

FACULTY CLUB COMMITTEE REPORT, April 2023

The McGill Faculty Club has had a successful year as the pandemic finally eased, restrictions were eliminated, and after two difficult years it was possible to reinstate the many academic meetings plus the special activities which are highly valued. The MAUT barbeque and apple-picking events were held again in the fall and were very successful with many new and returning members and their families in attendance. Oyster night, the Faculty Club Brunch and Children's Party, the Holiday Celebration Lunch and Robbie Burns Night were all fully booked in advance, and it was particularly rewarding to welcome a new generation of children to their special holiday party. To keep MAUT committee members highly informed, three of the members (D. Harpp, B. Robaire and E. Zorychta) plus the MAUT Past-President (A. Kirk) are now on the Faculty Club Council where regular reports are received, so communication and monitoring are excellent. The other MAUT Committee member (K. Hashimoto) is a strong participant from the Faculty of Music who has personally performed and organized a variety of musical events at the Club, and during a recent discussion has indicated plans for similar events next year. The Faculty Club also hosts the MAUT Pre-Senate Meetings, which are well attended and very meaningful for exchange of information and ideas by Senate representatives from all sectors of the university.

With the surge in bookings the financial situation of the Faculty Club is again very strong, and it will steadily replenish the resources from the Emergency Fund that allowed it to maintain staffing during the pandemic closure and to use the time productively to carry out extensive renovations that would have been difficult or impossible during regular operations. A proposed project to replace the windows and several doors with heritage quality insulated units remains on hold, but the Faculty Club arranged to support a small repair at Tadjia Hall, which is our parallel club on the Macdonald campus. During the COVID shutdown Tadjia Hall was not monitored carefully, and a slow leak from one of the pipes caused significant damage, particularly to the floor in the kitchen, making it impossible to reopen. The Faculty Club General Manager and Treasurer visited the site, met with the Tadjia Hall Committee and Manager to see the extent of the damage and determine what repairs were required. A quote was obtained from a reliable contractor, the project was approved by the Faculty Club Council, work has been completed and Tadjia Hall will soon be back to normal.

Other decisions included approval of a small project to finance the printing of a short book on the architecture and history of the Baumgarten House, current home of the Faculty Club. The book would be written at no charge and a small committee will oversee the details related to copyright, McGill printing, legal ownership and other relevant issues. It was also decided to engage a work-study student to digitize all of the past minutes of the Faculty Club Council and other historical documents, to ensure they are permanently preserved and readily available. In May 2023, the Faculty Club will technically switch reporting from Facilities Management to Student Housing and

Hospitality Services, which will be a better alignment in regard to function, but the Faculty Club will continue to remain an independent entity, as before. The summer closure is always used to deal with practical matters, and the plans for summer 2023 include repair to the floor in an area of the basement, and replacement of some of the older heating/cooling pumps with more effective and energy-efficient models.

In summary, the McGill Faculty Club has a dedicated and highly capable management team, with exceptional leadership by the General Manager, Nicolas Zrihen. All financial details are rigorously monitored and revenues/bookings for events are continually increasing, particularly with the current availability of the elegant Billiards Room for large gatherings. The Faculty Club is a vital component of academic life at McGill, and the return to normal function was greatly appreciated during the 2022-23 academic year.

Edith Zorychta,
Chair, MAUT Faculty Club Committee