

To: Senate

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From: Amy Cox / PGSS Senators

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Subject: Student Information

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Date Submitted: 2007-01-09

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Senate Meeting Date: January 17, 2007

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Background:

In recent news, the surveillance of university students has been implicated as a valid anti-terrorism tool. In the United States for example, since the September 11th attacks, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has launched an investigation titled Project Strike back. This program works jointly with the Federal Education Department, whereby personal information is being mined from hundreds of specifically selected student loan applications. Supporting the potential need for such a surveillance is a recent article published by the Globe and Mail which delineates the criminal actions of a female student from Carleton University who played a key role in funnelling money to known terrorist groups.

Given these recent revelations, it is reasonable to infer that a similar political climate of student information mining exists in Canada.

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Question:

1. Has McGill ever been approached by any agency, Canadian or otherwise, asking for the release of student information for the purpose of anti-terrorism surveillance?
  2. In the event McGill is ever approached, does the University have a position on the release of student information for the purposes of intelligence gathering?
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