



Report of the Vice-President (University Affairs) to Legislative Council October 9th, 2014

Mental Health

Portfolio Updates:

- Met with Student Services/Healthy McGill on Oct. 1st re: SSMU input into WellnessMcGill.ca site. Still working towards a formal agreement on collaboration/partnership on website content (draft agreement to be discussed at Website Steering)
- Working to ensure SSMU's priorities as expressed in the Mental Health Five Year Plan (i.e. evaluation of mental health services, ability for SSMU to access and analyze student feedback) are included.
- SSMU will now have a seat on the Website Steering Committee (first meeting on Oct. 8th)

- Last Mental Health Week Working Group meeting: Oct. 3
 - schedule is filling up; room booking and table booking is primary concern now
 - looking into non-SSMU spaces for opening art show
 - new event proposed by Senate Caucus: forum/drop-in experience sharing

- Last Mental Health Committee meeting: September 16th
 - group-based committee membership is finalized!
 - currently seeking 1 member at large
 - meetings will be bi-weekly

Equity

Equity Committee

- Equity Committee has been formed!
- Commissioners will be meeting with SSPN members re: 4Floors costume campaign/ equity strategy this week
 - aiming to make Equity presence more integrated and less 'policing'

Consent Campaign

- Equity Commissioner Sidnell-Greene continuing work on bottom-lining the organization of a panel on consent similar to the Dean of Students Forum on Consent in 2013-14



Libraries

Portfolio Updates:

- Met with Dean of Libraries on Oct.1 re: LIF-Libraries relationship + sustainability of LIF funding on Oct.1
- In discussion with the Libraries re: the possibility of finding other funds from donors/the University/non-student sources to fund extended hours. Meeting with Library fundraising + PGSS soon to push this.

Library Improvement Fund Committee

- last meeting: Oct.2nd
- decided to allocate Fall 2014 funding for extended hours (not both terms as was requested) pending further attempts to find non-student funding
- also requested further information on amount of funding used in past years for student employment to determine this year's allocation (the Libraries used only ~60% of the funding given last year in this area)

Senate

Portfolio Updates:

- met with SUS President on Oct.1 re: process and recommendations for selecting a new Science Senator
- meeting with the DPSLL & Provost with President Ayukawa on Oct.7th re: University budget

Senate Caucus

- new Social Work Senator started last week; Science Senator should be selected by Oct.14
- set group project goals and established two Caucus working groups for chosen key collaborative issues:
 - Working Group 1: Academic Assessment Rights advocacy
 - Working Group 2: Mental Health (specific tbd by group; possibilities include exam policies/deferral policies, Mental Health resources/funding, and
- Projects include:
 - long-term funding for SEDE
 - engaging off-campus students/advocating for Off-Campus Fellows Program
 - online advising record
 - facilitating student engagement in the University budgeting process
 - student academic experience survey
 - supporting/contributing to the Sexual Assault Policy



Senate Committees

- significant committee updates:
 - *Senate Nominating Committee* met Oct.7th
 - note that Academic Policy Committee & Nominating Committee will be reviewing their terms of reference to address the question of making more space for debate in Senate
 - First meeting of the *Working Group to Review the Regulation on the Conduct of Research* scheduled for Oct.23

Academic Research & Policy Projects

Portfolio Updates:

- Organizing “Weapons Development on Campus: Open Forum on McGill’s Research Regulations” for Nov.16th from 3-5pm in Madeleine Parent to inform SSMU’s stance on the *Working Group to Review the Regulation on the Conduct of Research* with the VP External
- invite your constituents here: https://www.facebook.com/events/561524177312267/?ref_notif_type=plan_user_joined&source=1

Sexual Assault Policy

- Academic Research Commissioner (ARC) completed second draft of SAP; making changes from SAPP group now
- Dean of Students meeting re: SAP delayed because of football controversy
- will also be working with Law Senator on legal concerns re: confidentiality

Indigenizing the Academy Policy

- completed media response to the University’s response to the Hiawatha Belt Flag and Hochelaga Rock: <http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2014/09/solidarity-not-statements/>
- First Subcommittee on Equity for First Peoples Thursday, Sept.24th
 - discussed possibility of hiring grad student researcher to back historical rationale for acknowledging territory + assuage legal concerns

Holding the Academy Accountable (Indigenous Awareness Week Panel)

- Working with ARC on follow-up report to be submitted to MISC re: accountability structures for Indigenous Studies program



Faculty Academic Relations

- first McGill Academic Roundtable (MART) meeting Oct.9th
 - will report orally
- feedback from MART s re: Research Ethics case studies (DPSLL/SSMU conference) presented at conference planning meeting on the 23rd
 - I will be working with Dean Costopoulos on anthropology ethics-related case study
- will be consulting with and collaborating with MART on the following topics:
 - academic priorities in the face of budget cuts
 - ~~input for McGill-SSMU conference on research ethics~~
 - priorities and consultation preferences for Library Master Plan

Respectfully submitted,
Claire Stewart-Kanigan, Vice-President (University Affairs)