

# REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MATTERS INCLUDED IN THE FACULTY ASSEMBLY PETITION

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FEBRUARY 14, 2020

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THE GEORGE  
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# OCTOBER 22, 2019 FACULTY ASSEMBLY PETITION

**Item #1:** whether the strategic plan followed principles of shared governance

**Item #2:** the costs and methodology of the Cultural Initiative

**Item #3:** on the data supporting the 20/30 plan

**Item #4:** on amending the charges of the strategic planning committees

**Item #5:** on the strategic planning timeline and consultation with faculty

**Item #6:** charge to convene a Special Assembly

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## DATA COMPILED

- ▶ Responses of the five Faculty Senate Committees (Appointments, Salaries and Promotion Policies; Research; Education and Technology Policy; Professional Ethics and Academic Freedom; and Fiscal Planning and Budgeting)
- ▶ Senate resolutions and reports (ASPP Report to the Senate; Resolution 20/7 from EP&T; Resolution 20/8 from Research Committee; Resolution 20/9 on Shared Governance)
- ▶ President LeBlanc's December 13, 2019 report to the Senate and his responses to two letters from the Special Committee regarding petition items #2 and 3

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## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### **Item #1 (on shared governance):**

Several committees determined that the strategic plan did not properly follow the principles of shared governance.

The Senate itself will vote on this question today when it considers the revised Resolution 20/9.

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## **Item #2 (on the costs and methodology of the Cultural Initiative):**

No specific data regarding the cost of the initiative, the Disney Institute consultation, or the cultural survey design and analysis were provided to the Special Committee, the Senate, or the petitioning Faculty as a whole.

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### **Item #3 (on data supporting the 20/30 plan):**

The Senate and its five committees received fragmentary and incomplete information that does not logically support the 20/30 plan.

Several attempts to collect specific data (e.g. Resolution 20/7, item #3, questions a. through h. and the Special Committee's January 17, 2020 letter to President LeBlanc) did not produce the specific information requested.

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## **Item #4 (on amending the charges of the strategic planning committees):**

The Research Committee supported changing the charges of the strategic planning committees.

Other committees provided comments regarding ideal STEM ratios, student body size, undergraduate enrollment, and team-based research.

President LeBlanc did not provide specific data regarding impact of the 20/30 plan on the curricular, research, and diversity and inclusion missions of the University.

The Fiscal Planning and Budgeting Committee indicated that it intends to address the financial implications of enrollment reductions in time for the February 25, 2020 Special Assembly.

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## **Item #5 (on the strategic planning timeline and consultation with faculty):**

The Senate and its five committees requested that they have the opportunity to review and respond to the strategic planning documents before submission to President LeBlanc and the Board of Trustees.

The original strategic planning timetable did not allow for that consultation; the subsequently adjusted timetable now permits such consultation to take place.



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## **Item #6 (Special Assembly):**

The Special Assembly has been scheduled for February 25, 2020, one month later than the date requested in the petition.

The Senate set this date so that the Assembly could respond to the strategic planning reports.

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## CONCLUSIONS

The Faculty Assembly Petition posed five sets of issues. Three and a half months later, the Special Committee finds that the Senate, through its five committees, and President LeBlanc have addressed them partially, though not completely.

We submit this report to the full Faculty for its consideration during the Special Assembly to be held on February 25, 2020.