

MAUT Annual Report 2022-23
VP Communications and the MAUT Communications Committee

One of MAUT's central functions is to maintain clear, timely and ongoing communications with its membership about matters that directly affect them within McGill, as well as issues of provincial and national concern. Over the years MAUT has devised a number of procedures and mechanisms to facilitate this process of communication, including the following: Newsletter; Email Listserv; Facebook; Twitter; Slack Channel; and MAUT Website. As we came out of the covid pandemic in 2022, we were able to engage in more in-person modes of communication, such as holding Town Halls (e.g., on asbestos at the McDonald campus and Stewart Biology). While virtual meetings (Zoom/MS Teams) continue to be important along with a social media presence such as Facebook and Twitter, we have primarily relied upon the publication of the MAUT Newsletter (three times per year) to communicate with membership on a broad range of issues including: salary negotiations; NEWMAD; new disciplinary and grievance procedures; growing administrative burden on faculty; Bill 96 (Law 14) on the use of French language; the establishment and certification of the Association of McGill Professors of Law (AMPL); whistleblowing; retirement; and the appointment of the new Principal. In addition, we have also published two Newsletter 'Memos' on salary policy for 2023 and fossil fuel divestment.

Although the VP Communications is responsible for overall planning and development, the MAUT Communications Committee advises on both policy and strategy regarding communications. Members of the committee for 2022-23 were as follows:

MAUT Communications Committee

- Steve Jordan, Chair
- Michael David Miller (Libraries)
- Caroline Riches (CAS)

The committee met once (March 20th, 2023) to review 2022 and plan for the coming year (2023). While a number of items were discussed, two key issues were identified that require attention. These were:

- Updating and revision of the MAUT website. While the website is in need of a general overhaul, sections such as 'news and current affairs' and 'resources' require immediate attention. That said, updating/revamping the website will necessitate a substantial investment of both editorial time and technical expertise (webpage design). This will most likely have to be conducted over a period of months to ensure that it is reflective of MAUT's current status, organisation and staffing.
- A review and reconsideration of the effectiveness of the Slack channel as a means to communicate with and engage membership in dialogue of current issues that may affect them e.g., merit policy. The issue here seems to be whether to continue to use this as a tool for communications given the low participation rate and use of Slack by the membership and broader faculty.

As always, we welcome feedback from members on how we can continue to improve communications within and beyond MAUT and can be reached via maut@mcgill.ca.

Respectfully submitted by Steven Jordan

March 31, 2023