

Faculty Matters

Al Shrier spoke about MAUT's collegial initiatives. He met new academic and librarians appointees at the Orientation in August 2012 and spoke about the Association and its benefits. He noted MAUT's on-going interaction with recent and more senior appointees through the *Academic Leaders Forum* and *Faculty Matters* initiatives to engage faculty and set up focus groups to investigate and report on performance dialogues

He noted the Quebec government has announced a Summit on Higher Education in February 2013 which will be preceded by four thematic meetings on: (a) the quality of teaching, (b) accessibility, (c) governance, and (d) the funding of universities and the contribution of research institutions and development throughout Québec. The FQPPU organized its own well-attended Summit on October 25/12 which included representatives from CREPUQ, the professoriate and students. The focus was on the financing and governance of universities. M. Roy then reiterated the importance of relations with other unions and associations in North America and throughout the world which has enabled the Federation to decode general world trends which have immediate and future implications.

J. Galaty noted that the FQPPU supported the students during the strike but the urgent problem is university under-funding. He asked what future position the Federation would take. M. Roy referred to a recent article in *Le Devoir*

R. Myles noted the CAUT document addressed four main points: academic freedom in research, teaching, and in intramural and extramural areas. It expressed institutional autonomy: the autonomy of the university *vis-à-vis* the outside world

J. Galaty noted that in the Spring 2012, MAUT was aware of the discussions emanating from the release of the AUCC and CAUT statements. In response, MAUT created a committee to craft a statement to strengthen and vigorously defend academic freedom. MAUT wants the results of this deliberation to appear in the Regulations governing Academic and Librarian Staff and bind all concerned. The Academic Freedom Committee will not abrogate its responsibilities and will take all these comments into consideration. He stressed that neither the AUCC Statement nor the Provost's Statement are points of departure.

Further comments

K. Norget noted that the academic freedom deliberations were neither discussed in the context of a Council meeting nor was there any agreement that McGill needed a collective statement. She questioned whether the Association needed to participate in such a process. She reiterated a debate should happen in Council. As there was a vote but no consensus on Council, she stated this issue must be discussed. G. Mikkelson commented on the perceived tension concerning the way things were done at MAUT. He noted that Council approved funding for the on-going legal case and for course relief for Executives. G. Mikkelson commented on using Council as a deliberative body and proposed that MAUT take a provisional stand which will go to the Spring General Meeting. He reiterated the need for discussion but proposed accepting the CAUT statement as a starting point.

7. Report from the V-P Finance (Christopher Ragan, presented by A. Shrier)

MAUT Audit 2011-2012 (Pierre Gagnon, C.A.)

The financial statements and budget documents were projected. P. Gagnon reported that the required financial information was readily available and the Report for the Year Ended August 31, 2012 represented an accurate financial position of the Association as of that date. He noted the change in the mil rate from 0.5% to 0.65% accounted for an increase in revenue for the Association. He explained that the increase in expenses was due to greater conference attendance and meetings, but that the level was normal. He noted that CAUT had advanced \$300K

been struck to examine the Regulations and make recommendations to avoid any similar situations in the future.

8. Report from the V-P Internal (David Harpp)
Membership

David Harpp reported there were 917 full members and 207 retired members for a total of 1124. He remarked that over the past several years, newly hired academics and librarians have not joined MAUT and stressed that recruitment efforts would be stepped up. He noted two upcoming *Research Mixers* which will take place in Spring 2013 and bring together new colleagues to share their research experiences. The events will take place in the Billiard Room of the Faculty Club and costs will be shared by MAUT and the Club. The target audience will be junior and senior non-members. He and Al Shrier will co-host these events and

