

Question

TO: Senate

FROM: Senators Hastings, Saroyan, and Galaty

SUBJECT: Question Regarding Academic Freedom of Academic Administrators

MEETING DATE: April 20th, 2017

PREAMBLE: The events surrounding the reaction to Professor Andrew Potter's article in Maclean's and his subsequent resignation have raised questions regarding how academic freedom is protected at McGill University. In an article in the Globe and Mail in which the Principal defends the necessity of such a resignation, she stated that "the job of a university administrator has different responsibilities than that of a professor" and that "when you are an academic administrator, there are things you must be more prudent about doing". These statements suggest that with respect to the protection of academic freedom the Administration draws a distinction between regular academic staff members and academic administrators, with the latter enjoying less protection than the former.

QUESTIONS:

1. What criteria does the Administration use in forming its opinion that such a resignation from an academic administrative position has become necessary?
2. What safeguards are in place that assure fair treatment of an academic administrator in such cases as well as protection of the fundamental principle of academic freedom?
