



Memorandum

Office of the Provost

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TO: Senate

FROM: Anthony C. Masi, Provost

SUBJECT: Discussion about Mentoring and Advising

DATE: January 19, 2010

DOCUMENT #: D10-49

ACTION REQUIRED: INFORMATION APPROVAL/DECISION

ISSUE: The Senate Steering Committee has allotted time on the agenda for a discussion about mentoring and advising.

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE: The central recommendations on advising and mentoring made by the Principal's Task Force on Student Life and Learning included the following:

- *McGill should ensure that quality academic advising is available and accessible for all students, geared to the stage of the student's academic career.*
- *Members of the academic staff should be encouraged to take advantage of opportunities to assume mentoring roles vis-à-vis students, usually on the basis of shared academic interests.*

At the meeting of Senate on February 10, 2010, the Deputy Provost presented a report (D09-47: <http://www.mcgill.ca/files/senate/D09-47ReportCardonStudentLifeandLearning.pdf>) on Student Life and Learning at McGill that addressed the issues of advising and, to a lesser extent, mentoring. A number of University-wide and Faculty-specific initiatives were highlighted, some of which were still in the planning stage. It was noted that Senate, on January 21, 2009, had adopted an Advising Mission Statement (www.mcgill.ca/students/advising/mission/), to highlight the importance of advising to the University, and that an advising web site (www.mcgill.ca/students/advising/) had been created to help students understand the resources available at McGill.

Work has continued, but there is much more to be done, and attention has more recently been turned to the area of mentoring. A discussion at Senate will provide an opportunity to air views on an issue of academic import that

is not part of the regular business of Senate. Such a discussion will help advance mentoring and advising at the University.

The following questions are meant to help frame the discussion:

- What are the differences between mentoring and advising from the student's and the mentor's or advisor's perspectives?
- What forms of mentoring are most beneficial and important to students?
- What are the benefits of mentoring students to the academic, administrative and support staff?
- What types of incentives, if any, would be helpful to promote mentoring and advising?

**MOTION OR
RESOLUTION
FOR APPROVAL:** N/A

**PRIOR
CONSULTATION:** N/A

NEXT STEPS: N/A

APPENDICES: N/A
