

MAUT Fall General Meeting
November 13, 2014

Report of the Past-President

Ken Hastings

Two initiatives have been especially important for me over the past year. These are: 1) the Citizen's Council, and 2) The MAUT Membership Committee.

Citizens' Council

The Citizen's Council is an informal association of all student and employee groups at McGill. This includes, in addition to MAUT, SSMU (undergraduate students), PGSS (graduate students and postdocs), MCLIU (course lecturers and instructors), MUNASA (management admin/support staff), MUNACA (non-management admin/support staff), AMURE (research associates and assistants), AMUSE (casual employees, many of which are also students), and SEIU (support staff in the trades, e.g. plumbers, electricians etc).

The Citizen's Council was formed in 2013 as the result of a recommendation in the March 2012 MAUT Report entitled "Governance, Protest and Security: Report of the MAUT Committee to Examine the Implications of the Events of Nov. 10, 2011". This report concluded that increased communication among the various elements of the broader McGill community could have been beneficial in constructively re-orienting some of the unrest and social energy that led to the tumultuous events of Nov 2011. This report proposed the formation of a multi-component assembly, which it provisionally termed a "Citizen's Council", at which all sub-communities of the larger university community could meet and exchange information and opinion.

For the 2014/15 academic year the Citizen's Council has planned two major survey projects. The first, which is currently underway, is a survey of campus-wide thinking regarding Principal Fortier's Plans for the university, announced in March 2014. The plan is to obtain feedback from all elements of the university community on the strengths and potential weaknesses of the plans. This feedback will be collated and integrated, and will form the basis of a discussion meeting with Principal Fortier in early 2015.

The second major Citizen's Council survey planned for the 2014/15 academic year relates to a project termed "The Citizen's Council Governance Report". The idea is that the Citizen's Council will survey all its member sub-communities for examples of good and bad governance at McGill during the previous year. This will foster a constructive, and at the same time critical, engagement of the community with governance issues at all levels. We visualize the possibility that such a "Governance Report" could become a regular annual feature of the university community calendar. This survey will take place in early 2015.

Membership Committee

The MAUT Membership Committee, with the full support of MAUT Council, has taken a leadership role in the effort to establish social events, in which academic staff interact in an informal and fun context, as a significant element of the MAUT experience.

The Membership Committee, in conjunction with the Faculty Club, organized two extremely successful events in Fall 2014 – a Welcome Gathering at the Faculty Club on Sept 9, and an Octoberfest Apple-Picking event at the Macdonald campus on Oct 5. Both events were well-attended by members, non-members, and families, and everybody had a great time.

I will not provide details of these events here as they will be reported under another agenda item. However, I will note that, stimulated by the great success of the Fall 2015 events, the Membership Committee is now planning another fun, family-oriented social event for academic staff in January 2015. You will soon hear all about it.