

To:

Senate

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From:

Finn Upham, SSMU VP University Affairs

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Subject:

Undergraduates and Research at McGill

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Date Submitted:

2006-09-11

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Senate Meeting Date:

2006-09-20

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Background:

In the Vice Principal (Research and International Affairs)'s report on Research Performance at McGill (D05-73) last May, it was mentioned that his office was looking to develop further meaningful reports of research performance. McGill claims to be a research intensive, student centered university, touting the advantage of a research oriented faculty to prospective students through opportunities of research informed teaching and first hand research experience for undergraduates. While not a common method of benchmarking research performance, involvement of undergraduates in university research activities is an important indicator of an institution's investment in the next generation of researchers.

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Question:

A) What kinds of statistics are collected by the university on student participation in research, both graduate and undergraduate?

B) And more specifically, what information can be found on:

- 1) Student participation in course-related research (e.g. MATH 470: Honours Project) and extracurricular research (e.g. summer research programs) across faculties?
- 2) Research funding spent on undergraduate Research Assistants, Lab Assistants, and the like?
- 3) Initiatives encouraging researchers to include undergraduates in their work?

C) What plans exist to expand on the existing information on student participation in research?

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