



# Memorandum

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**TO:** Senate  
**FROM:** Anthony C. Masi, Provost  
**SUBJECT:** Report of the Joint Board-Senate Meeting  
**DATE:** November 17, 2010  
**DOCUMENT #:** D10-13  
**ACTION REQUIRED:**  INFORMATION  APPROVAL/DECISION

**ISSUE:** Presentation of the report of the Joint Board-Senate Meeting 2010-2011.

**BACKGROUND & RATIONALE:** The Statutes of McGill University state:  
6.3.9.1 The Senate and Board of Governors shall hold an annual joint meeting in the fall term. At this meeting, the Principal, the Provost, the Deputy Provost, and the vice-principals, as appropriate, shall present for discussion matters they consider relevant to the University's mission for the ensuing year.

At the Joint Executive Committee/Senate Steering meeting of March 22, 2010, the topic of *Strategic Initiatives in Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies in the Context of Academic Planning and White Paper* was proposed and agreed upon for the next Joint Board/Senate meeting. At the Joint Board-Senate meeting of October 25, 2010, the Associate Provost (Graduate Education) and Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, Professor Martin Kreiswirth, delivered a presentation and facilitated the exchange that followed.

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

**PRIOR CONSULTATION:** N/A

**NEXT STEPS:** N/A

**APPENDICES:** Appendix A - Report of the Joint Board-Senate Meeting of October 25, 2010

## Report of the Joint Board-Senate Meeting of October 25, 2010

The Chancellor welcomed Senators, members of the Board of Governors, and Governors Emeriti to the meeting, noting the importance of fostering awareness, creating exchanges, and broader understandings of the University and its mission, research, and service to the community. The Provost introduced the meeting's topic of *Strategic Initiatives in Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies in the Context of Academic Planning and White Paper* and its presenter, the Associate Provost (Graduate Education) and Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, Professor Martin Kreiswirth.

The Associate Provost (Graduate Education) and Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies spoke about the importance of ensuring that McGill is the leading institution for graduate education in Canada, noting three challenges to that goal:

- 1) Generating sufficient student support funding to attract, retain, and graduate on time, the best graduate students and postdoctoral scholars, from around the world and around the corner.
- 2) Enhancing diversity and excellence in the composition of graduate student enrolment in programs across the University.
- 3) Improving the overall graduate student and postdoctoral experience, including training for the labour market.

Each of the tables of attendees discussed the challenges and subsequently presented their suggestions, which were recorded and presented at the meeting under the following headings for further discussion and consideration:

- 1) Corporate investment in professional personnel.
- 2) Develop pipelines for undergraduate target schools.
- 3) Innovative program delivery, experiential learning in context.

The group responses to the challenges are recorded below:

Corporate investment in professional personnel	Develop pipelines for undergrad target schools	Innovative program delivery, experiential learning in context
Interdisciplinary funding	Research internships pre acceptance	Improve parental leave including funding, daycare, etc.
Equal division of faculty research funds to students	Grade faculty on graduate supervision	Coop programs at PhD level
Improved applications to Qc funding agencies	Top-ups for students arriving with fellowships	Include training for non-academic careers, e.g. industry internships
Foundations for non-traditional research funding (non-Tri Council)	Provide graduate student housing, esp. international	Improve teaching competence for students and faculty

Support for students' grant applications	Publicize program offerings	Provide broad skill set for applying underlying knowledge
Reduce bureaucracy in external partnerships	Research exchanges, undergrad for recruiting	Lifetime dossier service for job applications
Cost sharing and leveraging as a guiding principle	Improve all McGill websites including individual researchers	Improve supervisory skills
Lobby governments	Include research professors in discussion	Take advantage of Montreal location
Reward structure for faculty and supervision	Employ current grad students as recruiters	Ensure rankings stay high
Include cost of living to communicate real costs vs. \$funding	Use grad students for networking	Free 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> language instruction
Focus on multidisciplinary and multi-university approach	Develop role models within faculty & students	Support students financially to participate in networking events
	Intra- and inter-faculty cross-fertilization	Central coordination of postdocs
	Recruitment fairs	Guaranteed funding for conferences and networking
	Publicize individual faculty's track record for supervision, placement, etc.	

The Principal provided closing remarks, noting that the diverse background of attendees helped in generating varied responses. She indicated that the discussion highlighted the need for better graduate funding and support, but also remarked that the focus, this year, on graduate education does not diminish the position of undergraduate studies at McGill.