



McGill

# Question

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**TO:** Senate  
**FROM:** Senator Darin Barney (Faculty of Arts)  
**SUBJECT:** Question Regarding Course Outlines  
**MEETING DATE:** October 14, 2009

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**PREAMBLE:** Predictability of course requirements is essential for students, instructors and teaching assistants in managing their academic work in any given term. In Fall 2009, McGill professors were directed to insert the following stipulation into their course outlines:

“In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University’s control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.”

This directive was presented as an element of the university’s plan to cope with unforeseen disruptions due to a potential outbreak of H1N1 influenza.

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**QUESTION:** Does the university intend to limit this directive to the period during which disruption due to H1N1 influenza outbreak is an active possibility, or does senior administration intend to direct professors to include this statement in their course outlines indefinitely?

If the latter, can senior administration enumerate the range of “circumstances beyond the university’s control,” that it would foresee qualifying as “extraordinary” and therefore justification for changes in course content and evaluation schemes?

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