

# VP Communications – Report for the 2022 Spring General Meeting

## MAUT membership surveys

Listening is fifty percent of communication and finding effective ways of listening to what MAUT members have to say is an important goal for our organization. Anonymized online surveys are a great way to solicit and collect honest opinions regarding current affairs at McGill University that affect the members of MAUT. Unfortunately, in the past MAUT surveys were plagued by low participation and could not be effectively used to shape MAUT's agenda and activities.

Our strategy was to find a survey technology that reaches members' email boxes directly (Lime survey) and to implement a stylistic choice of shorter questions that made the experience of filling out the survey effortless. As a result, in survey #1 we have obtained nearly 500 responses (close to 45% of MAUT membership) which amounts to a 4-fold increase in responsiveness relative to the most recent previous response rates.

Survey #1 was focused on the wellbeing and the general experience of MAUT members at McGill, bureaucratic overload, and on strategies related to Covid response and to salary increases. The results of survey #1 were analyzed by me, and by two graduate students who were supervised by Prof. Ada Sinacore. The report is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/yc5fzscz>. The report was made available to the MAUT community in March 2022 Newsletter ( <https://tinyurl.com/muws7r7i> ) in an article 'MAUT Fall 2021 Survey Results and Analysis'.

Survey #2 was recently launched (Apr 3, 2022). It is focused on the pandemic response and the new principal search. Its outcomes are not available yet.

## MAUT social media presence

A new Slack workspace was initiated in March 2022 with the goal to provide a space for MAUT members to keep in touch and discuss issues that benefit from collective 'hivemind'-type of exchanges. For example, the discussion of the response to increase in numbers of Covid cases on campus was recently initiated by a member, ways to use the professional development fund was discussed, the new survey was promoted there as well. There are 125 members currently on the MAUT slack workspace. To join please click here [https://join.slack.com/t/mauthq/shared\\_invite/zt-16ij23gjb-g0Z2Ihwmlcc8Q5sz6zFNdQ](https://join.slack.com/t/mauthq/shared_invite/zt-16ij23gjb-g0Z2Ihwmlcc8Q5sz6zFNdQ) or email [maut@mcgill.ca](mailto:maut@mcgill.ca).

Due to the general decline in the effectiveness of communications through social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook this VP Communications did not actively maintain the MAUT presence on these platforms.

## Website

MAUT continues to use the website to provide organized access to documentation related to current issues such as response to the crisis in Ukraine as well as reports for the general meetings and meeting minutes. This increases transparency, information sharing, and easy access to historical and/or background information.

## Newsletter

Two newsletters were published since October 2021.

December 2021 Newsletter <https://tinyurl.com/35kvdbyx> featured a number of articles focused on updates on the 'The Administrative Overload Project', a call for action to help increase the number of on-campus daycare spots at McGill 'All I want for Xmas is... Daycare', an update on the 'Recent developments in the Faculty of Law', and update on increased in-person Retiree Affairs Committee's activities 'RAC is back!' and more.

March 2022 Newsletter <https://tinyurl.com/muws7r7j> promoted MAUT supported humanitarian organizations responding to the crisis in Ukraine with an article 'Educators around the world stand with Ukraine', announced decentralization of computer purchases 'Exclusive Purchasing of Computers Through Le James No Longer Required', presented the MAUT survey on wellbeing and salary at McGill 'MAUT Fall 2021 Survey Results and Analysis', reminded of the approaching deadline to submit claims to the Professional Development Fund 'Deadline to submit claims to the Professional Development Fund is April 15!', and provided an update on the activities of RAC 'MAUT Retiree Affairs Committee'.

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](mailto:maut@mcgill.ca).

Report respectfully submitted by Lena Simine on April 5, 2022.