McGILL UNIVERSITY **SENATE**

Memorandum

Secretariat
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TO:	Senate
FROM:	Ms. Edyta Rogowska, Secretary-General
SUBJECT:	Open Discussion: *Developing, Fostering, and Consolidating meaningful Research Collaborations between the Social Sciences, Humanities, and Health Sciences.*
DATE:	March 20, 2024
DOCUMENT #:	D23-50
ACTION REQUIRED:	☒ INFORMATION ☐ APPROVAL/DECISION

ISSUE

Proposed discussion questions and backround materials are provided in support of the Open Discussion.

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

The Senate Steering Committee decided to focus the March 20, 2024, Senate Open Discussion on "*Developing, Fostering, and Consolidating meaningful Research Collaborations between the Social Sciences, Humanities, and Health Sciences."*

Open Discussion Prompt Questions:

1. Through what efforts and initiatives could the University and the various Faculties support and promote a culture of interdisciplinary research where Social Sciences and Humanities research plays a key role in informing health sciences research, and vice versa?

2. Are there differences in objectives between the Social Sciences on the one hand, and the Humanities on the other hand, that create particular challenges for these disciplines when they are integrated into Health Sciences research projects? How can these challenges be addressed?

3. How can the University provide students opportunities to undertake interdisciplinary research in an environment where traditionally, at McGill, research in disciplinary silos has been firmly established?

4. Considering external funding agencies' requirement pertaining to interdisciplinary research, what challenges and opportunities need to be considered and/or addressed to facilitate success in funding interdisciplinary research across the Social Sciences, Humanities, and Health Sciences?

	It is proposed that 45 minutes are allocated for this open discussion. Please see Appendix A for relevant reference material and breakout session instructions.
PRIOR CONSULTATION	Members of the Open Discussion Working Group.
SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS	n/a
IMPACT OF DECISION AND NEXT STEPS	Follow-up action may result from the Open Discussion.
MOTION OR RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL	n/a
APPENDICES	Appendix A: Reference Material and Breakout Session Instructions

Preamble:

Open Discussions provide Senators an opportunity to have a 45-minute discussion on an academic topic or a topic with academic implications. Further to a recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Enhancement of Senate Meetings (2013), Open Discussions are scheduled regularly, normally twice a year, to increase discussion and engagement at Senate meetings.

The topic of the March 20, 2024, Senate Open Discussion is *Developing, Fostering, and Consolidating meaningful Research Collaborations between the Social Sciences, Humanities, and Health Sciences.* This topic will allow Senators to explore the opportunities and challenges relating to interdisciplinary research, funding, and scholarly work in the University context, both contemporarily, and in the future.

Suggested Reading Material:

- A ranking for interdisciplinarity is a poor measure for the quality of research and teaching in universities | Impact of Social Sciences (lse.ac.uk)

- Could translational research be a model for long-term impact in the social sciences and humanities? | Impact of Social Sciences (lse.ac.uk)

- How efforts to assess university contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals fall short | Impact of Social Sciences (lse.ac.uk)

Open Discussion Questions

1. Through what efforts and initiatives could the University and the various Faculties support and promote a culture of interdisciplinary research where Social Sciences and Humanities research plays a key role in informing health sciences research, and vice versa?

2. Are there differences in objectives between the Social Sciences on the one hand, and the Humanities on the other hand, that create challenges for these disciplines when they are integrated into Health Sciences research projects? How can these challenges be addressed?

3. How can the University provide students opportunities to undertake interdisciplinary research in an environment where traditionally, at McGill, research in disciplinary silos has been firmly established?

4. Considering external funding agencies' requirement pertaining to interdisciplinary research, what challenges and opportunities need to be considered and/or addressed to facilitate success in funding interdisciplinary research across the Social Sciences, Humanities, and Health Sciences?
Instructions:

- Each group will be in a separate breakout area and will have 20 minutes to discuss their assigned question.

- At the outset of the group discussion, each group should quickly appoint (a) a discussion facilitator (who monitors the discussion and ensures all members of a group who want to speak have a chance to do so; and (b) a rapporteur who takes notes on the discussion and reports back to Senate in plenary.

- When Senate reconvenes after group discussions, each group's rapporteur will report back. Each rapporteur will have a maximum of 1 and 1/4 minutes to do so, and therefore this section will last approximately 10 minutes. Rapporteurs are encouraged not to lose time raising points that earlier groups have already signaled.

- Following the reporting back from the rapporteurs, all Senators will be invited to take part in a broader discussion about points raised in an open discussion for 10 minutes.

Group	Question	Senators in Group
1	1	Abakar, Chidimi Ferguson, Sean Fishman, Jennifer Garofalo, Sophia Grütter, Peter Lennox, Bruce Levine, Alissa Ndao, Momar Prando, Diletta Ramamurthy, Racchana Richard, Marc Saini, Deep Smeall, Cheryl Tumulu, Satish Kumar Van Hoof, Krystle
2	2	Ali, Genevieve Balán, Manuel Beech, Robin Behzadi, Houman Cummings, Beth-Ann D'Iorio, Luciano Dutton, Diana Kopyscinski, Jan Nycum, Gillian Nystrom, Derek Pastrana Mankovitz, Naomi Shapiro, Lisa Stephens, David

3	3	Beaudry, Guylaine Carrieri, Francesca Elbourne, Elizabeth Elstein, Eleanor Fellows, Lesley Hansen, Patrick Hnatchuk, Darlene Khoury, Lara Manfredi, Christopher Meyer, Brett Mittermaier, Anthony Nitu, Alexandra Steinhauer, Karsten
4	4	Ellis, Jaye Hébert, Terry Joseph, Katherine Leckey, Robert Levey, Margaret Lu, Catherine Mantere, Saku Nilson, Laura Poorhemati, Hossein Qureshi, Muhammad Rohrbach, Petra Shor, Eran Yargeau, Viviane Zorychta, Edith
5	1	Chan, Yolande Fakih, Mustafa Hickman, Miranda Moore, Catriona Nalbantoglu, Josephine Orsat, Valérie Parish, Grace Quesnel-Vallée, Amélie Rosenberg, Amanda Türeli, Ipek Vachon, Brigitte Vennat, Manon Watt, Alanna Weil, Carola

6	2	Blanchette, Mathieu Crago, Martha Flanagan, Tara Krishnamurthy, Srinivasan Labeau, Fabrice Levy, Jacob Metallic, Janine Pondicherry, Pavithran Quitoriano, Nate Sarroub-Le Sueur, Sef Shevell, Michael Snider, Laurie Weinstein, Marc
7	3	Adams, Annmarie Ashkir, Alexandre Bonneau, Josée Cumming, Julie Fronda, Michael Geddes Rachel, Maiya Gomez, Natalya Katchelewa, Lalia Kochkina, Svetlana Parey, Vaishnavi Soehl, Thomas Talwar, Victoria
8	4	Bede, Jacqueline Ben Rejeb, Weeam Borenstein, Bonnie Campbell, Angela Diabo, Matthew Emami, Elham Girard-Lauriault, Pierre-Luc Johnson, Juliet Morrison, Juliet Ronholm, Jennifer Sparks, Tabitha Weinstock, Daniel Winer, Laura Zawati, Ma'n