



McGill

Question

TO: Senate

FROM: Professor John Galaty

SUBJECT: Question Regarding Implications of TA Reductions

MEETING DATE: September 22, 2011

PREAMBLE: Recent reductions in faculty budgets have been passed on to departments in the form of decreases in financial allocations for Teaching Assistantships. At the same time, the number of undergraduate students admitted to some faculties has been significantly increased. As a result, many faculty members will be teaching larger classes with fewer TA's than in recent years. It also appears that TA allocations were not adjusted to take account of the higher remuneration promised to the TA union, AGSEM, which will result in fewer TA's being supported within the TA budget than was previously the case. So the number of TA's and thus support to graduate studies is being reduced twice, due to a decreasing TA budget and higher salaries paid for the same service.

QUESTION: Could I ask the Provost whether the implications of TA cuts for faculty work loads and thus terms of service were considered when budget planning and TA allocations to faculties took place? Since McGill has the stated priority of increasing graduate enrolments, were the effects of the reduction in TA-ships on graduate financial support considered? And when is it anticipated that the TA budget will be increased such that the same level of support for courses will be restored as was the case in 2010-11?
