

6 September 2011

Communiqué—Dean Christophe Pierre Appointed V-P Academic Affairs at the University of Illinois

Prof. Anthony C. Masi, Provost, McGill University

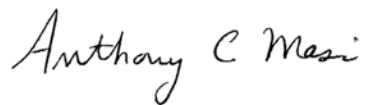
Dean of McGill's Faculty of Engineering, Prof. Christophe Pierre, has resigned his position effective 30 September 2011 to become the Vice-President for Academic Affairs at the multi-campus University of Illinois (Urbana Champaign, Chicago, and Springfield). Prof. Pierre's appointment at Illinois provides strong recognition of the prominence of his academic endeavours and his leadership abilities, which were clear during his tenure here at McGill. Christophe Pierre was first named McGill's Dean of Engineering in 2005 and was reappointed in 2010. He is also a Professor of Mechanical Engineering at McGill and holds a Tier-I Canada Research Chair in Structural Dynamics and Vibration based on his exemplary scholarly and research record.

Prof. Pierre has presided over exceptional growth in Engineering at McGill, characterized by exciting new and innovative academic programs, success in accreditation and program reviews, and with considerable fundraising success. During his tenure as Dean, Prof. Pierre presided over the creation of the Institute for Sustainability in Engineering and Design, the McGill Institute for Aerospace Engineering, a Summer Undergraduate Research in Engineering platform, and the development of a bioengineering undergraduate program. Dean Pierre developed an aggressive international recruitment strategy of academics at all levels and propelled research excellence in Engineering by instituting the Engineering Research Excellence Award, and the establishment of the Faculty of Engineering Research and Graduate Education Office. Under his stewardship, graduate enrolment in engineering, especially in doctoral programs, has grown considerably. Dean Pierre is leaving Engineering at McGill in a strong position, well-placed for continued advancement and leadership in teaching, research and service to the broader community. Dean Christophe Pierre's stewardship of Engineering has raised the standard of excellence in the Faculty, and I am sure you will join me in thanking him and celebrating this next phase of his academic career.

A search for a new Dean of Engineering will begin immediately. Principal Munroe-Blum and I are pleased to announce that Prof. Andrew Kirk, an accomplished researcher and teacher, will be appointed Interim Dean of Engineering effective 1 October 2011. Prof. Kirk is currently the Chair of Electrical and Computer Engineering, was formerly Associate Dean of Engineering for Research and Graduate Education, and won the Principal's Award for Excellence in Teaching. The Principal and I look forward to working closely with Prof. Kirk as he continues to build on the strengths and innovations which Dean Christophe Pierre brought to McGill's Faculty of Engineering and while the search for a new Dean is underway.

Please join me in thanking Prof. Kirk, and in congratulating Prof. Christophe Pierre for a job well-done and in wishing him success at the University of Illinois.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anthony C Masi".

Prof. Anthony C. Masi
Provost, McGill University