

McGill Association of University Teachers

Fall General Meeting

Past-President Report

In the role of Past-President, I have been available to assist the President and the President-Elect with ongoing issues and have been partially involved in several items that are covered in their reports. However, the one item on which I have taken more of a leadership role has been the structure within MAUT for providing advising assistance to our members.

MAUT, as an organization, does not have a direct responsibility to provide peer advice to our members related to issues encountered in tenure applications, work conditions, general employment problems, etc. However, its members do have considerable experience in several of these areas and can provide assistance and help to other members encountering difficulties. Our Legal and Professional Officer, Mr. Joseph Varga, has an in depth knowledge of McGill's regulations and this is an invaluable resource when it comes to interpreting them in the context of a member's problems. He also provides significant assistance and guidance to MAUT members, is also the link between a member seeking peer guidance and MAUT members capable of providing it. A list of advisers is maintained by Mr. Varga and is used to match members with advisers on request. Over the past 6 month period, Mr. Varga has received almost 90 requests for assistance, an annual rate of more than 150. A more detailed version of the role played, and work covered, by Mr. Varga was presented by him at the Spring General Meeting.

While this system has worked well in the past, it was felt by several MAUT members that it could be improved. For that reason, an *ad hoc* committee on the Advising Process was formed and consists of Mr. J. Varga and the Past-President, President and President-Elect. The Past-President is considered to be the Chair of this committee. The committee has begun to review the existing system and is considering the possibility of providing additional training for advisers to help them in their work.

The primary role of MAUT in the present system is to connect advisers with advisees. While the advisers are often referred to as "MAUT Advisers" this term implies that they are working on behalf of MAUT. This is not the case and, moving forward, MAUT will work to clarify its role and that of the adviser. The range of issues that an MAUT member may need advice on is wide. Individuals who express their interest in serving as an advisor are given the opportunity to avail themselves of general training courses by FQPPU and CAUT. Only a few have taken the time to attend these courses. As a result, Advisers often "learn on the job". Providing more specific training to inform advisors of the Regulations of the University, particularly those related to Tenure and Employment is being considered. This could involve developing material and/or an on-line tutorial. We will be providing a more elaborate explanation on the MAUT website to outline the relationships between MAUT, the Advisee and the Adviser.