

McGill says the problem is too many students

MONTREAL (CUP) - McGill University has found a novel way to deal with the school's lack of Arts professors: admit fewer students.

A proposal passed by the McGill Admissions and Scholarships Committee will require higher marks from applicants in Arts and is to be ratified at the next university Senate meeting.

"There is a clear feeling within the faculty that student-to-teacher ratios are simply too high and McGill is facing a serious underfunding crisis," Arts associate dean Martin Petter said of the proposal.

The proposal would raise the acceptance marks to 70 or 75 per cent and would only apply to students from Quebec colleges and other Canadian high schools. This

means Canadian students applying to McGill with an average under 70 per cent would no longer be considered for acceptance.

However, Arts and Sciences society president Geoff Moore said the university is taking the wrong approach to the problem.

"I think McGill is attempting to solve the problem of overcrowding overnight if this is going to be effective it must be one step in a larger process," he said.

"Marks aren't the only way to judge a person," Moore added.

Currently, the average students-to-teacher ratio at the McGill Faculty of Arts is 23 to one. The proposed policy would bring it down to 17 to one.

Plan to revise copyright laws

by Arman Danesh
TORONTO

(CUP) - Graduate students are still in danger of having their work ripped off under Canada's new copyright legislation, the National Graduate Council says.

NGC Chair Jonathan Bremer says Parliament should double Bill C-60's three year statute of limitations on prosecution for copyright infringement.

The NGC, the graduate wing of the Canadian Federation of Students, thinks grad students should have more time to file suit or claim damages when a professor takes their work and uses it as his or her own.

Bremer cited a Ph.D. supervisor at Carleton who published a student's master's thesis in four journals. But the student, unaware of the infringement until after the three year period, had no legal recourse.

And even though the bill has already been passed in the House of Commons, Bremer is confident the Senate can still amend it in graduate students' favour.

"The particular committee (reviewing the bill) is the same committee (that rejected) the drug patent bill," he said. "They are predisposed to standing up to the house."

Bremer said cases of plagiarism are frequent, but very few are reported because of students' fears.

"If they report, they probably won't get their degree," Bremer said.

He said an increase in the statute of limitations to six years would allow students to finish their degrees before making complaints about infringement.

Plagiarism is especially common in the sciences where professors

get co-authorship credit for work done in their lab, even though they have no such legal right, Bremer said.

This practice is so common that it is not questioned, he said.

U of T Ombudsman Liz Hoffman said there have been no reported plagiarism cases of this type and there are no specific guidelines in the University's Code of Behaviour to legislate such conduct.

"If a case was brought to this office, the office would approach the University as to legality," Hoffman said.

"If it is a case of a professor printing a total work with no credit, morally we would have a problem with it," she said. "What we would have to investigate is the legality."

Bremer said the Ontario Graduate Association, a wing of the Ontario Federation of Students, has retained a lawyer to help students fight copyright battles.

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