



McGill

MCGILL UNIVERSITY SENATE

Question

TO:

SENATE

FROM:

Anthony Paré, Elected Faculty Member
(Faculty of Education)

DATE SUBMITTED:

October 1, 2007

SENATE MEETING DATE:

October 10, 2007

SUBJECT: Research Time Stipends

PREAMBLE:

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) allows applicants to request Research Time Stipends (RTS) when applying for research funding. The stipends represent half the cost of releasing the applicant from some teaching, and the applicant's institution is expected to pay the other half.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that there is currently no standard, University-wide policy or practice related to these funds. In some units, researchers are discouraged from applying for RTS unless they can furnish the matching funds themselves, whereas in other units researchers are permitted to apply for RTS, but then have their applications reviewed by department chairs, who may or may not approve the inclusion of the RTS request in the researcher's application.

Without a clear, University-wide policy and transparent, impartial practices for the review of RTS requests, the current situation invites inequity. In light of that, I have the following questions:

QUESTION:

1. Does McGill have a policy on the inclusion of RTS requests in SSHRC applications?
2. Is there a standard practice for the review of such requests? That is, are all requests, campus-wide, treated in the same way?
3. If there are no clear and publicly accessible criteria for the inclusion and review of RTS requests, would the Administration be willing to draft a set of standards and bring them to Senate for discussion?