Leading the Future
Do Not Reject this World

- This is not a race against the machines. If we race against them, we lose. This is a race with the machines.

Kevin Kelly
Something is Happening

A reporter for TechCrunch recently observed, “Uber, the world’s largest taxi company, owns no vehicles. Facebook, the world’s most popular media owner, creates no content. Alibaba, the most valuable retailer, has no inventory. And Airbnb, the world’s largest accommodation provider, owns no real estate. Something interesting is happening.”

Kevin Kelly
Something is Happening

• Body part maker.
• Nano-medic: GM or recombinant farmer
• Elderly wellness consultant
• Memory augmentation surgeon
• Vertical farmers
• Climate change reversal specialist
• Virtual lawyer
• Classroom avatar manager
• Narrowcasters
• Social 'networking' worker
• Neuro-implant technicians
• Virtual reality experience designer
• Microbial balancer
• Big data doctor
Something is Happening

• Human relationships are rich and they're messy and they're demanding. And we clean them up with technology. And when we do, one of the things that can happen is that we sacrifice conversation for mere connection.

• We expect more from technology and less from each other

• And so from social networks to sociable robots, we're designing technologies that will give us the illusion of companionship without the demands of friendship. We turn to technology to help us feel connected in ways we can comfortably control.

• Sherry Turkle
How can we react?

We need to be fluid and agile, flowing from idea to idea, because that fluidity reflects the turbulent informational environment surrounding us. This mode is neither a lazy failure nor an indulgent luxury. It is a necessity in order to thrive. To steer a kayak on white-water rapids you need to be paddling at least as fast as the water runs, and to hope to navigate the exabytes of information, change, disruption coming at us, you need to be flowing as fast as the frontier is flowing.

Kevin Kelly
How Do We Become Fluid?

• We invest in creativity, in people, in human capital
• We create the conditions: For ourselves, for students, for the university community
• We never settle for old solutions to new problems
• We embrace technology so we can insert our values and principles into it
• We always question our administrative structure
How do we Create the Future?

Think Fluid. Think Different. Think Unusual.
A Call to Action

• Let’s create the conditions for all of us to be able to address the present and anticipate the future

• Let’s be at the forefront of the future, influencing it positively, with our principles and values

• Let’s lead the future instead of reacting to changes
Creating the Conditions: *SLL’s Leading the Future program*

- SLL Staff will be able to get 15 working days to focus exclusively on a project
- We have created Building 21
- We will launch the SLL Employees Recognition Awards in the Fall
- We will develop a staff onboarding program
Leading the Future program

- SLL staff will be eligible to receive support, training *and time* (up to 15 working days) to dedicate to a unique, inventive, and creative initiative, or to a current leading and creative project whose goal is to unify life and learning, and to nurture, inspire and guide our community throughout the 21st century journey.

- SLL staff now has its own space to brainstorm, debate, explore and engage with each other in Building 21. Building 21 is a unique place where student, faculty and staff are free to explore the future of higher education.

- Initiatives, hard work, collaboration, team work and dedication to students are also key components in our ability to adapt to change, be fluid, and respond to the demands of the future. This is why we are also creating the SLL Employees Recognition Awards.
Leading the Future program

Choose a theme:
- Unifying Life and Learning
- Nurture, inspire and guide our community throughout the 21st century journey
- Support intellectual, professional, and personal growth
- Create the healthiest McGill experience
- Create an environment where students can explore their world, discover their purpose and reach their goals

Develop a specific project within the theme
Create a team from at least two SLL units, and one student (if possible)

Apply to the program

- The project must address the theme chosen in a forward-looking way
- It must address a specific need, concern or identified future trend
- It must be cross-unit
- Financial costs and impacts must be taken into consideration
- It should, if possible, include an element of beauty
Employees Recognition Awards

- Outstanding employee award
- Outstanding team award
- Student employee award
- Lifetime Achievement Award
Leading the Future program

http://www.mcgill.ca/studentlifeandlearning/current-initiatives
Thank you