



VP External Affairs

FALL 2014 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AMINA MOUSTAQIM-BARRETTE

OCTOBER 22 2014

VP External - Job Description

- From the SSMU Constitution:
 - “The duties of the Vice-President (External Affairs) shall be:
 - to represent the Society and communicate positions and policies taken by the Society to external bodies and agencies;
 - to lobby federal, provincial, and municipal governments to further the objectives, goals and policies of the Society;
 - to develop policies and initiatives in the off-campus McGill community;
 - to communicate to Council relevant external issues which may significantly affect McGill University or its students;
 - to attend meetings of relevant local, provincial, national or international student groups;
 - to develop external policies in cooperation with the President; “

What that actually means

- 3 Areas:

- 1) External Relations:

Communicating with external bodies the position of SSMU in relation to particular issues, and communicating information on relevant issues to members of SSMU

- 2) Political Campaigns:

Coordinate or provide support for campaigns connected to the SSMU's position on social and environmental justice

- 3) Community Relations:

Develop and strengthen connections between SSMU members and other members of the Montreal community, particularly in the Milton-Parc neighbourhood

1. External Affairs

- ▶ Since disaffiliating from the student federation TaCEQ last year, the SSMU is now an independent student association, i.e. does not have any official provincial/national representation
- ▶ Attending meetings of the FEUQ and l'ASSE
- ▶ Working on projects/lobby campaigns with different actors
 - ▶ Coalition régionale étudiante de Montréal (CREM)
 - ▶ Campagne de Revendications et d'Actions Interuniversitaires pour les étudiants d'éducation en Stage (CRAIES)
 - ▶ Etudiants Contre les Oleoducs (ECO)
- ▶ Building relationships with other student associations with shared interests (CSU, PGSS, CADEUL)

2. Community Affairs

- ▶ My job is largely to act as a liaison between students and residents in the Milton-Parc community, hear residents' concerns, and raise awareness of those concerns to students
 - ▶ Went door-to-door during the summer and spoke to residents
 - ▶ Frosh Street teams
 - ▶ Community Engagement Day (CED) with
- ▶ Regular meetings with the Milton-Parc Citizens Committee (MPCC)
- ▶ Community Engagement Committee is starting up on some great projects

3. Political Campaigns

- ▶ Responsibility as a student union to push for change and demand that the practices of our government and our university reflect the values of their
- ▶ Ongoing campaigns
 - ▶ Divest McGill/Climate justice
 - ▶ Consultation on the situation of bikes on campus

Get involved/contact me!

- ▶ Sit on a committee:
 - ▶ Community Engagement
 - ▶ External Affairs
- ▶ Come see me/call me/email me:
 - ▶ For information and other resources
 - ▶ To discuss issues you think SSMU should take a position on
 - ▶ To get involved in current projects/issue

external@ssmu.mcgill.ca

514-398-6798

Office Hours

✓ Thursdays 10-11:30 am

Ongoing campaign: Divest McGill

- ▶ Student led movement which is asking our universities and other institutions to stop investing in fossil fuels.
- ▶ On the basis that it is fundamentally immoral to be supporting such a destructive, carbon-intensive industry
- ▶ Although only a couple of years old, there are already upwards of 600 campaigns across the globe- with several colleges and universities committing to divestment
- ▶ Petitioned and presented to the Board's ethical investment committee
 - ▶ Got them to change their terms of reference after they rejected our initial proposal
- ▶ Now working on meeting with individual BoG members and getting faculty to pressure the administration



Questions?