

## MAUT FACULTY CLUB COMMITTEE REPORT, April 2022

The 2021-22 year has been a very positive one for the Faculty Club, with the reopening in the Fall term amid a lot of optimism as the number of COVID cases declined. Prior to opening, the Club was cleaned from top to bottom, plastic barriers were installed where relevant, and all government requirements were instituted (entry scanning for vaccine passport, spacing between guests, mandatory masks ...). Two members of the MAUT committee are also on the Executive of the Faculty Club ( E. Zorychta, Treasurer; D. Harpp, Past President), and A. Kirk, the current President of MAUT is now on the Faculty Club Council, so MAUT has a strong presence. The Faculty Club was able to financially survive the pandemic closure thanks to the Emergency Fund created in 1999/2000. The fund is invested through the McGill endowment and has slowly grown through the regular annual deposits and accumulated interest. The COVID-19 financial challenge is the type of crisis this fund was designed to cope with, and consequently the Faculty Club was able to remain in solid financial shape while maintaining staff salaries and using the forced shutdown to carry out repairs and restorations that would mostly have been impossible during the shorter periods of regular summer closures. This work was finalized between May and September of 2021, and is summarized as follows:

The Managers were redeployed in planning, directing, and supervising the extensive sequence of projects. dealing with suppliers, contractors, McGill plumbers and electricians, along with a variety of other specialists. Work took place on every level from floor to ceiling. Among the improvements, the Faculty Club now has single-person, disability-equipped washrooms on every floor. Some of the work that was completed during the lockdown included: repairs to the front entrance with a new copper roof and a new wooden ceiling; modification of the main floor handicap bathroom to install an automatic door; repair of the fireplace on the main floor; repairs and remodeling in the staff quarters and the laundry room on the ground floor; replaster and paint the ceiling and walls in the main dining room; completely redesign the women's washroom on the second floor and create a separate bathroom available to all and equipped for the handicapped; restoration of the main meeting room on the third floor and redesigning the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor women's washroom to equip it for the disabled. There was also considerable effort to move forward with plans to replace the windows and a few of the doors with energy-efficient units that would look identical to the originals and be made and installed by a company that specializes in heritage buildings, and the Management received detailed estimates from two highly reputable firms. The Faculty Club had intended to pay for this project from current and accumulated revenue, and the Council had previously approved a presentation of the intended plan and the cost. In 2021 the university administration offered to have the new windows completely financed through government funding that had been provided to the university for deferred maintenance. To finalize the arrangements the General Manager and E. Zorychta as Treasurer held multiple zoom meetings with administrators from Facilities during the summer of 2021 but progress was very slow. Meetings continued in the Fall term, but a problem arose when the cost of the project under the direction of Facilities had risen to approximately 4 times the original estimate, and the Faculty Club was then asked to finance half of the amount. Given the resurgence of restrictions with the omicron variant, and the need for financial responsibility, the Management and Executive of the Faculty Club declined to do this, since it is not an emergency and it was felt that the greatly increased expense could not be justified.

This year the old billing system was replaced by an updated version which is a great improvement and allows much easier handling and interaction with Financial Services. Attendance at Club events increased during the Fall term, and although the annual Christmas buffet lunch had to be cancelled due to omicron, and the holiday shutdown was a bit longer than usual, the Club has remained open for the winter term with attendance and events steadily increasing again – current projections indicate that event bookings will be approaching normal levels during May and June. The MAUT committee members are receiving a special invitation to join the Spring meeting of the Faculty Club Council in May, where annual reports will be delivered as everyone enjoys being together in person.

In summary, the McGill Faculty Club is fortunate to have excellent management and dedicated staff; it has a solid and highly responsible system of financial monitoring and planning, it has weathered the pandemic successfully and we are confident that it will continue to flourish as a vital component of academic life at McGill.

Edith Zorychta,  
Chair, MAUT Faculty Club Committee