

# Academic Leadership Forum on Assessing Innovative and Entrepreneurial Activities as Academic Duties: Discussion Follow-up and Next Steps

## Research and International Relations

20150223

During the 29 January Academic Leadership Forum, a discussion was held on the theme of assessing innovative and entrepreneurial activities as academic duties, and their place in the academic mission at McGill University. There was consensus among the attendees that innovation must be understood broadly as encompassing the development of novel approaches to solving societal challenges, advancing the public good, and adding to our collective culture in meaningful and enduring ways, as well as scientific and technological solutions to market needs. As well, it was agreed that entrepreneurial and innovative activities are important expressions of the research and social missions of the University.

The following list outlines some concrete actions flowing from the 29 January discussion:

1. The Associate Provost, Policies, Procedures and Equity will develop guidelines to assist in the completion of the “Research” and “Other” categories of the tenure dossier, with appropriate examples and prompts for innovative/entrepreneurial activities to be considered alongside other elements.
2. Research and International Relations, in collaboration with stakeholders from across the University will work to refine McGill’s narrative about “innovative and entrepreneurial activity”, what it constitutes at McGill, how it is measured, and how it is supported for researchers, students, and faculty, in order to strengthen our internal policies, dialogue, and awareness, and to enhance external advocacy and partnership/sponsorship opportunities.
3. Research and International Relations will collaborate with Legal Services to review McGill’s Intellectual Property Policy in order to ensure that the incentives therein align with our current strategic priorities.

4. Research and International Relations will assist in the development of a proposal for a graduate/postdoctoral certificate in entrepreneurship, in cooperation with the Desautels Faculty of Management, the School of Continuing Studies, the Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, and advised by student, faculty and administrative stakeholders from across McGill.
5. The Office of the Deputy Provost, in cooperation with Research and International Relations will work to expand opportunities for students to participate in entrepreneurially-oriented experiential learning through the McGill Commitment.

Please do not hesitate to contact Research and International Relations via [lea.cameron@mcgill.ca](mailto:lea.cameron@mcgill.ca) if you would like to provide feedback on any of the proposed actions, or if there are additional actions you would like to propose.

With thanks,

Rose Goldstein, MD, CM, FRCPC  
Vice-Principal, Research and International  
Relations

Dr. Phil Barker  
Scientific Director, Montreal Neurological  
Institute  
Chair, Innovation Steering Committee