



McGill

MCGILL UNIVERSITY SENATE

Question

TO:

Senate

FROM:

Ms. Lynne Champoux-Williams

DATE SUBMITTED:

May 11, 2008

SENATE MEETING DATE:

May 21, 2008

SUBJECT: Internal communication at McGill

PREAMBLE:

McGill has an excellent record on its emphasis on external communication. Whether it is Alumni Relations, International Relations or Public Affairs, McGill is able to maintain its reputation throughout the world and thus attract the best staff members, researchers, professors, administrators, graduate and undergraduate students.

However, the management of internal communication at McGill does not seem to have its place within the organizational structure of the administration¹. After leading several projects related to different units within the administration, I found that collaboration with members of the administration is impaired by unavailable information outlining the responsibilities of each unit (and staff members), as well as the units' relationships with one another.

Moreover, the lack of direct interaction between the administration and its students (that is, more broad reaching, general and open than Senate or Town Hall) leads to students relying on external sources to understand the position of the university (or its influent members) on certain issues^{2,3}. This impairs undergraduate students (especially those from the downtown campus) from graduating with a feeling of community that goes beyond wearing the McGill brand and toward monetary contribution to Campaign McGill⁴.

1. <http://www.mcgill.ca/orgchart/>
2. <http://www.canada.com/montrealgazette/story.html?id=c663348f-7948-401e-ac0a-e77c05cb19e6&k=18026>
3. <http://www.reportonbusiness.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20080423.wyakabuski0424/BNStory/robColumnsBlogs/home>
4. <http://media.www.mcgilltribune.com/media/storage/paper234/news/2008/04/08/Opinion/40-Degrees.Life.The.University.And.Everything-3309830.shtml>
<http://media.www.mcgilltribune.com/media/storage/paper234/news/2008/04/08/Opinion/Off-The.Board.A.Note.From.The.Managing.Editors-3309834.shtml>

QUESTION:

1. What is the organizational structure of the non-senior administration, and where are the responsibilities of the units delineated?
2. What are the main direct modes of communication between the administrators, staff members, professors, research fellows, graduate and undergraduate students?
3. What is the administration doing to foster a feeling of community within McGill that is consistent with the image projected outside McGill, despite the increase in enrollment of undergraduates and the funding constraints?