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Minutes of the meeting of Senate held on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 2:30 p.m. via the Webex Conferencing Application.

**PRESENT**

Arseneault, Louis  
Bartlett, Joan  
Bede, Jacqueline  
Bedjanian, Tatiana  
Breau, Sébastien  
Brulé-Champagne, Emile  
Campbell, Angela  
Cook, Colleen  
Crago, Martha  
Cummings, Beth  
Daryanani, Darshan  
Deschenes, Jean  
Dias, Dahlia  
Dorval Courchesne,  
Noémie-Manuelle  
Drouin, Susan  
Earle, Jemark  
Eidelman, David  
Elbourne, Elizabeth  
Emami, Elham  
Eperjesi, Debbie  
Faraj, Samer  
Fortier, Suzanne  
Frizzle, Brooklyn  
Frona, Michael  
Geddes, Maiya Rachel  
Geitmann, Anja  
Gonnerman, Laura  
Grignon, Chantal

Hébert, Terence  
Hurtubise, Jacques

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made highly meritorious scientific contributions in the domain of spinal cord repair and whose research has stood the test of time and scrutiny.

After a very productive and successful career teaching hundreds of undergraduates and training dozens of graduate students, Dr. Barbeau retired in 2011, with his legacy cemented as an important figure both in the history of McGill’s School of Physical and Occupational Therapy and in the field of rehabilitation.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Dr. Barbeau’s wife, Mme Lise Caron, to his family, sons Frédéric and François, grandchildren Xavier, Mathis, Justin and Alixia, and to his many friends, colleagues and all those whose lives he touched. He will be greatly missed.

**3. Report of the Steering Committee** (20:21-01)

Senate received the Report of the Steering Committee (20-21:01).

*Item 1. Approval of Minutes of Senate – May 13, 2020 meeting.*  
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*Item 2. Approval of Confiden3Tj (of)T 58 di2z6p5 Td ( )Tj Eg2 (i)-2 (de)4 (n3Ti)-6 (n)-4 (wt2c 0 Tw 7j [(A  
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**4. Business Arising from the May 13, 2020 Minutes**

There was none.

**5. Chair’s Remarks**

The Chair began her remarks with an update on the situation at McGill for Fall 2020 in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. She stated that the semester started as scheduled and thanked members of the community who have been working to create a safe, welcoming campus experience for the estimated 60% of McGill students who were currently in Montreal. She indicated that McGill is in Phase 5 of the campus ramp-up, which included the resumption of certain on-campus administrative and non-research activities. She mentioned that the start date for Phase 6 has yet to be determined and would be dependent on the success of Phase 5 and the wider public health situation in Montreal. The Chair informed Senators that the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases at McGill was published weekly on the University’s COVID-19 website, noting that there was no evidence of community transmission on McGill campuses to date. She confirmed that many of the fall celebrations would be held virtually, including Homecoming and Convocation.

The Chair then directed the meeting to the next item on the agenda, the report of the Chair of the Senate on the work of the Senate in 2019-2020. The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.



fully matched by the University, and the sum total is sent to Athletics and Recreation. Previous projects funded by this fee include, but are not limited to: the resurfacing of Molson Stadium and Forbes Field, the creation of a gender neutral washroom, the expansion of the Fitness Centre, the renovation of Memorial Pool, and the collaboration with the City of Montreal on the creation of a lighted playing field in Rutherford Park on the McTavish Reservoir. Necessary future improvements to facilities in Athletics and Recreation include: renovations to the men’s and women’s locker room facilities, retiling of the Memorial Pool basin and deck, air conditioning in the gymnasias and fieldhouse, relocation of the Sport Medicine Clinic, and construction of the Wellness Kitchen<sup>2</sup>.

The existence of the Athletics Facility Improvement Fee must be reapproved by the student body once every 5 years. When the renewal of the fee was voted on by the student body during the Winter 2019 Students’ Society of McGill University (SSMU) Referendum period, it was rejected because the University had not yet committed to the renaming of the men’s Varsity teams. In Fall 2019, the SSMU Legislative Council approved a moratorium<sup>3</sup> on all Ancillary Fees until McGill University “divests from its investments in companies whose primary business is the extraction, distribution, and/or sale of fossil fuels and pledges to refrain from investing in all companies whose primary business is the extraction, distribution, and/or sale of fossil fuels, and from all mutual funds that invest in such companies in the future.” As such, the SSMU Legislative Council rejected to send the renewal of the Athletics Facility Improvement Fee to referendum in the fall.

However, it remains unclear whether the University had still budgeted for matched funds for FY20, even though the Athletics Facility Improvement Fee was not collected from students in Fall 2019<sup>4</sup>, and if so, where these funds are now.

- 1) Did McGill University specifically budget to match the student contribution of the Athletics Facility Improvement Fund for FY20?
- 2) If so, will McGill University commit to immediately sending the matched funds from the Athletics Facility Improvement Fee to Athletics and Recreation?
- 3) If not, what is the University planning on doing with the budgeted funds?
- 4) Overall, to what degree can the University commit to ensuring that facilities in Athletics and Recreation remain safe, useable, and welcoming for all?

Senator Manfredi provided the following written response prior to the Senate meeting:

Question 1: Yes, McGill did.

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<sup>2</sup> Information directly provided by Athletics and Recreation

<sup>3</sup><https://ssmu.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Motion-Regarding-Policy-on-Moratorium-on-McGill-Fees-Until-Fossil-Fuel-Divestment-2019-09-26-APPROVED.pdf?x21981>

Question 2: McGill committed to fully match the ancillary fee charged to undergraduate students. As no fee were collected in FY20, McGill did not send the matched funds to Athletics and Recreation.

Question 3: The University is faced with many competing requests for funding; funds that

typically receive dedicated training on harm reduction, many have reported that little to no such training was provided this academic year. Students have also reported difficulty accessing fentanyl test strips from the University which is particularly concerning given the recent discovery of street drugs acquired near campus that tested positive for fentanyl<sup>11</sup>.

Additionally, the Winter 2020 Guide to Community Living page on Alcohol and Drugs includes a new section, “Controlled or Illegal Substances”, with provisions such as: “Evidence which could lead to investigation by a Residence Life Manager, Protection Services or McGill Security, includes but is not limited to: drug traces, illicit drug paraphernalia, or the smell of controlled substances,” and “As a member of the Residence community, it is your responsibility to report any instances of inappropriate behaviour related to illegal or controlled substances.” These provisions, which also reference the McGill University Policy Concerning Alcohol, Cannabis, and Other Drugs<sup>12</sup>, go above and beyond provincial law (which does not prohibit the possession of cannabis in University-level student residences)<sup>13</sup> and serve to cultivate an environment of secrecy, and therefore, danger.

Although there is no universally-accepted definition, harm reduction is grounded on the compassionate acceptance of individuals who choose to use substances, acceptance of the fact that these individuals have chosen to use substances, and then working to minimize the harms that may occur as a result of this use. Harm reduction does not require a cessation in substance use as a precondition for support<sup>14</sup>.

- 1) What is the University’s approach to drug and alcohol use by students living in residences?
- 2) What is the University’s plan to consult students on curr P0 Td (-12 (g (a)49)-2 TT5 1 Tf 0.8





Peer Health Ambassadors, to name a few. Several Hub clinicians have directly worked in addictions centers such as Fosters.

Furthermore, all of the Hub's Peer Health Ambassadors (Student Staff) receive the following trainings: Harm reduction training from *Head & Hands* Outreach Team, Server Training, Naloxone Training, and Safer Partying Workshop.

Senator Frizzle asked whether Floor Fellows would receive Naloxone kits and training. Senator Labeau indicated that discussions were ongoing on this matter, noting that further details could be shared with Senator Frizzle when available.

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

### **Open Session**

#### **1. 499<sup>th</sup> Report of the Academic Policy Committee (D20-01)**

Senator Manfredi presented this report for Senate's information. The report contained a summary of course and teaching program proposals approved by the

around the S/U option were raised during the discussions that took place in Winter 2020. Senator Labeau responded in the negative, reiterating that the situation in March was different from the current situation.

Senator Daryanani asked for information on how instructors have adapted their courses for online learning. He also echoed Senator Nystrom's comments on students facing challenges with the online format. Senator Winer indicated that there have been recommendations to adjust assessments (e.g., no proctored exams, exam windows, more frequent assessments) and that instructors must accommodate students who cannot participate in fixed sessions. She also stated that additional tools and infrastructure support has been provided to instructors.

Senator Wilkinson spoke in favour of the S/U option, noting that he has received a number of comments from members of his constituency (graduate students) detailing the issues they and their professors are facing with the new mode of course delivery. Senator Parsons added that many instructors were struggling with the online learning environment and making adjustments to their syllabi three weeks into the semester. She asked for information on what is being done to ensure instructors are fully prepared for the semester and able to provide an accessible education to students. Senator Winer indicated that Teaching and Learning Services (TLS) had set up a support system and was in the process of deploying 170 remote learning assistants to provide technical assistance to instructors. She also mentioned that TLS was continuing to provide support consultations upon request and working closely with faculties to address their specific needs.

The Chair noted the importance of learning from the experience of others during this adjustment period and suggested that the University organize a town hall to continue the discussion. Senator Nystrom expressed his disappointment in Senate not being able to continue the conversation on this topic, noting that questions of academic policy should be addressed by Senate. The Chair indicated that the discussion was veering off-topic from the Report of the APC and would be more suitable as an open discussion or at another venue.

## **2. Reports of the Senate Nominating Committee**

### **2.1 Report on the September 2, 2020 Meeting** (D20-02)

Senator Manfredi presented this report for Senate's consideration. He highlighted that the report contained recommendations to fill vacancies on various Senate standing committees and committees arising from University regulations as well as recommendations for members to serve on the Advisory Committee for the Selection of a Dean of Management.

*On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the recommendations contained in the Report of the Senate Nominating Committee (D20-02).*

### **2.2 Proposed Revisions to the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee Terms of Reference (Deferred from May 2020)** (D19-50)

Senator Manfredi presented this item for Senate's consideration. He mentioned that key modifications to the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee (HDCC) Terms of Reference

included the addition of language to highlight the confidential nature of the Committee’s work; a more complete listing of the Committee’s responsibilities; the revocation of honorary degrees to the Committee’s area of responsibility; allowing the Committee to develop guidelines, as necessary, for the purpose of operationalizing its mandate; and expressly mentioning that the University Registrar and Executive Director, Enrolment Services, or delegate would serve as a resource person to the Committee.

Senator Riddle-Merritte asked why a separate committee was not created to consider revocation of honorary degrees. The Secretary-General clarified that Senate would maintain ultimate authority in revoking honorary degrees. She indicated that prior to submitting any recommendations on this topic, the HDCC would strike an ad hoc subcommittee to review the matter and advise on the proper course of action.

*On a motion duly proposed and seconded, Senate approved the proposed revisions to the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee, as presented in the Report of the Senate Nominating Committee (D19-50).*

### **3. Annual Reports (2019-2020)**

#### **3.1 Investigation of Research Misconduct (D20-03)**

Dr. Ragsdale presented this report for Senate’s information, in accordance with the *Regulations Concerning the Investigation of Research Misconduct*. He highlighted that ten allegations were received between June 1, 2019 and May 31, 2020 (an increase from previous years) and that the

**3.2 Policy on Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law** (D20-04)

Senator Campbell presented this report for Senate’s information, in accordance with the *Policy on Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law*. She highlighted that 170 inquiries were received between September 1, 2019 and August 31, 2020, and that 157 cases (92%) did not proceed beyond the inquiry stage. She reported that in total, 13 complaints were filed, noting two of the cases were withdrawn, four proceeded to an informal resolution process and seven proceeded to an investigation and formal resolution (although one investigation is still in progress). She mentioned that administrative measures could still be imposed in cases where there is no finding of misconduct.

**3.3 Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity** (D20-05)

Senator Campbell presented this report for Senate’s information. She highlighted that during the 2019-2020 governance year, the Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity (JBSCE)’s activities focused on the creation, development, review and implementation of a Strategic Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Plan. She noted that plans and priorities for 2020-2021 included (among others) overseeing the implementation of the Strategic EDI Plan and the forthcoming action plan to address anti-black racism as well as providing support to further the University’s response to the 52 Calls to Action set out in the Report of the Provost’s Task Force on Indigenous Studies and Indigenous Education. Finally, she mentioned that the JBSCE would play an advisory role to departments developing equity ambassadors / first responders.

In response to Senator Riddle-Merritte’s question for further information regarding first responders, Senator Campbell clarified that these positions were one of the measures for progress included in the Strategic EDI Plan. She explained that many departments in the University are creating local EDI Committees and are being encouraged to appoint individuals who can act as resources for staff and students seeking support for issues related to EDI. Senator Campbell noted that the Equity team provides training to these committees and individuals and this model is growing in popularity across different units. Senator Riddle-Merritte asked if there were any plans to make this initiative University-wide. Senator Campbell indicated that it was too early in the process to make any recommendations as the EDI Plan was only endorsed last April.

Senator Leckey acknowledged the work done by Senator Campbell and her team, noting that the mechanisms in place to deal with harassment, discrimination and EDI matters have been strengthened considerably under the tenure of Senator Campbell.

**4. Other Business**

There being no other business, on a motion duly proposed and seconded, the meeting ended at 4:20 p.m.

**END**

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