

Question

TO: Senate

FROM: Jacob Greenspon, SSMU Senator
Chloe Rourke, SSMU Senator
Nabeel Godil, SSMU Senator
David Benrimoh, SSMU Senator

SUBJECT: Question Regarding the Potential impact on McGill of the 2014-2015 Quebec Budget and Spending Estimates

MEETING DATE: September 17th, 2014

PREAMBLE: Whereas an email memorandum released by the Provost on June 5th 2014 outlined the potential impact on McGill of the 2014-2015 Quebec Budget and Spending Estimates, including changes to the prior government's plans for global funding to Quebec Universities and whether cuts to "salary mass overall...and administrative operating expenditures" would apply to the University, and this email stated that the full implications of the Quebec budget would be known by the end of June at which point they would be communicated to Senators by the Provost,

Whereas the follow-up email including details of this year's budget outlook has not yet been sent to Senators, and efforts to attain this information from the Office of the Provost have been unsuccessful,

Whereas a primary concern and duty of the University, as is stipulated in the Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities is to make "every reasonable effort to maintain the quality of education it dispenses" and "provide an appropriate environment for learning", and both missions are impacted by potential cuts to the University's operating budget,

Whereas students share these values regarding quality of education and the learning environment, and wish to be partners with the University in protecting them during the budget development process,

QUESTION:

What is the current situation regarding government funding and potential cuts to the operating budget alluded to in the discussed memorandum? Specifically:

- i) Have we received confirmation regarding the amount of funding we will receive this year? If so, how does it affect our operating budget?

 - ii) If changes to the operating budget are anticipated, what is the plan for consultation with stakeholders--such as students--regarding the specific nature of these cuts?
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**Response to Question Regarding the Potential
impact on McGill of the 2014-2015 Quebec Budget
and Spending Estimates**

Principal Suzanne Fortier

September 17, 2014

Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2015

- Board of Governors approved \$7 million deficit in April 2014
- At date of budget preparation:
 - Québec operating grant was projected to be \$360 million
 - Règles Budgétaires (operational budget plan from the government) for FY2015 not yet received

FY2015 Operating Budget: Changes

- Règles Budgétaires for FY2015 received September 3, 2014: **4 months** into this fiscal year
- Assuming similar distribution of allocations as last year: Québec operating grant now estimated at \$345 million
- This takes into account mandated budget cuts, including efficiency measures directed by the government

FY2015 Operating Budget: Impact

- Anticipated shortfall: approximately \$15 million with respect to the FY2015 budget approved by the Board in April 2014
- Work on validation of assumptions and allocations continues
- Consultations with community on measures to deal with the shortfall being developed as needed over the Fall