

(April 5, 2022 meeting, in preparation for Senate meeting of April 19, 2022)

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SENATE**

The minutes of the Senate meeting of March 23, 2022 were circulated to the Steering Committee for review. It is recommended that they now be considered by Senate for approval.

**2. APPROVAL OF CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF SENATE**

The Steering Committee reports that it has reviewed the confidential minutes of the meeting of March 23, 2022 and has approved them on behalf of Senate. These minutes are not published or circulated but are available for perusal by Senators upon request to the Secretariat.

**3. SPEAKING RIGHTS**

The Steering Committee requests speaking rights for:

Mr. Serge Bergeron, Senior Director Budget and Finance, Analysis, Planning and Budget, for item IIB3 (Presentation on McGill University Budget 2022-2023)

Ms.

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#### **4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Steering Committee has reviewed the Agenda for the present meeting and recommends it for approval.

#### **5. REVIEW OF QUESTIONS AND MOTIONS**

The Steering Committee received one question, which was approved for submission to Senate (as drafted) and included on the April 19, 2022 Senate agenda.

The Committee also received one motion for review, submitted by Senators Downie, Kouchakji, Low, Nystrom, Shor and Subramanian. The motion called for Senate to express its disagreement with the Board on the question of divestment and to create a Senate-Board Conference Committee on fossil-fuel divestment.

The Committee had a comprehensive discussion on the motion, reflecting on the jurisdiction of the Board and the Senate as outlined in the Statutes, on the responsibility of the Steering Committee, and on the need for an informed Senate discussion on the matter of divestment and the

After due consideration, the Committee agreed that a motion on the topic of divestment by Senate should only be entertained following an occasion for Senate to obtain a comprehensive



divesting from highly carbon intensive companies, including those within the fossil fuel industry.

With respect to the conference committee:

1. The Committee was unclear on the objective and desired outcome for seeking the creation of a conference committee, considering that ultimately any recommendation made by the conference committee, should it be established, would still be subject to the Board approval.
2. ,  
mechanism could be used, as it was in the past, in instances where there is a disagreement between the Board and the Senate on a matter that is within the jurisdiction of both bodies. In other words, the conditions to establish the conference committee would be met only if Senate were to approve a recommendation on a matter that falls within its mandate (i.e. approve an academic policy), recommend its approval by the Board and subsequently
3.  
policies, and that it cannot make binding recommendations on the matter to the Board, the  
for this issue.

The Committee was of the view that a motion asking Senate to make a representation to the Board on the topic of divestment would be considered to be within the mandate of Senate. Such a  
to inform the Board that it favours, in principle, divestment.

**Present:** Suzanne Fortier (*Chair*), Angela Campbell, Jim Engle-Warnick, Andrew Kirk,  
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