senator Saroyan asked if there is a formula for allocating administrative and support staff to units. Senator Manfredi responded that, unlike the tenure-track complement, there is no formula that drives complement numbers of administrative and support staff. He explained that it would be difficult to do considering the hiring of administrative and support staff is almost a constant flow throughout the year. Senator Saroyan also asked whether staff allocated to deans is calculated as part of the allocation to faculties. Senator Manfredi responded in the affirmative.

Senator Chatel-Launay expressed concern over the fact that the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (FAES) has lost a significant number of administrative and support staff, as can be seen in Table 21 of the report. He noted that unlike other faculties, FAES needs to manage a whole campus and a farm. Senator Manfredi responded that Senator Geitmann has brought this to his attention.

8. Report from the Board of Governors to Senate

(D15-48)

Senator Panda presented this report for Senate's information. It provided a summary of matters reviewed at the February 11, 2016 Board of Governors meeting as well as the January 11 and February 26, 2016 electronic votes conducted by the Board's Executive Committee. He highlighted that the Board approved the transformation of the Faculty of Religious Studies into a School with the Faculty of Arts as well as the creation of two academic entities recommended by Senate. In addition, the Board approved the appointment of two new members-at-large, the reappointment of Mr. Olivier Marcil as Vice-Principal (Communications and External Relations) and the appointment of Professor Antonia Maioni as the Dean of the Faculty of Arts.

9. Other Business

Senator Benrimoh invited all members of the community to the first annual summit of the Quebec Health Professional Students' Roundtable, taking place on April 23rd and 24th in Montreal. He informed Senators that the summit aims to encourage reflection on the methods Quebec can adopt to improve access to primary care. For more information, he encouraged Senators to visit the summit's website at www.lefresque.com.

Confidential Session

10. Report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee (D15-49)

Senate moved into confidential session to review 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 5:15 p.m.

END

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