



**TO:** Senate  
**FROM:** Joshua Abaki, Vice President (University Affairs)  
**SUBJECT:** Question Regarding : Student Centered University  
**MEETING DATE:** 17<sup>th</sup> November 2010

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**PREAMBLE:** The Principal's Task Force on Student Life and Learning (PTFSLL)<sup>1</sup>, and subsequently the Final Administrative Response on the Recommendations<sup>2</sup> both make a commitment to a student centred research intensive University. Further, both documents identify as key priority "... to ensure that decision-making at all levels is informed by principles and goals appropriate to a student-centred, research-intensive University." The documents also make a commitment to student consultation in administrative decision making.

Several recent decisions made by the administration however have contravened the promises made in this document.

Furthermore, students have been frustrated when the administration has closed channels of dialogue by stating that that decisions made on particular issues are final and not open to negotiation. In some instances, the administration versus governance argument has been brought forward as a bottle neck to bringing forth an issue before a governance body, there by absolving the administration of accountability it should have to its students.

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**QUESTION:** Could the administration clarify the difference between policies, procedures, guidelines, regulations, and administrative decisions and how these are developed?

What are the mechanisms that have been put in place to ensure student consultation, so that the university lives up to its mission of not only being research intensive, but student centred as well?

In what category do the PTFSLL, the Principal's Task Force on Excellence, Diversity and Community Engagement, the Administrative Responses and any future Task Forces fall in?

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To what degree does the administration consider the promises made in the

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.mcgill.ca/files/principal/Final-Principal.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.mcgill.ca/files/provost/PTF\\_SLL\\_Final\\_Administrative\\_Response\\_27NOV07.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/files/provost/PTF_SLL_Final_Administrative_Response_27NOV07.pdf)

PTFSLL and Administrative Response binding, given that when the promises made in the documents have been brought up, they have mostly been dismissed?

Given the recent decisions made by the administration which students consider not to be in line with a student centred mission, and given that the PTFSLL speaks strongly for a student centred University, and given that students currently do not see the University prioritizing student centredness in decision making, is the administration willing to reaffirm its commitment to the principles outlined in the PTFSLL as well as the Final Administrative Response?

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