

Must we rebuild Quebec universities ?

November 6-7, 2008

Professor Guy Rocher will hold the honorary presidency of this FQPPU upcoming colloquium.

The last decade has seen major changes in Quebec universities. The student/professor ratio has grown, particularly at the postgraduate level; performance contracts appeared as part of a reform of the public administration sector; federal government initiatives in education are now common, such as the Canada Research Chairs program; research itself is increasingly market-driven, reinforced by the government department of economic development, innovation and export trade, le Ministère du Développement Économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation.

All professors have been touched by these changes. Pressures have increased considerably; career entry is marked by often excessive demands; achieving work-family balance becomes a herculean task.

During this period a discourse has arisen supporting or criticizing these developments. Some welcome the emphasis on research and partnerships with the private sector, as well as administrative practices copied from the business world; others see them as threatening to sweep away the university as a separate institution and its traditional civilizing role.

The time has come, amidst this turmoil, to take stock.

What can we learn from this past decade ? Has the university institution been irreversibly transformed ? Is it going through an identity crisis ? What is the respective weight of tradition and modernity in this transformation ?

Above all, in these times when nothing can happen without strategic plans and development projects, the fundamental strategic plan which is often forgotten is this : What kind of university do we want ? it possible to keep on following the trend we are engaged in since the last fifteen years ?

In short, must we rebuild the Quebec university ?

In order to cover the subject, the guest speakers will address one of the following topics :

- The university as institution (its role, administration etc.)
- Workload
 - Teaching
 - Research
 - Service to society
- Career path and its demands
- Unionization

To the extent possible, the topic should be considered on these three aspects :

- Know : what do we know about the present situation ?
- Want : what kind of university do we want ?

➤ Can : what can we do to get it ?

Hoping that you will join us in this reflection, we warmly welcome your participation on November 6 and 7 at Montreal Hotel Gouverneur – Place Dupuis.