McGILL UNIVERSITY **SENATE**

Question

TO: Senate

FROM: Matthew Reid

SUBJECT: Question Regarding Space Constraints for Out-of-Faculty Students

MEETING DATE: November 17, 2010

PREAMBLE:

Students campus-wide have a desire to pursue studies outside of their main faculty. Such opportunities promote a more holistic educational experience, experience which will be incredibly relevant in students' post-graduate pursuits.

However, in the 2009-2010 Annual Report of the Sub-Committee on Student Records to ESAAC, the Faculty of Science introduced registration restrictions for the first time to certain courses at the U0 level.

Unfortunately, this is not a problem unique to the Faculty of Science; for example, Finance courses in the Faculty of Management have also recently been subject to registration restrictions.

These restrictions severely inhibit the education experience of all students at McGill, and are indicative of a worrisome trend at the undergraduate level.

QUESTION:

Why have certain courses (i.e. introductory Science courses) been closed off to students from other faculties?

Are other faculties which hold significant student interest threatened by overcapacity, and will they begin closing off courses?

In McGill's 2008 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) results, the University was rated in the bottom 50% in the Enriching Educational Experiences category, encompassing complementary learning opportunities which enhance an academic program. How does imposing registration restrictions help promote Enriching Educational Experiences, if at all?

What is being done to address overcapacity issues which have resulted in registration restrictions?