



Memorandum

Office of the Vice-Principal, Research and International Relations

James Administration Building, Suite 419

Tel: 514-398-2995 | Fax: 514-398-8257

TO: Senate

FROM: Dr. Rose Goldstein, Vice Principal (Research and International Relations)

SUBJECT: Principal's Prize for Outstanding Emerging Researchers

DATE: May 8, 2013

DOCUMENT #: D12-68

ACTION REQUIRED: INFORMATION APPROVAL/DECISION

ISSUE: Creation of a University-wide research prize, the Principal's Prize for Outstanding Emerging Researchers.

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE: No internal University-wide prize for research excellence currently exists at McGill. The purpose of the award is to encourage and celebrate exceptional early-career researchers while providing them with an advantage, by adding a prestigious internal distinction to their accomplishments, when they subsequently apply for external awards. The office of the VP Research and International Relations proposes the creation of a new University-wide prize for outstanding emerging researchers.

MOTION OR RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL: *Be it resolved that Senate approve the creation of "The Principal's Prize for Outstanding Emerging Researchers".*

PRIOR CONSULTATION: Research Advisory Council
Deans
Academic Policy Committee

NEXT STEPS: Implementation.

APPENDICES: Appendix A: Proposal for the creation of a new research prize for outstanding emerging researchers - *The Principal's Prize for Outstanding Emerging Researchers*

PROPOSAL FOR THE CREATION OF A NEW UNIVERSITY PRIZE
FOR OUTSTANDING EMERGING RESEARCHERS

The Principal's Prize for Outstanding Emerging Researchers

Research of the highest calibre is central to McGill's mission, and McGill is globally renowned for the excellence of its research and its researchers. While the accomplishments of McGill researchers earn them prestigious external research prizes and awards every year, there is currently no internal University-wide prize for outstanding research.* In order to encourage and celebrate our most outstanding early-career researchers, as well as to advantage them for external awards with a prestigious internal distinction, the office of the VP Research and International Relations proposes the creation of a new University-wide prize for outstanding emerging researchers.

DESCRIPTION:

Up to three Principal's Prizes for Outstanding Emerging Researchers will be presented yearly to early-career faculty members (no more than ten years beyond the doctorate or other highest degree) who have distinguished themselves by their exceptional contributions to research thus far in their careers. Each award carries a monetary prize, which will normally be awarded as a research grant in the recipient's name but which can be paid as a cash prize if the recipient prefers.

The selection committee will endeavour to ensure that the group of individuals honoured in a given year represents a diversity of research foci and disciplinary or interdisciplinary methodologies. Preference will be given to nominees who have not yet received a major non-discipline-specific external prize or award.

ELIGIBILITY:

Nominees must hold a full-time tenured or tenure-track academic position at McGill University and be no more than ten calendar years beyond the doctorate or other highest degree awarded.†

NOMINATIONS:

* Several Faculties award research prizes: Arts ([Arts Award for Distinction in Research](#)), Engineering ([Christophe Pierre Award for Research Excellence](#)), Management, Medicine, and Science ([Tomlinson Scientist Awards](#)).

Currently, the only University-wide prizes for faculty members are for outstanding teaching: see www.mcgill.ca/tls/teaching/awards/university for the Principal's Prize for Excellence in Teaching and the McGill University Lifetime Achievement Award for Leadership in Learning.

† Career interruptions such as maternity or paternity leave or extended sick leave or disability leave can be excluded from the ten-year limit. In the case of nominees holding more than one doctorate, the ten-year limit is calculated from the first doctorate awarded.

Each Faculty is invited to make one nomination per year for the Principal's Prizes, with the following exceptions for McGill's largest Faculties:

Medicine, up to three nominations per year

Arts, up to two nominations per year

Science, up to two nominations per year

NOMINATION PROCEDURE:

Each nomination dossier shall include the following documents:

- A letter of nomination (maximum three pages) from the Dean of the researcher's faculty outlining:
 - The rationale for the nomination
 - The nominee's research contributions and promise of future distinction
 - Why the nominee deserves an award as an outstanding emerging researcher
- The nominee's full curriculum vitae (maximum 20 pages), including the following information:
 - Publications
 - Invited lectures
 - Prizes and awards received
 - Graduate students supervised
- At least one letter of reference from an individual who is an expert in the nominee's field.
 - Referees should not be present or former collaborators of the nominee
 - A short biographical note should be included for each referee
 - It is desirable to submit at least one letter of reference from an international referee

MEMBERS OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE:

Principal

Vice-Principal (Research and International Relations) or delegate

one graduate student

one undergraduate student

four previous recipients of this award or of other significant research awards