

Response to Question 2

PREAMBLE:

Whereas, the Library Users' Code of Behaviour in the Handbook on Students' Rights and Responsibilities states:

2. For your own protection do not leave your personal belongings unattended. Security and library staff wake students who are sleeping to prevent theft of their belongings.

Whereas, despite these instructions, instances of theft - including but not limited to laptops and phones, and including but not limited to library areas - seem to have noticeably increased in the last year.

Questions and answers:

1a. How many instances of theft have been reported on University property?

Since May 1st, a total of 116 thefts were reported to McGill Security Services. During the same period last year, there were 145 reported thefts. This represents a 20% decrease in thefts reported to Security Services this year, compared to the same period last year.

1b. How many of these instances occurred in a library?

Since May 1st, a total of 32 thefts in the Libraries were reported, and this represents a 44% increase compared to the same period last year. Note that 22 of these occurred within a six-week period in the McLennan and Redpath Libraries, and are being attributed to one known individual who has since been arrested and pleaded guilty to several charges.

1c. How many of these instances involved electronic devices?

Of the 32 thefts occurring in the Libraries since May 1st, 25 involved the theft of electronic devices, such as laptops and cell phones.

1d. Has there been an actual increase in instances for any of these categories in the last year over previous years?

We have seen a consistent decrease of reported thefts in recent years. In fiscal year 2010, there were 358; in fiscal year 2011 there were 231; in fiscal year 2012 there were 209 and in fiscal year 2013 there were 200. I attribute this consistent decrease to the efforts made over the last several years to curb these incidents in order to limit losses to individuals.

Specifically in the Libraries, in fiscal year 2010, there were 68; in fiscal year 2011, there were 30; in fiscal year 2012 there were 22; and in fiscal year 2013, there were 32. We do not have data specific to electronic devices for previous fiscal years.

2. Has the University considered implementing additional security measures in the library during finals period?

Three Library branches (Humanities and Social Sciences Library, Schulich Library of Science and Engineering and Nahum Gelber Law Library) are open 24/7 during the final exams period. Each branch is staffed with full time library personnel during service hours, and by one or more Security Agents during extended study hours. A security agent is always stationed at the entrance to each branch during extended hours. This security agent signs in only McGill students. Undergraduate students generously pay for this highly-valued extended-hour agent service through the SSMU Library Improvement Fund. Additional security measures during final exams period, such as additional agents, have been considered. However, funding has not been identified and therefore, the additional security measures have not been implemented.