

Compilation of Motions passed at MAUT Council June 27, 2012 to March 13, 2013

June 27/2012

Forum on Bill 78

A. Shrier moved that MAUT hold a Forum on Bill 78 in the Fall 2012. Seconded by K. Hastings. Approved unanimously. [Note: In September 2012, due to the election of the PQ government and subsequent cancellation of tuition increases, members of the Working Group on Bill 78 Forum agreed that the initiative was no longer necessary at the current time. The debate will be revived at a later date, if necessary.]

September 19/2012

Budget Approval for S.E.D.E. Calendars for MAUT Members

C. Ragan moved that a cheque / donation for \$1K be sent to the S.E.D.E. Office – to contribute to fundraising efforts (calendars distributed to MAUT members). Seconded by J. Galaty. Approved.

Budget Approval for latest LRMM Invoice

C. Ragan moved that MAUT Council approved the latest LRMM invoice. Seconded by B. Gillon. Council approved with one abstention.

October 10/2012

Pension Administration Committee

Motion by G. Mikkelson (with friendly amendment by P.Caines):

That the Council of the McGill Association of University Teachers calls upon the Board of Governors (BoG) to actively study the democratization of the Pension Administration Committee (PAC) in the following two ways: Increase the ratio of elected representatives to appointed members, resulting in the following composition of the PAC:

- a. Two representatives elected by current academic staff
- b. Two representatives elected by current non-academic staff
- c. Two representatives elected by retired academic and non-academic staff
- d. Two members appointed by the BoG
- e. One "independent" member appointed by the BoG pursuant to advice from the PAC

Run elections to the PAC according to the principle of one person, one vote. In other words, all members of the McGill University Pension Plan in each of the respective categories named above (current academic, current non-academic, and retired staff members) shall have an equal say about who represents them on the PAC.

Further amended by J. Galaty: That the proposal on the floor be referred to a specific committee charged with considering this motion and others that may arise, to become informed as to how pensions are managed in other universities, and to bring these finding back to MAUT Council by January 2013.

B. Myles moved [formally proposed by D. Lowther and seconded by C. Riches]: That MAUT Council agree to strike a committee to gather more information, an ad hoc committee chaired by G. Mikkelson, that will argue pro and con the status quo, and to refer to the original motion [including the changes to the wording] and specify a deadline [December 2012] for a report to Council.

Council approved with one abstention. [Note: G. Mikkelson called the first meeting of the PAC Committee on October 30/12.]

Approval for Course Release Funds [\$10K]

Moved that MAUT Council approve a sum of \$10K for course release for Executive members. Seconded by M. Zannis-Hadjopoulos. K. Hasting suggested that only Council members vote on this decision. Suggest taken. Council members approved with one dissenting vote.

December 6/2012

Sommet sur l'enseignement supérieur

S. Rankin proposed that MAUT strike an Ad-Hoc Committee to Develop MAUT's Position at the Sommet sur l'enseignement supérieur. D. Lowther moved to strike this ad hoc committee with J. Galaty as chair. Seconded by B. Gillon. Council approved.

Protocol Regarding Demonstrations, Protests and Occupations on McGill University Campuses

Al Shrier proposed that MAUT conduct a survey concerning the Protocol Regarding Demonstrations, Protests and Occupations. Seconded by J. Galaty. Council approved.

Reform of the appeal process

Peter Caines moved that Council instruct the Executive to work without delay towards the reform of the appeal process within McGill for faculty dismissals. Seconded by Kaleem Siddiqi.

J. Galaty moved that Council establish a Sub-Committee which will prepare a report to be submitted to the Executive. Seconded by M. Zannis-Hadjopoulos. Council agreed unanimously.

The members of the MAUT Sub-Committee on Developing an Adequate Appeal Mechanism for Academic Staff Members Subject to Dismissal for this aspect of the Grievance and Disciplinary Appeals Procedures are: P. Caines, J. Galaty and J. Varga (ex-officio).

Noting that the previous changes to the Regulations were a joint effort involving MAUT and the Administration, R. Myles moved that the process begin now and that MAUT work on a minimal and clear statement. Seconded by K. Norget. Council called for a vote. The vote was carried [9 in favour, 3 opposed and 4 abstentions].

Vote on the proposal to refer the motion to the Sub-Committee: 8 in favour, 7 opposed with 2 abstentions.

Citizen's Council

R. Myles provided Council with background information on a Citizens' Council. In MAUT's document: Governance, Protest and Security- Report of the MAUT Committee on the Implications of the Events of 10 November 2011 [March 06/12], Recommendation #2 called for: The establishment of a working group to review the possibilities for consultation and collaboration among the University's various constituencies.

A. Shrier moved to create a working group with a broad-based membership and to appoint at least two members from Council. K. Hastings volunteered to be on this working group and asked whether Council wanted it to work on organizing an open forum. MAUT Council members proposed moving beyond specified restrictions in the recommendations to a Citizens' Council with broader functions.

A. Paré, one of the authors of the GPS Report, suggested that the Citizens' Council become a permanent committee that would hold cross-constituency discussions including the PGSS and SSMU. K. Norget proposed that MAUT begin discussions with the Report's authors. K. Hastings proposed that he, G. Mikkelson, K. Norget and R. Myles join the group and noted that funding could be discussed at a future MAUT Council meeting. S. Rankin moved to call the question, seconded by G. Mikkelson. Council approved unanimously.

December 11/ 2012

Budget Crisis

The following motion, along with a covering letter from A. Shrier, was translated into French and posted on the Website. It was sent to the MAUT membership, the faculty at large, to members of the Administration, the Board of Governors, McGill and Québec student associations, the Gazette, the FQPPU and CAUT. Al Shrier asked Council to endorse the motion. Council agreed.

Motion: Although it is recognized that Quebec faces significant financial challenges that require thoughtful action, the recent decision of the government to impose drastic cuts to both university operating grants and research funding agencies is precipitous, reckless, and ill-conceived. Given the essential role of higher education and research in the current and future well-being of Quebec, these activities, among all of those

within the purview of the government, should be carefully nurtured and supported, particularly in difficult times.

The Quebec government has reversed its previous budgetary commitments and contravened its campaign promises that it would compensate universities for the loss of funds resulting from its repeal of tuition increases put in place by the previous government. The Quebec government has imposed extraordinary cuts to the operating grants made to Quebec's network of institutions of higher education. Since the cuts are retroactive to the beginning of this fiscal year, Quebec universities are now faced with internal cuts of up to 15% over the next 4 months, which must take into account ongoing salary commitments. These government actions are irresponsible and reprehensible, representing as they do an undermining, indeed a virtual dismantling, of a university system that is, and should be, an object of pride.

Together with drastic cuts to research funding agencies (e.g., a 30% cut to the FRQNT), which will have a disastrous impact on university-based research, these actions form a concerted act to cripple our society's main engines of knowledge and innovation.

The MAUT Executive and Council unequivocally condemn these cuts in the strongest of terms, call for their reversal, and demand immediate consultation with the universities over their budgetary needs. They also call on universities, student associations and faculty unions and associations to establish a unified and common position in demanding a reversal of the budget policy on higher education and research put forward by the Quebec Government.

MAUT Communications Committee

Motion by Sharon Rankin Seconded by Caroline Riches:

We recommend that the MAUT Communications Committee be expanded in mandate and membership as follows:

The current mandate is to "address issues of what the MAUT website and the listserv would distribute." Expand this mandate to include "assistance to the MAUT Office and MAUT Executive concerning the design, content and updating of the MAUT website. Under the direction of the VP Communications, the committee members will be involved in timely updates of content and links on the site".

Membership:

Current membership is:

Chair, VP Communications, Caroline Riches; Kristin Norget (Anthropology); Petra Rohrbach (Parasitology)

Expand the membership to add additional MAUT member (TBD)

and the following MAUT-LS members: MAUT-LS, Secretary Treasurer, (Genevieve Gore); MAUT-LS web editor, Jane Aitkens; MAUT-LS web editor (TBA)

Council approved.

Request to sign petition

Council reviewed the request to sign an on-line petition, forwarded by Past-President R. Prichard, against the draconian cuts to university funding and all FRQ funds. A. Shrier moved to send an edited message and petition to the Listserv. Seconded by B. Gillon. Council approved. The final message is reproduced below:

Dear Colleagues,

The previous announcement of the petition to L'Honorable Pierre Duchesne, Ministre de l'enseignement supérieur, de la recherche, de la science et de la technologie, protesting the recent cuts to FRQNT was inaccurate on several points. In fact, the petition concerns all of the FRQ funds, not just FRQNT, and it does not call for the Minister to resign, but to defend the integrity of scientific research in Quebec universities by maintaining the FRQ budget at its current level. It remains extremely important to participate in sending a message of protest about these drastic and precipitous cuts. Please consider my revised words of encouragement to support the petition.

The Québec Government's draconian cuts to university funding and to research FRQNT – [Fonds de recherche du Québec – Nature et technologies] of 30% has led to the drafting of an online petition. The McGill Association of University Teachers-MAUT, along with other Québec university associations, supports this petition that opposes cuts to all FRQ funds.

The Honorable Pierre Duchesne and this government appear set against having strong sustainable universities and university research in Québec. We are facing an appalling situation which will negatively impact economic growth, investment and employment in Québec for decades unless changes are made quickly. We have elsewhere approved a statement protesting the highly detrimental changes that have been announced by this government and supported by a minister who should be helping Québec universities to be the best that they possibly can be.

The petition to protest the cuts to FRQNT is copied below. We support this wider effort to protest draconian cuts to universities and to university research in Québec and urge its support by other university faculty associations.

Alvin Shrier, MAUT President

January 30/2013

Budget Approval for MAUT Website

C. Riches moved that Council approve \$2.5K to cover the costs associated with the new website. Seconded by M. Zannis-Hadjopoulos. Council approved unanimously.