

Question

TO: Senate

QUESTION FROM: Senators Shannon Snow and Erin Sobat

RESPONSE FROM: Senator Yalovsky, Interim Vice-Principal (Administration and Finance)

SUBJECT: Question Regarding the Relocation of the McGill Bookstore

MEETING DATE: October 19, 2016

PREAMBLE: Whereas, the McGill Bookstore is an important academic resource for students, staff, and faculty members;

Whereas, the former Bookstore location was recently reallocated to the Faculty of Management;

Whereas, Bookstore operations have been relocated to retail spaces on Rue Sherbrooke and Avenue du Parc, in addition to pop-up locations across campus;

Whereas, the new Avenue du Parc location, though technically accessible, is difficult to navigate for students with reduced mobility;

Whereas, student representatives have received complaints regarding the new operation, including but not limited to accessibility issues; the organization and navigation of the physical space; and a lack of stock or pricing information both online and in-store;

QUESTION:

- 1) When was the original decision made to relocate the McGill Bookstore, and what was the timeline to execute this change?
- 2) What criteria were used in selecting the new Avenue du Parc location, and what other locations were considered?
- 3) What are the future plans for the McGill Bookstore?
 - a) Are there opportunities to improve the layout of, and access to, the Bookstore space in the short-term?
 - b) What criteria will be used to evaluate the prospect of remaining in this location in the long-term?

RESPONSE**Question 1:**

Senior Administration decided to allocate the McTavish street location, where the McGill Bookstore was formerly located, to the Faculty of Management in the Fall of 2014. The Faculty of Management requires expansion for new teaching space and to accommodate students and staff in the Faculty's Masters programs, as well as undergraduate students. The move of the Bookstore was scheduled for no later than June 30th, 2016, in order to provide the time needed to find another location for the Bookstore.

Question 2:

Following a study which considered possible scenarios, several locations on Sherbrooke Street and De Maisonneuve Boulevard were explored. The first objective was to find one location to house all of the Bookstore's activities. This could not be achieved. Another objective for the academic portion of the Bookstore's activities was to identify a location on or adjacent to campus which would be accessible to the community and allow for the delivery of course materials to the site. Finally, the location had to be ready for the start of classes in September.

Question 3:

There does not appear to be flexibility to change the layout of the Avenue du Parc location. However, to ease congestion at the Avenue du Parc location, temporary pick-up locations (SSMU and McIntyre Medical Building) for online orders were implemented. In addition, online orders can always be picked up at the Avenue du Parc location. There are no plans to remain at the Avenue du Parc location in the long-term. The future plan for the Bookstore is to relocate most of its functions into one location. It is hoped that this will take place within the next two to four years.
