



McGill

# Question

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**TO:** Senate

**FROM:** Professor K. GowriSankaran

**SUBJECT:** Question Regarding University Security

**MEETING DATE:** December 2, 2009

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**PREAMBLE:**

At the last meeting of Senate the Principal made a brief mention of an 'incident' on the campus and hailed the cooperation between the City Police and our Security regarding this incident. Later, I saw in campus papers mention of this incident taking place in the building (Burnside Hall) which houses in particular my Department. However, it was not until very recently that I came across one of the victims of the incident who happens to be a full professor in my Department and had the opportunity to learn from him more complete details of the incident: Two hooded men walked into the basement of BH and demanded and took laptops from several present there apparently threatening them with a gun. Until now, I understand very few in the building including key personnel know much about this incident. As a matter of fact there seems to be a general blackout on information regarding this incident. While I understand the importance of not creating panic among the students and the occupants of the building, I believe that it is extremely important to address some of the security issues arising from this incident.

First of all let me bring to the attention of all Senators that the basement of Burnside Hall is found to be an attractive place by a large number of students and virtually most of the time the place is full of students and also some staff members. Science and Arts & Science students have access to the space even during silent hours. The basement also houses the offices of the Science Undergraduate Society (SUS) and Society of Undergraduate Mathematics Students (SUMS). It appears prudent that the Administration should brief some of the key personnel which could include senior members or Chairs/Directors of departments housed in the building and the Presidents of SUS and SUMS of the incident and give them some practical training to deal with any such emergency. With this in mind my questions to Senate are the following.

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**QUESTION:**

1. Will the University look at the possibility of briefing key users of the building of the incident and give them some training on how to deal with such situations?
  2. Will the University look into the possibility of installing panic buttons connected to the University Security at key locations of the building?
  3. Will the University consider installing security cameras at key locations in the Burnside basement and ground floor to further the safety of the large number of students who use the building and staff who work there?
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