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To:

Senate

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From:

Donald Sedgwick

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Subject:

Summer Fridays

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Date Submitted:

2006-09-11

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Senate Meeting Date:

2006-09-20

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Background:

On July 5 the Provost directed that administrative offices in the university open on Fridays during the months of July and August when they would normally have been closed.

Given that "summer Fridays" in one form or another have been a part of McGill's yearly calendar for more than a quarter century,

And given that the summer schedules of administrative offices are determined early in the Winter Term taking into account the vacation plans of staff members,

And given that individual staff members make plans for their families' summers, including child care arrangements, with the knowledge that they will not be working Fridays,

And given that the volume of traffic through most of these offices was very low on the Fridays when they were open, and that this could have been predicted by the office supervisors,

And given that staff members who worked on Fridays were usually given another day off during the week in compensation, and that this resulted in less than full service being offered both on Friday and at least one other day during the week,

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Question:

1. Can the Provost explain his reasons for issuing this directive?
2. Can the Provost explain his rationale for the timing of this directive?
3. Can the Provost assure Senate that, in future, directives which impact on the functioning of administrative offices will be issued after appropriate consultation with individuals who supervise the affected offices and with sufficient warning to make possible their effective implementation?

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