

MAUT FALL GENERAL MEETING

REPORT OF VP (INTERNAL)

Alenoush Saroyan

Terms of Reference

The VICE-PRESIDENT (INTERNAL) is generally responsible for MAUT participation in the internal affairs of the University.

Activities

Four types of activities have been undertaken since the 2015 Spring General Meeting:

- Populating MAUT Standing Committees and University Standing Committees on which MAUT has representation have the full complement of names
- Developing documents and guidelines for MAUT activities
- Coordinating and chairing working groups when MAUT is consulted for policy decisions by various University bodies
- Seeking input from membership to identify issues and concerns

Populating MAUT and University Standing Committees

- a) Filling in vacant positions on University Standing Committees on which MAUT has representation. A list of the committees and committee members is available on the MAUT website
<https://www.mcgill.ca/maut/files/maut/joint_university_committees_nov_2015.pdf>
- b) Filling in vacant positions on MAUT Standing Committees. A list of the committees and committee members is available on the MAUT website <<http://www.mcgill.ca/maut/about-us/committees>>

Developing Documents to Guide MAUT Activities

- c) Finalizing the Terms of Reference of MAUT Standing Committees. These are now posted on the MAUT website <<http://www.mcgill.ca/maut/about-us/committees#standing>>
- d) Finalizing a by-law to outline the parameters and conditions under which the term “Consultation with MAUT” can be used by individuals or units that seek input from MAUT. This document is now posted on the MAUT website
<https://www.mcgill.ca/maut/files/maut/april_16_2015_approved_by-law_consultation_with_maut.pdf>

Coordinating and Chairing Working Groups to Respond to Consultation Requests

- e) Chairing a working group to respond to a Consultation request by Kathleen Massey, University Registrar and Executive Director, regarding the proposal

initiated by the Student Society of McGill University (SSMU) for a Fall Study Break.

On 25 June 2015, Kathleen Massey submitted a consultation request to MAUT regarding a proposal initiated by SSMU for a fall study break. In its 16 September 2015 meeting, Council authorized a working group comprising Alenoush Saroyan, VP Internal, Renee Sieber, and Caroline Riches. The working group developed a survey to seek input from our membership. Based on input from 288 survey respondents, a response was formulated (Appendix I) and forwarded to Ms. Massey 6 November 2015. In general, with evidence to justify the advantages of a fall study break, faculty are in favour of instituting a Fall study break.

- f) Chairing a working group to scrutinize proposed revisions to the Investigation on the Investigation of Research Misconduct.

In October 2015, Angela Campbell, Associate Provost (Policies, Procedures, & Equity) and Abraham Fuks, Research Integrity Officer, submitted a consultation request to MAUT regarding proposed revisions made to the Regulations on the Investigation of Research Misconduct. The working group representing MAUT include: Alenoush Saroyan, MAUT VP Internal (Chair), Jeremy Cooperstock, Richard Janda, Bernard Robaire, and Edith Zorychta. Consultation is still in progress.

Seeking input from membership to identify issues and concerns

- g) Compiling information from members regarding issues and concerns related to pensions once, at the normal age of retirement, the administration of the account is transferred to Morneau Shepell, and communicating these concerns to the Pension Management Administration. This work continues.



Submitted November 10, 2015

APPENDIX I

LETTER SENT TO KATHLEEN MASSEY IN RESPONSE TO A CONSULTATION REQUEST FOR A FALL STUDY BREAK

Dear Kathleen,

Thank you for seeking input from MAUT on the SSMU initiated proposal to implement a Fall Break at McGill.

Our Council, Executive, and the working group tasked by MAUT Council to follow-up on your request noted that MAUT was being approached for consultation only after the initial proposal had been developed. We also noted that the working group membership listed on the proposal did not include any faculty but understand that the associate deans were involved at some point. Exclusions of this nature diminish the value of collegial governance and decision-making that MAUT condones and aspires to encourage.

To inform our response, MAUT conducted a survey of its members. The suggestions and recommendations below are based on responses received from 280 survey respondents.

- Even though, in principle, a Fall break is an acceptable concept, faculty would prefer to see empirical evidence in support of adopting such a policy. Providing evidence of ways in which a Fall break will benefit our students will be an important step toward making the proposal appealing to the academic community.
- Faculty are generally in favour of a Fall break.
- Faculty are not in favour of a Fall break if classes were to always start before Labour Day.
- Faculty are in favour of the flexibility to make decisions at the local level but at the same time are concerned that inconsistencies in local decisions may become unwieldy and disadvantage or confuse students, especially those who take courses in other Faculties.
- Faculty are generally not too concerned about extending exams to a weekend day or to evenings.

In summary, with supporting evidence that justifies the value and potential benefits of a Fall study break, MAUT supports the SSMU initiated initiative. As the implementation of a Fall break will have consequences, for example on the number of make-up classes and exam schedules, we suggest that a working group with representation from faculty explore under what conditions such a break would be optimal. A concurrent issue that this group can look into is the optimal (legal) duration of a term and/or contact hours.