



McGill

MCGILL UNIVERSITY SENATE

Question

TO:

Senate

DATE SUBMITTED:

February 1, 2008

FROM:

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SENATE MEETING DATE:

February 13, 2008

SUBJECT: Enrolments and education quality

PREAMBLE:

McGill prides itself on being a research-intensive, student-centred university. McGill's Viewbook encourages prospective students to apply with the following statement:

"McGill prepares you for the real world. Not only will many of your courses give you practical skills you'll need in the work environment..."

(<http://www.mcgill.ca/viewbook/future/>) In accordance with the McGill Handbook on Student Rights and Responsibilities (2005): "Every student has a right to a quality education."

Several recurring issues have emerged in the last four years which, in my opinion, jeopardize the quality of education offered at McGill:

- Organic chemistry labs are now conducted once every other week as opposed to weekly as previously.
- Project group sizes in engineering have increased to a level that is detrimental to the student's learning experience. In some instances, laboratories cannot accommodate the number of students enrolled due to fire code restrictions.
- "Simulcasts" of classes are being conducted due to a lack of lecture space available for students.

As the examples illustrate, this is not an issue relating to monetary resources but to university infrastructure and capacity.

QUESTION:

What is the university doing to ensure newly admitted students are receiving the same quality of education as in previous years?

What commitment can the university make to maintain this standard of education for future years?

What support does the university intend to give to professors charged with laboratory-intensive classes with increased enrolment?

How will the proposed "targeted enrolment" scheme impact future students' quality of education?

