

From: The McGill Communities Council  
To: The McGill Board of Governors  
February 1, 2017

Dear Governors,

The McGill Communities Council (MCC) is a group composed of representatives from each of the major campus unions and associations. It was formed to foster community-wide dialogue on collegiality and governance at the university, as one of several recommendations of a multilateral committee convened by MAUT in 2012 in response to the campus events of November 2011.

We are writing today in the hope of stimulating dialogue on a key governance body: the McGill University Board of Governors. There have been expressions of concern regarding the relationship of the Board and the broader university community, including a recent research report from the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU), entitled [\*A Seat at the Table: An Analysis of the McGill University Board of Governors\*](#). The MCC has identified several general themes for which discussion would be of broad interest:

**1. Composition:** We feel that it would be mutually beneficial to review this composition with attention to member-at-large representation from a wide spectrum of economic and social sectors; the personal diversity of Governors; and the representation of university constituencies.

**2. Nominations:** Candidate development, evaluation, appointment, and succession-planning for external Governors is currently conducted internally by the Nominating, Governance and Ethics (NGE) Committee. Given that Quebec legislation only imposes requirements for a standalone Governance and Ethics Committee, we feel that there is room to expand community input and participation in the committee process for nominating and selecting external Board members.

**3. Decision-making:** We feel that several revisions to Board regulations would help to increase the accessibility of university governance to our McGill communities. This includes reducing the use of closed sessions to a minimum; enhancing the ability of individual governors to raise motions and issues; and increasing opportunities for consultation and community input in major financial and operational decisions affecting the University's mission.

In closing, we are respectfully asking to meet with members of the Board in order to discuss the above themes, with the mutual interest of developing more engaging governance channels on campus. While the MCC member associations do not necessarily share every view contained in the SSMU report, we believe the aforementioned topics are important for discussion. Furthermore, we would like to emphasize the importance of community leadership in identifying innovative improvements. Given McGill University's reputation for excellence, we hope that the Board will welcome this opportunity for open dialogue regarding the best means to improve upon existing successes.

Signed,

**Member Associations of the McGill Communities Council**

McGill Association of University Teachers (MAUT);  
McGill Course Lecturers and Instructors Union (MCLIU);  
McGill University Non-Academic Certified Association (MUNACA);  
Association for McGill University Support Employees (AMUSE);  
Association for McGill University Research Employees (AMURE);  
Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU);  
Post Graduate Students' Society (PGSS)  
McGill Association of Continuing Education Students (MACES).