



## 1. Welcoming Remarks

The Chair welcomed Senators to the sixth regular Senate meeting of the 2023-2024 governance year. He reminded Senators that, while the use of electronic devices was permitted for viewing meeting documents, the Standing Rules of Procedure prohibited the recording of sound and/or images, 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.

## 2. Memorial Tributes

The Chair informed Senators that three memorial tributes had been submitted for the February 14, 2024, meeting of Senate, for Professor Emeritus Brian Collier (FMHS), Professor Emeritus John Dealy (ENGINEERING), and Professor Jerry Pelletier (FMHS). He explained that the University Flag had been lowered on October 6, 2023, in honour of Professor Jerry Pelletier, on January 19, 2024, in honour of Professor Emeritus Brian Collier, and on the current day in honour of Professor Emeritus John Dealy.

Senator Fellows presented a memorial tribute for Professor Emeritus Brian Collier, following which Senate unanimously endorsed a motion of condolence:

“It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of Dr. Brian Collier, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics at McGill University's Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences. After earning his PhD from the University of Leeds, Dr. Collier completed postdoctoral training at Cambridge and McGill, in physiology. In 1968 he was recruited to the Department of Pharmacology at McGill, where he would remain for the duration of his career, rising to the rank of Full Professor in 1978 and Emeritus Professor following his retirement in 2006. Dr. Collier's research focused on the study of the regulation of presynaptic function at sites of cholinergic synaptic transmission. He published extensively in first rate peer-reviewed journals, over a career spanning four decades. His research led to important early contributions to the field of neurochemistry, in particular showing how the neurotransmitter acetylcholine is synthesized, stored and released by neurons- a topic of particular relevance to Alzheimer's disease. He served the neurochemistry community throughout his career, including spending 10 years as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Neurochemistry, where he proved to be a conscientious and incisive evaluator of submitted manuscripts. In 1994, he chaired a large and highly successful congress of the International Union of Pharmacology in Montreal. At McGill he served as Acting Chair of the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics from 1983 to 1985 and served on Senate and numerous committees across the university.

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to scientific research and unyielding curiosity. A fun-loving person, he loved nature and music, especially classic rock. The lively holiday parties that took place in his lab for years are recalled fondly by people in the Department of Biochemistry. He was also responsible for a number of McGill academics embracing Kyokushin Karate. Adept in the discipline, he would proudly share stories, and bruises, and approached Karate as he did science: with commitment, determination, discipline and irreproachable ethics. We extend our heartfelt condolences to Prof. Pelletier's wife Muriel, to his children, Fiona, Dylan and Eric, his grandchildren, as well as to his entire family, friends, colleagues, friends, and all those whose lives he touched. May his legacy continue to inspire our community. He will be greatly missed."

The Chair then began his remarks by discussing Government Relations. He shared that he had met with Premier François Legault and Minister Pascale Déry, and between them a frank discussion was undertaken that touched upon all the issues of concern to the University, including the tuition fees increase and the *françisation* program. He regretfully noted that, while no significant progress was made, the University remained committed to maintaining an open line of communication and will continue to take any opportunity to engage with the government on these matters. The Chair then informed Senators that the Federal government had recently announced that it is imposing a cap on the number of new international undergraduate students it will accept into the country. He explained that each province and territory will be allocated a portion of the total amount of study permits, based on population sizes. From there, the provinces and territories are intended to allocate these study permits to their various universities and colleges. At the time of the meeting, Quebec's quota was not known. The Chair went on to share that Eric Girard, McGill Alumnus (BCom '89) and Quebec Minister of Finance and Minister Responsible for Relations with English-Speaking Quebecers, visited the University on February 2, 2024, and participated in an armchair discussion that was hosted at the Desautels Faculty of Management. It was noted that the goal of the visit was to offer students an opportunity to gain insight into the Province's economic policies and to raise awareness of the potential contributions that McGill graduates can make to economic growth in the province.

Concerning External Relations, the Chair reported that a meeting of the U15 Executive Heads had recently been held in Ottawa. He shared that he had met with various Ministers and Ambassadors, and highlighted that Marc Miller, Minister of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship had expressed his support considering the challenges being faced by the University. He went on to note that he had participated in the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting in Davos, whi ( w)-2.4Td( )TjEMC

The Chair went on to highlight the achievements of several individuals, including Professor Raquel Zegarra del Carpio-O'Donovan, Department of Radiology, Neurology and Neurosurgery



requested that the membership list of the ten Faculty members comprising the Faculty Engagement Consultative Group be made available to Senate, as well as background information concerning the processes by which they were selected to serve in this capacity. Senator Manfredi confirmed that this would be shared with Senate (*see Secret* (G2Vp)4)10-2(9)016d{j()}IP (3)F5[(en)]6J0n6T0-0004HjG2204/

1. Question regarding the New Vic Project and its reflection of the University's Academic Mission (D23-42)

Senators Pastrana Mankovitz, Garofalo, and Diabo submitted the following questions:

“Does the objection of students and Kahnistensera supporters to McGill’s response to this situation have an effect on McGill’s actions, which must reflect our mission?”

In what ways will the University ensure a spirit of reconciliation as the situation moves forward?”

The Provost and Executive Vice-President (Academic) provided the following written response prior to the Senate meeting:

Thank you for the question, Senators Pastrana Mankovitz, Garofalo, and Diabo.

“Since its inception, the New Vic Project (NVP) has reflected and embedded McGill’s commitments to truth and reconciliation, which are set out in [52 Calls to Action in the University’s Task Force Report on Indigenous Studies and Indigenous Education](#). Alignment between the NVP and reconciliation efforts is evidenced by ongoing consultations with local Indigenous community leaders, ceremonies that have taken place at the site, integration of Indigenous epistemologies and knowledges in project planning and design (including, for example, classroom designs conducive to Indigenous pedagogies), and the plan to launch four Canada Research Chairs earmarked for Indigenous scholarship tied to the two disciplinary priority areas at the NVP: sustainability and public policies. In addition, the University provided expedited access to its archives, including restricted files as permitted by law to the Kahnistensera. These steps exemplify the measures that McGill has taken, and will continue to take, to ensure that the NVP will incorporate Indigenous perspectives and meaningful reconciliation practices. McGill shares the goal that the Kahnistensera and their supporters hold, which is to ensure that no building on the NVP site occurs without first ensuring that it was never the site of unmarked graves. To this end, we must “let the ground speak” through qualified archaeological work.

Senator Garofalo posited that the [52 Calls to Action](#) set out by the Provost’s Task Force on Indigenous Studies and Indigenous Education in 2017 had been deliberately worded to exclusively apply in academic or scholarly contexts. She went on to ask about the specific benchmarks that the University will employ to measure success, and if the Office of Indigenous Initiatives had been consulted, along with Indigenous members of the University community, on the development of the New Vic Project as well. Senator Manfredi stated his disagreement with the premise that the 52 Calls to Action relate only to academic matters, highlighting that they are underpinned by deep engagement with neighbouring Indigenous communities and their elected and traditional leadership. He went on to share that the University remains in constant engagement with Indigenous communities, and that consultations by and within the Office of Indigenous Initiatives had indeed been undertaken. The Chair highlighted that Senator Manfredi’s written response outlined the steps by which consultations, engagement, and involvement with Indigenous communities had been undertaken as part of the conception of the New Vic Project.

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

### Open Session

1. Report of the Senate Nominating Committee [Consent Item] (D23-43)

Senate approved the recommendation contained in the Report of the Senate Nominating Committee as a consent item. The recommendation concerned the following:

*Item 1. Recommendation for an appointment to a Senate Standing Committee.*

2. Report of the Academic Policy Committee (D23-44)

Senator Manfredi presented this report for information. He explained that it provided an overview of matters considered by the Committee at its meeting of January 25, 2024.

3. Report of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (D23-45)

Senator Leckey presented this report for information. He explained that it provided an overview of matters considered by the Committee at its meeting of February 5, 2024.

- 4.1 Annual Report on Student Life and Learning (D23-46)

Senator Beech presented this report for information, on behalf of Senator Labeau, who was unable to attend the meeting. He explained that it provided an overview of matters considered and activities undertaken over the period 2022-2023 by the various units comprising the portfolio of the Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning). Senator Pondicherry suggested that a reference manual for students be created and distributed with the goal of raising awareness of the resources and services available under the umbrella of Student Life and Learning, and that a minimum stipend policy be put in place to support all students involved in research. Senator Beech replied, stating that a rigorous review of all Student Life and Learning unit websites was underway, with the intention of improving convenient access to current information regarding unit resources and

services and allowing for greater interconnectivity between pages. He went on to explain that it