



McGill

Question

TO: Senate

FROM: Annie Ma, Student Senator

SUBJECT: Question Regarding the Use of Technology in Classrooms

MEETING DATE: October 19th, 2011

PREAMBLE: A presentation and subsequent discussion on teaching, learning, and educational technology was started by Professor Cynthia Weston, Director of Teaching & Learning Services at the Senate meeting of 23 March 2011. Topics covered included the lecture recording system (including statistics supporting their extensive use), deep learning vs. surface learning, classroom size, and the effect of technology on attendance. At the 8th Annual Teaching & Technology Day held 4 May 2011, there were discussions on a wide variety of educational technologies, including document cameras, lecture recordings, Adobe Connect, social media and learning managements systems. It is clear that any implementation for the enhanced use of technology will need to be well-planned and researched.

QUESTION:

1. Given that the adoption of lecture recordings varies widely by teaching unit, with some units, such as those in Science, achieving extensive adoption and others, such as Engineering, with very few adoptions, what steps will the University take to implement such technology across the campus and to encourage more professors to use available electronic resources (including lecture recording systems)?
2. Many students in McGill have large classes of at least 100 people until their last year, such as in the Department of Physiology. Also, in many cases, students will only get see their single midterm grade after as long as a month from the midterm. This means no evaluation is available until about the 10th week of the semester. What can the University do to have smaller classes, more extensive and rapid feedback and enhanced access to professors?
