



**TO:** Senate  
**FROM:** Ms. Alexandra Bishop  
**SUBJECT:** Academic Integrity  
**MEETING DATE:** October 15, 2008

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**PREAMBLE:** McGill University prides itself on being a global leader in post-secondary education. Our degrees are highly respected worldwide due to our reputation for academic excellence.

In light of the recent publicity related to the Academic Integrity Policy and its application at McGill University, it seems that the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures and its day-to-day implementation have not consistently maintained international leadership standards.

As stated in the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures; Chapter 3, III Academic Offences :

“The integrity of University academic life and of the degrees the University confers is dependent upon the honesty and soundness of the teacher- student learning relationship and, as well, that of the evaluation process. Conduct by any member of the University community that adversely affects this relationship or this process must, therefore, be considered a serious offence.”

There have been several examples in the media of interference with the evaluation process and the breakdown of the student-teacher relationship at McGill University and other well known academic institutions around the world.

In order for the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures to be applied properly, the concepts therein must be clearly defined. The following statement on plagiarism appears in McGill University’s Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures; Chapter 3, article 15(a):

“No student shall, with intent to deceive, represent the work of another person as his or her own in any academic writing, essay, thesis, research report, project or assignment submitted in a course or program of study or represent as his or her own an entire essay or work of another, whether the material so represented constitutes a part or the entirety of the work submitted.”

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**QUESTION:**

1. Being that McGill is a global leader, are there plans to review the current policy and its application within the McGill community?
2. In McGill’s current policy it states that there must be intent to deceive. How does McGill define intent and how is intent to deceive proven when an individual’s academic integrity comes into question?

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