

Question

TO: Senate

FROM: Juan Pinto, PGSS Senator
Jennifer Murray, PGSS Senator
Rui Hao Leo Wang, PGSS Senator

SUBJECT: Question Regarding Graduate Student Transition to the New Glen Site in February 2015

MEETING DATE: November 19, 2014

PREAMBLE: Whereas the RI-MUHC is moving its research activities to the new Glen site in February 2015;

Whereas 1200 graduate students, postdoctoral and clinical fellows¹ will move to the Glen site in 16 days in February²;

Whereas for some research axes, it is estimated that there is approximately one student desk for every two graduate students, and this estimate does not include research associates and laboratory technicians who also require space to work;

Whereas McGill student support staff are currently working with MUHC support staff side by side and many share the same office across MUHC hospitals, facilitating communication, and improving efficiency for students;

Whereas PGSS wants to ensure the smoothest possible transition for its members to the new site;

Whereas PGSS members are concerned that many logistical components of the transfer plan have not been communicated clearly;

¹ "The RI-MUHC in Numbers." *The RI-MUHC in Numbers*. McGill University Health Centre Research Institute, n.d. Web. 08 Oct. 2014. <<http://www.rimuhc.ca/web/research-institute-muhc/the-ri-muhc-in-numbers>>.

² "What's Moving When and Where." *MUHC 2015: The Transfers*. McGill University Health Centre, n.d. Web. 08 Oct. 2014. <<http://muhc.ca/2015/page/what%25E2%2580%2599s-moving-when-and-where>>.

QUESTION:

What is the current plan to ensure an effective transition of all graduate students moving to the new Glen site in February 2015? Specifically:

- i) What are the plans to ensure all graduate students have appropriate space to work at the new Glen site and “safe and suitable conditions of learning and study”, as promised in the Charter of Student Rights (Part I.7), are maintained?
 - ii) What are the plans to assist graduate students with transportation to and from McGill’s downtown campus and the Glen site?
 - iii) Will the McGill student support staff move to the new hospital along with the hospital support staff? If not, what are the plans to reduce the potential impact on the coordination and communication between MUHC and McGill?
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- i) What are the plans to ensure all graduate students have appropriate space to work at the new Glen site and “safe and suitable conditions of learning and study”, as promised in the Charter of Student Rights (Part I.7), are maintained?

As is the case at the present time, it is the responsibility of each PI to ensure that his or her graduate students and other trainees are allocated appropriate working spaces. Space for graduate students is integrated into the space allocated to PIs as a result of the extensive planning process put in place for the new hospital. Careful attention has been paid to ensure that each PI receives an amount of space proportional to the size of their research operation. In keeping with current policy, each investigator who is supervising students must make arrangements for adequate work spaces for those students.

- ii) What are the plans to assist graduate students with transportation to and from McGill’s downtown campus and the Glen site?

McGill does not have any plans to arrange for special transportation for graduate students to and from the downtown campus to the Glen site. McGill has never provided this type of transportation for offsite graduate students, such as those already based at the Lady Davis Institute or the Douglas Research Centre. Students and fellows usually use public transportation to return to the McGill campus. In this regard, there is excellent access to public transportation at the Glen site, which is adjacent to the Vendome metro, bus lines (STM24 along Sherbrooke) and commuter trains. That said, it is important to note that there is also a plan to have a shuttle bus between the Glen, MNH-I and MGH. In addition, the Vendome metro will eventually have a tunnel leading directly to the Glen Hospital underground with a special ‘bike’ space.

- iii) Will the McGill student support staff move to the new hospital along with the hospital support staff? If not, what are the plans to reduce the potential impact on the coordination and communication between MUHC and McGill?

McGill support staff will not generally move to the Glen site. However, each department has been asked to provide the names of the staff who will be relocated to the Glen (regardless of who the employer is). It is important to note however, that support for our graduate students is already independent of their physical location. Everything is done via email. We have no reason to expect any disruption to the support of any our programs.