



McGill

# Memorandum

**Office of the Principal and Vice-Chancellor**

James Administration Building, room 506

Tel.: (514) 398-4180; Fax: (514) 398-4768

**TO:** Senate

**FROM:** Professor Heather Munroe-Blum, Principal and Vice-Chancellor

**SUBJECT:** Mandate, Principal's Task Force on Diversity, Excellence and Community Engagement

**DATE:** April 21, 2009

**DOCUMENT #:** D08-61

**ACTION REQUIRED:**  INFORMATION  DISCUSSION  APPROVAL / DECISION

**ISSUE:** Launch of the Principal's Task Force on Diversity, Excellence and Community Engagement as a forum for the consideration of how members of the McGill community, and how the University as an institution, can best achieve excellence in the pursuit of our academic mission, while strengthening engagement with diversity and community partnerships, so as to foster inclusion and enhanced contributions.

**BACKGROUND & RATIONALE:**

McGill has a tradition of excellence, an enviable international reputation, and is ranked among the leading universities both in Canada and in the world.

Our University is well positioned to maintain and extend its leadership role as an outstanding publicly purposed, student-centred and research-intensive university. However, we cannot be complacent. In order to maintain and build on our tradition, reputation and successes, we must be willing to assess our performance rigorously, comparing trends year-over-year and also benchmarking against peers in Canada, the US and around the world.

If McGill is to meet and exceed standards of excellence in the dynamic and competitive world society of the XXIst century, we must attract and retain outstanding students and faculty from around the world and from all segments of society. Members of our administrative and support staff will come to a great extent from the local community, and here too we must recruit qualified individuals from a broad range of backgrounds and experiences to support optimally the achievement of excellence at McGill. And we must support members of our community as they pursue their goals.

**DISCUSSION:**

I ask you to reflect and provide feedback on the following:

Does the document adequately cover each of the broad themes?

1. Tapping into broad talent pools, both for qualified candidates for admission as students to our programs, and to recruit and retain

outstanding academic, administrative and support staff;

2. Engaging with diversity in support of excellence within the McGill Community;
3. Harnessing our knowledge and drive to enhance our ability to contribute to our mission and the broader community, consistent with our mission and public purposes;
4. Supporting, evaluating and recognizing excellence in program delivery and pedagogy;
5. Supporting, evaluating and recognizing excellence in research and scholarship, to the highest international standards.

Do the documents make a case for dealing with these issues together under the auspices of a Principal's Task Force?

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<b>PRIOR CONSULTATION:</b>	Senior administration and selected individuals
<b>NEXT STEPS:</b>	Consultation with Governors; Senators; appointment of Members
<b>APPENDICES:</b>	Appendix: Vision, Terms of Reference, and Working Groups for the Principal's Task Force on Diversity, Excellence and Community Engagement

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