



**TO:** Senate  
**FROM:** Haley Dinell; Max Zidel  
**SUBJECT:** Question Regarding: Undergraduate Cross Faculty Course Accessibility  
**MEETING DATE:** October 17, 2012

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**PREAMBLE:** While there are many important reasons why interfaculty and cross-departmental course registration is not always permitted, there are also many situations in which doing so is extremely beneficial and sometimes even necessary for a student's academic program. Clearly, the limited number of spaces available to major and minor students as well as the extra-departmental inaccessibility of certain specialized courses and programs need to be respected; but surely not at the expense of interdisciplinary learning opportunities and even program requirements that mandate a student to do so.

This issue is threefold, and likely each component will need to be addressed separately. Firstly, in the absence of faculty and university wide policies, departments have developed very different attitudes toward and procedures for allowing course registration from students outside their own department; in doing so they often make such registration either impossible or unduly tedious. Secondly, faculty degree policies for the most part prevent students from taking more than a small number of credits in another faculty, if they allow it at all. Finally, and ultimately contrary to the university's vision, very few academic programs and research opportunities are cross-faculty, or even cross-departmental in nature, again making it difficult for students to engage in innovative and interdisciplinary learning and research.

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**QUESTION:** In what ways can McGill encourage and remove barriers preventing interfaculty and interdepartmental course registration?  
In what ways can McGill foster cross-faculty and inter-departmental programming?

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