

**Minutes**

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

22-23:10

Minutes of the meeting of Senate held on Wednesday, May 10, 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	Hébert , Terry	Rassier, Dilson
Baron, Sam	Hickman, Miranda	Richard, Marc
Bartlett, Joan	Hnatchuk, Darlene	Rogers, Dakota
Beaudry, Guylaine	Johnson, Juliet	Rohrbach, Petra
Beech, Robin	Khoury, Lara	Roosta, Alireza
Behzadi, Houman	Kirk, Andrew	Saini, Deep
Blanchette, Mathieu	Kochkina, Svetlana	Sekhon, Harmehr
Borenstein, Bonnie	Labeau, Fabrice	Shapiro, Lisa
Campbell, Angela	Leckey, Robert	Shor, Eran
Carrieri, Francesca	Lennox, Bruce	Soehl, Thomas
Chan, Yolande	Levine, Alissa	Sroka-Fillion, Nathalie
Cumming, Julie	Levy, Jacob	St. Arneault, Isabelle
Cummings, Beth	Londono, Jose	Tonin, Patricia
Czemmel, Nancy	Low, Bronwen	Tureli, Ipek
Dirks, Melanie	Mittermaier, Anthony	Vachon, Brigitte
Drouin, Susan	Moore, Catriona	Weil, Carola
Eidelman, David	Nalbantoglu, Josephine	Werber, Joshua
Ellis, Jaye	Nicell, Jim	Winer, Laura
Emami, Elham	Nycum, Gillian	Yang, Kerry
Frona, Michael	Perepichka, Dima	Zorychta , Edith
Girard-Lauriault, Pierre-Luc	Poirier, Étienne	
Hastings , Kenneth	Quitoriano, Nathaniel	

**REGRETS:** Yves Beauchamp, Jacqueline Bede, Maryse Bertrand, Sébastien Breau, Martha Crago, Jean Deschenes, Luciano D'Iorio, Gael Eakin, Elizabeth Elbourne, Eleanor Elstein, Mustafa Fakh, Sean Ferguson, Tara Flanagan, Maiya Rachel Geddes, Anja Geitmann, Chantal Grignon, Patrick Hansen, Claire Hunter, Kristi Kouchakji, Srinivasan Krishnamurthy, Margaret Levey, Sonya Liu, Christopher Manfredi, Saku Mantere, John McCall MacBain, Jeffrey McKenzie, Ahmed Anwar Mohamed, Momar Ndao, Laura Nilson, Derek Nystrom, Hossein Poorhemati, Martin Robillard, Jennifer Ronholm, Francisco Ruge-Murcia, Laurie Snider, Karsten Steinhauer, Narendra Subramanian, Mahidul Syed, David Theodore, Ghali Benjoullon Touimi, David Vaillancourt, Manon Vennat, Coco Jie Wang, Marc Weinstein, Daniel Weinstock, Risann Wright, Isabella Xia.

## **1. Welcoming Remarks**

The Chair welcomed Senators to the ninth and final 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). He reminded everyone 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. He noted 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. He acknowledged those Senators whose terms were ending this year, and thanked them for their service.

## **2. Memorial Tributes**

The Chair informed Senators that one memorial tribute had been submitted for the May 10, 2023, meeting of Senate.

Senator Eidelman then read the following memorial tribute for Professor Emeritus Charles Scriver, which Senate subsequently unanimously endorsed:

“It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of Dr. Charles Robert Scriver, Alva Professor Emeritus of Human Genetics in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, on April 7. Known as the ‘father of biochemical genetics in Canada,’ Dr. Scriver led pioneering work on inborn errors of metabolism, genetic screening, community genetics, population genetics and bioinformatics. He was a world-renowned physician-scientist and a deeply committed advocate for children with pediatric genetic disorders. Born and raised in Montreal, Dr. Scriver completed his undergraduate studies in geography and literature at McGill University. Influenced by his physician parents, he graduated with a medical degree from McGill in 1955. He then completed his pediatrics training at Harvard University. It was during this time that he was exposed to the possibilities of research into metabolic disorders and learnt of a new tool called ‘chromatography.’ As a McLaughlin Travelling Fellow, he worked in the laboratory of Charles Dent, then leader in chromatography, at University College in London, England. Upon his return to Montreal, Dr. Scriver worked as a physician-scientist at the Montreal Children’s Hospital and joined the Department of Pediatrics of the Faculty of Medicine in 1960. He founded the DeBelle Laboratory of Biochemical Genetics at the Montreal Children’s Hospital, which became the world leader in inborn error of metabolism research. In the late 1960s, Dr. Scriver and his colleague at DeBelle, Carol Clow, discovered that babies suffering from rickets, a disease that affects bone growth and is caused by a vitamin D deficiency, were typically from less affluent families. Dr. Scriver advocated for the addition of vitamin D to milk to reduce the case number of rickets, and he brought this matter to the attention of the milk board, enlisting the help of his friend, the late Chancellor Arnold Steinberg of the Steinberg’s grocery chain, to successfully make fortified milk available on grocery shelves in Montreal. Dr. Scriver’s proactivity and commitment to community health was recognized across Quebec. He was also a leader in population genetics. As co-director of the *Société interuniversitaire de recherche sur les populations*, a consortium comprised of

McGill, Université Laval and Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, he and others created a large database to track and study genetic disorders in Quebec’s population, leading to earlier detection and treatment. In 1972, Dr. Scriver was also involved in the creation of the McGill Group in Medical Genetics, with Dr. Clarke Fraser, who had established the Division of Medical Genetics at the Montreal Children’s Hospital. The Group united genetics researchers under one umbrella and made McGill a leader in medical genetics research in Canada. Dr. Scriver has been recognized as being instrumental to the development of the Human Genome Project – his early recognition of the importance of gene mapping led him to champion and facilitate its creation in the 1980s. Dr. Scriver referred to his work – a mixture of clinical care, research, and advocacy – as ‘community genetics’ because he saw it as his duty to society to improve the lives of children and their families. Through his training in chromatographic techniques, over the course of his career, Dr. Scriver and his teams of researchers and students identified more than 20 inborn errors of metabolism. Perhaps the most significant was his work on phenylketonuria (known as PKU), which, when detected early, can be treated to prevent severe intellectual disability. Dr. Scriver led an illustrious career spanning more than 50 years at the Montreal Children’s Hospital, McGill University and the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre. He was a well-esteemed researcher, healer, teacher, colleague, mentor and friend. He has over 500 scientific publications and received numerous honours and awards, including: Officer of the Order of Canada (1985), Prix Québec Wilder-Penfield (1995), Companion of the Order of Canada (1996), Grand Officer of the National Order of Quebec (1997), Commander of the Order of Montreal (2016), Inductee into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame (2001) and several Honorary Doctorates, including one from McGill in 2017. Dr. Scriver’s passion for teaching and mentoring was cultivated in generations of scientists and physicians who continue to follow his lead. As one colleague has said, ‘[Dr. Scriver] was a great physician and a highly talented scientist. He was a titan of this community in terms of his contributions, yet also approached mentorship of trainees with grace, humility and dedication.’ We extend our heartfelt condolences to Dr. Scriver’s wife, Zipper, his children Do-Ellen, Peter, Julie and Paul, his grandchildren, as well as to his entire family, friends, colleagues, and all those whose lives he touched. May his legacy continue to inspire our community. He will be greatly missed.

**3. Report of the Steering Committee** (22:23-10)

Senate received the Report of the Steering Committee (22-23:10).

*Item 1. Approval of Minutes of Senate.* Meeting of April 19, 2023.

*Item 2. Speaking Rights.* Upon approval of the report, speaking rights were granted to Tynan Jarrett, Director, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, for item IIB5 (Biennial Report on Employment Equity); and Sara Pierre, Senior Employment Equity Advisor, for item IIB5 (Biennial Report on Employment Equity).

*Item 3. Confidential Session.* Item IIB10 (Report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee).

*Item 4. Approval of the Agenda.*

*Item 5. Review of Questions and Motions.* No questions nor motions were received for the May 10, 2023, meeting of Senate.

#### **4. Business Arising from the April 19, 2023, Minutes**

The Chair informed Senators that the Secretariat had noted one item arising from a question posed by Senator Richard, regarding the availability of the presentation slides for the Proposed Policy on Academic Freedom (D22-60). He shared that, following the meeting, the presentation slides were added to the [online document for D22-60](#).

*Secretary's Note: The relevant web link is also included in the minutes of the meeting of April 19, 2023, as a Secretary's Note on page 9.*

Senator Hébert inquired if an update would be provided regarding his previously submitted question, [regarding the practice of labelling McGill Professors as Personal Employers at the RI-MUHC](#). The Secretary-General informed him that an update would be provided in due course, as Senator Manfredi was unable to attend this meeting.

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

The Chair began his remarks on the topic of Government and External Relations, and informed Senators that he had recently attended a major funding announcement, at which the Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, François-Philippe Champagne, announced that \$1.4 billion in grants would be made available in support of 11 large-scale research initiatives through the Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF). The Chair highlighted that McGill was the recipient of a \$165 million grant to launch [DNA to RNA: An Inclusive Canadian Approach to Genomic-based RNA Therapeutics](#) (D2R), and that the project will also receive significant support from other partnering institutions, which will bring the total amount invested in D2R to \$353 million.

Regarding external relations, the Chair shared that on April 20, 2023, Quebec's Superior Court ratified an agreement between the Kanien'kehá:ka Kahnistensera (Mohawk Mothers), the University, the *Société québécoise des infrastructures* (SQI), the MUHC, the City of Montreal, and the Attorneys General of Quebec and Canada, that will allow the archaeological investigation of the former Royal Victoria Hospital site to move forward in a sensitive, deliberate, and informed manner.

Discussing community relations, the Chair noted that the University's Spring 2023 Convocation ceremonies will commence on May 30, 2023. He highlighted that, in addition to the fifteen official ceremonies, there are also several special events to celebrate the University's diverse graduating cohort. He extended an invitation for Senators to attend his Installation Ceremony, which is to take place on May 29, 2023, or its auxiliary community reception at Macdonald campus, which is to take place on June 2, 2023.

Reporting on new appointments, the Chair shared that the Board of Governors had approved the appointment of Dr. Lesley Fellows as the next Vice-Principal (Health Affairs), and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, for a five-year renewable term, beginning August 1, 2023, and noted that this will be the last Senate meeting for Senator Eidelman in his capacity as Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences. He expressed his gratitude to Senator Eidelman, and also to Senator Nicell, whose term on Senate as Dean of the Faculty of Engineering was also coming to an end, for their dedicated service and important contributions to the University while serving in their respective roles.

The Chair went on to highlight the achievements of several individuals, including Professor Cindy Blackstock, for being named a finalist for the 2023 World’s Children’s Prize (WCP), Dr. Samuel Benaroya, for being awarded the *Médaille de l’Assemblée nationale*, in recognition of his impact on Quebec’s health education and care, and Professor Susanne Lajoie, for being named as a Distinguished Fellow by *l’Ordre de l’excellence en éducation du Québec*, in recognition of her significant contribution to the quality of education in the Province.

## **SECTION II**

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

There were none.

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

#### **Open Session**

#### **1. Report of the Senate Nominating Committee (D22-58)**

Senator Lennox presented this report for consideration. He explained that the report included recommendations concerning appointments to many Senate Standing Committees, Committees arising from University Regulations, and Advisory Committees, largely to address upcoming vacancies for 2023-2024 resulting from members concluding their current appointments’ terms.

*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 (D22-68).*

*On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the recommendations for appointments to Committees arising from University Regulations contained in the Report of the Senate Nominating Committee (D22-68).*

*On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the recommendations for appointments to Advisory Committees contained in the Report of the Senate Nominating Committee (D22-68).*

**2. Report of the Academic Policy Committee** (D22-69)

Senator Nalbantoglu presented this report for consideration. She explained that it provided an overview of matters considered by the Committee at its meetings of April 13, 2023, and May 4, 2023.

*On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the creation of the proposed Certificate in Global Engineering (60-67 cr.).*

*On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the creation of the proposed Ph.D. in Cancer Sciences (0 cr.).*

*On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the creation of the proposed Post-Graduate Artist Diploma in Performance (30 cr.).*

**3. Policy on Safe Disclosure ("Whistle Blowing") /  
New Policy on the Disclosure of Wrongdoing** (D22-70)

The Secretary-General presented this Policy for approval. She highlighted that the new Policy had been further revised following feedback received from Senators at the meeting of April 19, 2023, and had also been approved by the Audit and Risk Committee of the Board of Governors at its meeting of May 9, 2023. She noted that the new Policy now allowed for reporting on matters falling under the scope of the Policy at least annually, to allow for flexibility under warranted circumstances. Senator Quitoriano inquired as to by whom initial determinations on wrongdoing under the current Policy are conducted by. The Secretary-General informed him that such determinations are made by a responsible officer- either the Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic), the University's Research Integrity Officer, or Internal Audit.

*On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the repeal of the 2007 Policy on Safe Disclosure ("Whistle Blowing").*

*On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the New Policy on the Disclosure of Wrongdoing.*

**4. Proposed Policy on Academic Freedom** (D22-71)

Senator Campbell presented this Policy for approval. She explained that revisions had been made to the Policy following discussions held and feedback received from Senators at the Senate meeting of April 19, 2023, and extended her gratitude to all those who had contributed to its collegial formulation. Senator Hastings, referencing section 46d (academic performance criterion), requested that future reporting under the new Policy include information and statistics regarding the frequency of cases in which 'no violation' is found by the Subcommittee on Academic Freedom when citing the provision that the act complained of was 'reasonably justified because it addresses academic performance that falls short of expected standards or requirements.' Senator Campbell indicated that it would be up to APC to determine the scope of information that is

included in reports, taking into due regard the privacy rights of individuals involved. Senator Quitariano suggested that the statistics of multiple years be aggregated into reports, which Senator Campbell found favourable, once several years have elapsed, but only if enough cases had occurred to preserve anonymity.

*On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved, and recommended to the Board of Governors for approval, the proposed Policy on Academic Freedom.*

**5. Biennial Report on Employment Equity** (D22-72)

Senator Campbell presented this biennial report for information. She provided an overview of relevant statistics relating to the University's equity practices, progress, and successes under the locus of employment, as well as other major indicators (such as grants, Canada Research Chairs, etc.). She highlighted that the data included in the report captured tenure stream academic staff only, and noted the importance of the consideration of both underrepresentation and intersectionality in hiring. She also explained that it is possible to obtain the data broken down to a Faculty level. Senator Quitariano inquired as to the data from 2019-2021. Tynan Jarrett stated that the collection of information lacked during that time, though what data were collected had been analysed and reported upon. Senator Kirk suggested that it may be advisable to rethink the promotion process. Senator Campbell agreed that various aspects of the process presented a challenge, and noted that she would be open to having conversations on the matter. Senator Levy suggested that future reports indicate the differences between years of service and calendar years, accounting for, as an example, parental leave.

**6. Report from the Board of Governors to Senate** (D22-73)

Senator Rohrbach presented this report for information. She provided an overview of matters considered by the Board of Governors at its meeting of April 20, 2023, and by the Executive Committee at its meeting of March 23, 2023, and electronic vote of March 13, 2023. She highlighted that the Board had approved the acceleration of the review of the University's SRI practices, as well as new grant agreements and construction projects. In response to a question, the Secretary-General explained that the acceleration of the SRI practices was the result of increased interest in reviewing the University's position on the question of divestment from the fossil fuel industry. Senator Baron inquired as to the completion timeline of currently ongoing construction projects, and the Secretary-General noted that both the Board of Governors and its Buildings and Property Committee are aware of the need to address accessibility issues and use of space. Senator Richard expressed concern regarding the extension of the transitory status of designated smoking areas on campus, and suggested that the 'transitory' terminology be removed from the Smoking Policy, as it appeared rhetorical and to not reflect the intention of the Policy, to which the Secretary-General responded that it was indeed the University's goal to eventually become smoke-free, though the reality of the situation necessitated a slower transition.

**7. Annual Report on Scholarships and Student Aid (2021-2022)** (D22-74)

Senator Labeau presented this annual report for information. He provided an overview of statistics relating to student aid activities undertaken in 2021-2022, and reminded Senators that the reporting

period largely look place within a pandemic context, which resulted in lower demand for government student aid, as most students incurred less expenses, and had access to other sources of funding/revenue. He noted that the University aimed to continue to decrease the amount of loan-based funding over time (in favour of bursaries), in order to make the University more accessible. Senator Quitarano inquired as to the source of funding for the increased dispensing of bursaries. Senator Labeau informed him that the funds were sourced both from donations (including endowed donations) and the University budget.

**8. Annual Report of the Policy on Safe Disclosure (D22-75)**  
**(“Whistle Blowing”) (2022)**

The Secretary-General presented this annual report for information. She provided an overview of matters considered under the scope of the Policy in 2022, and highlighted relevant statistics. She confirmed that, under the new Policy on the Disclosure of Wrongdoing, pending approval by the Board of Governors, reporting would continue to be provided, on at least an annual basis.

**9. Other Business**

There being no other business to deal with, on a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate moved into Confidential Session to receive the Report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee.

**Confidential Session**

**10. Report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee (D22-76)**

Once in confidential session, Senate received the Report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee. The Report contained recommendations relating to the conferral of Honorary Degrees.

The minutes relating to this Report are approved by the Senate Steering Committee, and are not published or circulated. They will be attached to the permanent minutes of Senate as Appendix A.

Following the presentation of the Report, with there being no other business to deal with, on a motion duly proposed and seconded, the meeting ended at 4:00 p.m.

**END**

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