

## **David Lowther: President's Report for the Fall General Meeting on November 12, 2015**

This report provides a summary of MAUT activities since the Spring 2015 AGM

### **Academic Freedom**

Following the administration's response to the Statement of Academic Freedom adopted by the MAUT Council on April 24, 2014, the Ad-Hoc Committee was asked to provide an MAUT reply. A draft statement has been developed and has been forwarded to the Principal as a basis for further collegial discussions between MAUT and the Administration.

### **Collegial Governance**

There has been the development of a strategy to hold informal and formal meetings with members of the Administration to provide the latter with a heads-up on MAUT's concerns. This has worked to provide MAUT's perspectives on issues such as Appeal in the Case of Dismissal, the Conflict of Interest Reporting Policy, the Policy on Safe Disclosure, the McGill Commitment, and the proposed Fall Break.

More recently, there has been a series of meetings with Associate Provost Angela Campbell on proposed revisions to the Regulations Concerning the Investigation of Research Misconduct.

Additionally, the President has met informally with the Principal and the meetings between the Principal, Provost and three Presidents of MAUT have continued. During these discussions, the situation related to permanent residency for new academic hires was discussed.

MAUT has also been asked for its input on the International Strategy document and for the Cyclical Review of the Information Technology Services group.

To facilitate and be able to respond effectively to requests for consultation, MAUT has implemented a formal process for Ad-Hoc consultation which provides clear guidelines for a complex and important aspect of university governance and appears to be working well.

### **Committee on Academic Salary Compensation (CASC)**

Two meetings of CASC have been held this semester. We are in the third year of the Salary Policy agreed for 2014-2016 and we are confident that the commitment for the June 2016 increase will be upheld. Discussions are now taking place on the next three year Salary Policy and it is hoped that we will have an agreement on this by the end of this Academic Year.

### **MAUT Business**

MAUT has been in discussions with the recently formed McGill University Retirees Association (MURA) over the relationships between the two organizations. MURA's members include former members of MUNASA, MUNACA and SEU, and members of MAUT's Retirees' Section. The roles of MURA and MAUT in representing the interests of retired academic staff are under discussion.

A Fall Break Survey was commissioned after the Administration approached MAUT for its views on a proposed Fall Break and the need to compensate for the lost hours by starting the semester early and then, possibly, running final exams on weekends.

Since the Spring 2015 AGM there has been a considerable effort to update the MAUT Constitution and By-Laws. Notably, there were extensive changes in the By-Law Governing Standing Committees and new By-Laws concerning Donations and Ad Hoc Consultation with MAUT. These updates will soon be incorporated in the Constitution document on the MAUT website.

Finally, a review of the committee mandates has been undertaken and these have been updated along with the committee memberships.