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To:

Senate  
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From:

Finn Upham  
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Subject:

Student Mortality  
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Date Submitted:

2007-02-26  
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Senate Meeting Date:

2007-03-07  
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Background:

In a population of over thirty thousand, McGill students pass away every year. Sometimes members of the community asks for a public acknowledgement of a student's death, in other cases the passing is only marked by those directly related; I assume that respect for the memory and family of the individual guides the community support provided at different levels of university. While it would be inappropriate for the governance system to delve into the details of any one student's circumstances, it is important for the McGill community to be aware of the prevalence of such tragedies and the support that exists for those affected.

In a highly competitive environment like McGill, students' mental health is a related concern. Suicide has been and continues to be a reality on many university campuses, including our own. It behooves us to acknowledge it, and be aware of the preventative measures we have access to.

Thus, my questions are as follows:

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Question:

On the general mortality of our student population:

1. If the university has such statistics to share, how many McGill students pass away each year?
2. What services are available for members of the community affected by the death of a student?

On the issue of student suicide:

3. What preventative services exist for students at risk?
4. How has the issue of student suicide been addressed at the campuses of our Canadian peers?

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