

McGILL UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL

13th December, 1923.

FACULTY OF LAW
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

The Principal,
McGill University,
Montreal.

Dear Mr. Principal,

I have very carefully considered everything which you said to me a week ago upon the subject of my proposed resignation, and the fullest reflection leads me to adhere to my view that the interests of the University would be best served by my resignation of the office of Vice-Dean as from the 1st March, 1924.

We are, I think, agreed that it would not be possible for two officers to direct the business of the Faculty simultaneously, unless their mutual relations were precisely and unambiguously defined. I am quite unable to frame any form of words which would not cause legitimate offence as amounting in substance to an injunction to the Dean to abstain from interference with the actual business.

Ever since I came to Montreal the Dean has always been a very good friend of mine, and we have never had any personal friction of any kind, so I cannot make myself a party to any action which would hurt his feelings or make him think that his very real devotion to the Faculty was not properly appreciated. The practical consequence of any such step would almost certainly be his immediate resignation, in which case your own difficulties would be increased rather than diminished. In the circumstances I do not see any feasible alternative to my original proposal, which eliminates the question of dual control, and enables you to make a decision without being embarrassed by difficulties of a personal nature.

Faithfully yours,

W. A. Smith
Vice Dean.