

Question

TO: Senate
FROM: Senator Jacob Greenspon
SUBJECT: Question Regarding Disparities in Ratios of Faculty Advisors to Students
MEETING DATE: March 18th, 2015

PREAMBLE: Whereas, students in all Faculties can access advising services from their respective Faculty advising offices (eg. Arts students from OASIS, Science students from SOUSA, Engineering students from MESC, etc.)

Whereas, advising services are essential for students' academic success, and the Principal's Task Force on Student Life and Learning at McGill stated "The priority attached to providing quality advising to students should be reflected in the allocation of resources, including personnel, space, equipment and the development of systems, and in professional development... the provision of high quality advising across the University will require that additional resources be devoted to this purpose. Members of the Principal's Task Force nevertheless regard this investment as crucial. Since one goal of advising will be to support students in getting access to the resources they need, such an investment should help to ensure that all types of resources are more easily available to them, and used more effectively by them." (pg. 12)¹

Whereas, McGill strives to provide equal outcomes to students across all faculties,

Whereas, there are significant discrepancies between the student to advisor ratio in each Faculty (see appended table²), such that there are 843 Arts students for every Faculty advisor, but the average student to advisor ratio for other Faculties is only 265:1³

QUESTION: What are disparities in the ratio of students to advisors in each Faculty caused by?

What is McGill doing to address these disparities and ensure that all students have equal access to advising, regardless of their Faculty?

¹ <http://www.mcgill.ca/principal/files/principal/Final-Principal.pdf>

² Provided by the Office of the Dean of Students

³ $(246.625+281.8125+124.477+88+198.33+285.667+634.1)/7 = 265.57$ NB: Calculation excludes Engineering as the number of MESC advisors could not be separately determined from the MESC's internship and career advising staff

Faculty	Registered students	Advisors and SAO staff	Students per advisor (number of registered students divided by number of staff)
Ag. and Env. Science	1973	8	246.625
Arts (including BSW)	8430	10	843
Education	2951	9	327.89
Engineering	4509	16*	281.8125*
Medicine (including BSc Nursing, PT/OT)	5477	44^	124.477
Law	880	10	88
Management	2975	15	198.33
Music	857	3	285.667
Science (including BA & Sc)	6341	10	634.1

*All MESC staff, including internship and career advising staff.

^Includes staff from Nursing, PT/OT and Undergraduate Medical Education SAOs.