

Senate Meeting Report, 2024-05-08

Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place on May 8, 2024.

The meeting began with memorial tributes being presented by Dean Chan for Professor Wallace Crowston and by Dean Beaudry for Elizabeth Lewis (Libraries). Senate adopted the report of the Steering Committee

https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/02_updated_report_of_the_senate_steering_committee_23-24_09.pdf, the minutes of the April 2024 meeting of Senate https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/senate_minutes_april_18_2024_23-24_08.pdf, and the agenda https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/00_senate_agenda_may_8_2024.pdf.

President Saini began his comments from the Chair by addressing the subject of the encampment on the downtown campus; his remarks covered various points which were subsequently included in his May 10 email to the McGill community on this topic. The President also noted, in relation to matters recently approved by the Board of Governors, the appointment of Professor Fabrice Labeau to the role of Vice-President (Administration and Finance), the appointment of Professor Angela Campbell as Interim Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning), and the appointment of Professor Vivek Venkatesh to the role of Dean of the Faculty of Education.

In the section of the agenda for written questions and motions, a question was posed by Senator Quitoriano regarding changes in academic policy due to emergencies; the response was provided by Provost Manfredi https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-64_question_and_response_regarding_changes_in_academic_policy_due_to_emergencies.pdf.

Senate approved the report of the Senate Nominating Committee https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-65_report_of_the_senate_nominating_committee.pdf, and the 526th report of the Academic Policy Committee https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-66_report_of_the_academic_policy_committee_apc.pdf. It also approved the Proposed Policy on Student Safety Abroad, which replaces the International Mobility Guidelines which date from 2009 https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-67_proposed_policy_on_student_safety_abroad.pdf.

Senate approved the Policy on Indigenous Membership/Citizenship Validation, on the understanding that an annual report on its implementation will provide opportunity to see if review is necessary https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-68_proposed_policy_on_indigenous_membership-citizenship_validation.pdf.

Senate approved the proposed revisions to the Policy for the Accommodation of Holy Days https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-69_proposed_revisions_to_the_policy_for_the_accommodation_of_holy_days.pdf. Senate also endorsed the extension of the McGill Strategic Research Plan until December 2025

https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-70_proposed_extension_of_the_strategic_research_plan.pdf.

Provost Manfredi presented the third and final budget planning report of the year to Senate https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-71_university_budget_2024-2025.pdf. In light of the very high level of uncertainty and risk arising from the major changes announced in March 2024 by the Quebec government regarding its funding policies, the Board of Governors has approved a provisional budget plan with a \$12M deficit, including a \$10M contingency. A final FY2025 budget and recovery plan will be presented in fall 2024.

Senate received for information the most recent report from the Board of Governors https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-72_report_of_the_board_of_governors.pdf.

The following annual reports were presented for information:

https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-73_report_of_the_equity_diversity_and_inclusion_committee_edic.pdf

https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-74_annual_report_on_scholarships_and_student_aid.pdf

https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-75_annual_report_on_the_policy_on_disclosure_of_wrongdoing.pdf

As its last item of business, Senate moved into confidential session to consider the report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee.

The next meeting of Senate will take place on September 18, 2024. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

Regards,
Your librarian Senate reps,

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