



# McGill Memorandum

Office of the Associate Vice-Principal (University Services)

Room 458, Ferrier Building

**TO:** Members of Senate

**FROM:** Jim Nicell, Associate Vice-Principal (University Services)

**SUBJECT:** University Master Plan – Planning and Design Principles

**DATE:** February 1, 2008

**DOCUMENT #:** D07-31

**FOR:** ☐ **DECISION** ☒ **DISCUSSION** ☐ **INFORMATION**

**ISSUE:** Presentation of the University Master Plan – Planning and Design Principles Report, originally presented to Senate in spring 2007 and recommended by the Board's Building and Property Committee for Board approval in spring 2008.

**BACKGROUND:** In the spring of 2006, it was decided that the University Master Plan should be composed of separate documents including:

- The Planning and Design Principles Report: This document will enunciate the principles and the accompanying planning objectives, which will guide the physical development of the McGill campuses for the foreseeable future.
- The Demonstration Plan: This document will consist of two reports (one for each campus) that will present a vision for possible future developments on the campuses, based on the application of the planning and design principles and the evolution of McGill's academic needs. This document will remain an internal working document.

Furthermore, a 5-year plan is under preparation based on priority projects from the Demonstration Plan.

In the spring of 2007, a planning and design principles report, prepared by the consultants (Diamond and Schmitt/du Toit Allsopp Hillier) was received by the University. Given the length of the report (88 pages), the Associate Vice Principal (University Services) prepared an Executive Summary to provide context, to present the nine categories of design principles outlined in the main report and to highlight each of the 48 principles.

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Since February 2007, the Associate Vice Principal has been consulting widely throughout the University using the Executive Summary as the basis for presentations and discussions. Throughout this process, the same principles were presented to all stakeholder groups for comment.

The McGill community has been very supportive of the stated planning and design principles. Suggestions for changes were relatively minor and have been included in the revised report. The most substantial change is that the convocation hall proposal is not included in the report (but will be included in the Demonstration Plan). In addition, a few sentences have been added to the section on Athletics to emphasize the importance of recreational activities and the use of facilities for teaching and research purposes.

At its December 2007 meeting, the Building and Property Committee approved the revised report and recommended it to the Board for approval.

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**MOTION OR  
RESOLUTION  
FOR APPROVAL:**

The report is presented to Senate for information and discussion only.

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**PRIOR  
CONSULTATION:**

BPC, Board of Governors, Principal/Vice-Principals group, Deans, Senate (spring 2007), Senate Committee on Physical Development (SCPD), SCPD Sub-Committee on the Environment, University Services Directors, Facilities Development staff, and student groups.

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**NEXT STEPS:**

Following Board review and approval, the final document will be translated, circulated, published, and made available on-line. Further presentations will continue to be made to stakeholder groups throughout McGill to familiarize the community with the principles and to integrate them into decision-making processes. Personnel in the Office of the Vice Principal (Public Affairs) are collaborating in the development of a communications plan for the Planning & Design Principles Report, the projects developed under the Demonstration Plan, and the 5-year plan.

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**APPENDICES:**

Executive Summary.

The current version of the McGill University Physical Master Plan – Planning and Design Principles, approved by the Board’s Building and Property Committee, can be viewed at:

<http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sectionforsenators/2007-2008senatemeetings/february132008/>

The Associate Vice-Principal (University Services) will make a brief presentation at the February 13, 2008 Senate meeting.

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