



McGill

Question

TO: Senate
FROM: Margaret Labban
SUBJECT: April 2009 Economic Statement
MEETING DATE: May 20, 2009

PREAMBLE: Preamble:

In February and April 2009, Principal and Vice-Chancellor Munroe-Blum released Economic Statements to the McGill community outlining the challenges facing the institution with respect to global, national, and regional economic realities, and putting forward a series of measures that the University is taking to face these challenges.

The budgeting realities are complex, difficult, and vitally urgent to the survival of McGill as a collegial institution, and the President's goal of "preserving and growing ... academic excellence (February Economic Statement)". In order that the McGill community be fully capable of engaging in the process brought about by the economic problems, it is necessary that we fully understand the issues, plans, and long-term consequences of the response to the economic crisis.

"Our actions since February

Since I wrote to you last, the Provost and I have consulted broadly with the McGill community. We have received many useful suggestions – via our four town halls, the Provost's Administrative Task Force on Dealing with Economic Uncertainty, its blog, and other means – including the following:

- everyone acting to reduce energy usage and energy costs;
 - modernizing our procurement practices to be consistent with those of large, modern organizations;
 - reducing all business-related travel and hospitality expenses through increased efficiencies and greater uptake of e-communications, including meetings via teleconferencing;
 - implementing time-limited salary freezes and strategic attrition;
 - much greater use of our scheduling flexibility to optimize the use of our facilities;
 - acceleration of our enrolment model and targets to maintain our competitive edge and to optimize our revenue flows;
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- numerous means of increasing and further diversifying our revenues."
(http://www.mcgill.ca/principal/speeches/economic/econstat_043009/)

QUESTION:

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- 1) What precisely is meant by the phrase "strategic attrition" in the "Our actions since February" section of the April Economic Statement?
 - 2) What "means of increasing and further diversifying our revenues" are being actively pursued, and how do these fit in with the mission of the University? (Also from the "Our actions since February" section of the April Economic Statement.)
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