



TO: Senate
FROM: Richard Janda
SUBJECT: Question concerning the McGill Strike Policy (Academic Staff)
MEETING DATE: October 6, 2011

PREAMBLE: McGill's Policy on the non-performance of academic duties during a legal strike specifies that if members of the academic staff conclude that as a matter of conscience they cannot perform some or all of their academic duties, they shall report this to their departmental chairs without delay with the consequence that their entire salary shall cease. The policy does not specify where those academic duties are to be performed. However, the University administration has taken the position that McGill responsibility over timetabling and potential liability claims by students entail that the academic duties in question must be conducted on campus.

QUESTION: Will the administration of the University undertake disciplinary measures against members of the academic staff who:

- (a) Teach off campus but who use the internet to conduct their classes virtually;
- (b) Teach off campus but team teach with a colleague on campus and appear on screen in the classroom;
- (c) Teach off campus but secure the free and informed consent of students to waive liability claims against the University when conducting a class off campus but in close proximity to the campus; or
- (d) Teach in space that is physically on campus and covered by University liability insurance but is treated by MUNACA as not controlled by the University administration and thus does not give rise to crossing picket lines.
