

## Submissions to the Senate Agenda Committee for the March 2012 Meeting of Senate

Respectfully submitted by Mark Jones, Faculty Senator for Arts and Science,  
13 March 2012

### I submit for the agenda, under “Other Business,” the following information:

First, that the petition to [Lift Queen's BFA Suspension](#) had 1017 signatures as of 10 Jan 2012. This petition was written and managed by BFA students, and its text is as follows.

“The current suspension on the Queen's Fine Arts program is causing irreversible damage to their vulnerable program. The Queen's BFA has always been well sought-after by students looking for a traditional visual arts education administered in intensive, college-style classes that are still set within a diverse, academic university setting.

“The reason for the suspension is cited as being due to 'resources'. The university is currently working in a deficit, and the Board of Trustees (BoT, who oversees budgets at Queen's) have told Dean MacLean (of the faculty of Arts & Science) to balance his budget in the next two years. This is hugely unnecessary because many universities are working through these hard economic times on deficits.

“MacLean says the quick decision to suspend admissions to the Fine Arts program for 2012-2013 is because, in addition to his orders from the BoT, he was suddenly notified that one BFA professor would be retiring in two-to-three year's time. The loss of one professor would be 20% of the BFA faculty and it would have profound repercussions on the program. We, the undersigned, acknowledge that MacLean was rightfully concerned about admitting students next year that could not be guaranteed the same structure/quality of education through all four years of the BFA.

“But, why should administration suspend admissions - thus cutting a form of income - when a temporary adjunct professor could be hired to replace the one who retires? An adjunct is much less the cost of a well-tenured professor. The current professor teaches 9 credits of classes which, according to the Collective Agreement, would be \$24,000 to hire an adjunct. At the very least, the program deserves an opportunity to 'regroup and form new ideas' without the pressure of a suspension hanging over their heads!

“Therefore, we, the undersigned, urge Principal Woolf, Dean MacLean, and the Board of Trustees to recognize the incredible efforts taken by BFA students to preserve their valuable program by lifting the suspension of admissions to the Queen's Fine Arts program for at least one year.

“If you have any further questions, please contact [kaisa.moran@queensu.ca](mailto:kaisa.moran@queensu.ca).”