



McGill
University

Foundations & Philosophy of Science Unit

1983.11.12

Dr Michael P Maxwell, Dean
Faculty of Arts

Re: PHILOSOPHY CHAIRMANSHIP

Dear Dr Maxwell

Some time ago I suggested that it would be best to appoint an outsider to the chair of the Dept. of Philosophy.

I still think this would be a good thing provided it did not prevent the Department from replacing Gupta. When I made the proposal I did not realize that, given the budgetary freeze, we might not get both a vice-Gupta and a new person who could take up the chairmanship. So, unless it is possible to hire another person in addition to a vice-Gupta, I withdraw my proposal.

In this case, that is, unless two appointments can be made, I support my colleague Harry Bracken for the chairmanship. I have supported him for the same job on other occasions, and I wish now to reiterate my reasons for my stand.

Bracken is a senior man who has earned a good reputation in the philosophical community on the strength of his writings. He is concerned about the departmental affairs and has shown how to handle them at least twice as its acting chairman. And he is on good terms with most of us. But perhaps the best recommendation for Bracken is that he has never sought that job and he does not think that, were he to get it, that would be the culmination of his academic career. In short, he is not power thirsty. He is only half willing to do the job. And if appointed he will do a good job.

Sincerely



Mario Bunge

