



Report of the Vice-President (University Affairs) to Legislative Council December 4th, 2014

► Mental Health

Mental Health Portfolio Updates:

Mental Health Committee

- Meeting: Wed. Dec. 3rd (will report orally)
- Committee will be launching a Facebook Page and listserv soon
 - seeking to make listserv opt-out (strong majority supported opt-out v. opt-in on Facebook poll; will reach more students); currently looking into legal constraints re: recent anti-spam laws
 - possibility: one 'special edition' Mental Health listserv circulated at the regular SSMU listserv time
- Committee is also working to develop 'how to' guides for accessing support and accommodation for mental health challenges at McGill

► Equity

Equity Portfolio Updates:

- 4Floors Equity Report is revised and complete
- Equity Committee reporting on semester's activities this Council

Equity Committee

- Next Campus Conversations event: Celebrity and Rape Culture (<https://www.facebook.com/events/1537518139820716/>)
- Working group to review the Equity Policy has met three times
 - in process of completing housekeeping items (updating terminology, clarifying language etc.)
 - last meeting: Tues. Dec. 2nd (will report orally)
 - plan for consultation re: punitive measures and accessibility will be forthcoming
- New Equity website w/ resources and more accessible guide to the Policy in development

Research Projects

- SSMU Equitable Hiring Researcher + McGill Equitable Hiring Researcher interviews underway
 - aiming to hire before Winter Break



► Libraries

Libraries Portfolio Update:

- LIFC and I met with Libraries re: Redpath Doors on Nov.27th
 - major financial issues:
 - would cost >\$200K/year to place a security guard at door
 - security guard at door=non-negotiable given that Blacklader Collection is highly valuable
 - moving the Blacklader collection to compact shelving = ~\$500K + likely unpopular + compact shelving not likely to be re-used with Library renovations in future
 - Thoughts?

Library Improvement Fund Committee

- decision was made to fund Winter 2015 student employment (\$61,442) + Saturday opening hours for Islamic Studies Library (~\$2300; new initiative!)

Library Master Plan

- next Communications Working Group meeting: December 9th

► Senate

Senate Portfolio Updates:

- See minutes from November Senate here: <http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/senate-2014-2015/senate-meeting-documents/november-19-2014> (will be posed by McGill Secretariat by Thurs.)

Senate Caucus

- Final Senate Caucus of the semester was this Monday!
 - will be meeting for optional Sexual Assault Policy-specific session next Monday
- Student “Question re: McGill’s Strategy for Building an Interdisciplinary Learning Community” is up for discussion at the December Senate
 - Question: http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/question_regarding_mcgills_strategy_for_building_an_interdisciplinary_learning_community.pdf
 - Response: http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/response_to_the_senate_question_regarding_mcgills_strategy_for_building_an_interdisciplinary_learning_community.pdf
- Student question re: University support for student-run campus businesses postponed to January Senate (Deputy Provost absent from December Senate)
- Caucus Working Group Updates:
 - Academic Assessment Rights:
 - developing comprehensive academic rights website + Know Your Rights Week plan
 - will be discussed at next McGill Academic Roundtable meeting
 - research & revision suggestions for Assessment Policy are ongoing



- Mental Health:
 - Caucus-led Forum on Mental Health Accommodation report will be forthcoming
 - survey re: Mental Health Accommodation will be circulated Dec.8th

Senate Committees

- APC: Full-term excused withdrawal policy approved; up for Senate approval this week
 - concerns: excusing only full-term withdrawals (not single course) betrays a misapprehension of the impact of student personal/mental health/health issues on academic performance
 - i.e. may be able to complete one or two courses even while enduring hardship; creates incentive for students to drop whole semester

► **Academic Research & Policy Projects**

Portfolio Updates:

- Academic Research Commissioner beginning research on Academic Experience Surveys at peer institutions; aiming to hire a researcher to build one next semester

Sexual Assault Policy

- Policy draft is public! Read here: <http://sexualassaultpolicyatmcgill.com/draft%20SAP%20final.pdf>
- Communication sent to all who signed up with specific working group outlines
 - contact sapp.mcgill@gmail.com if you would like to get involved
- Plan moving forward:
 - present Policy to faculty associations (in progress)
 - present Policy to unions (in progress)
 - present Policy to key Senate committees (in progress)
 - consolidate feedback from groups + general feedback into policy revisions
 - develop and maintain publicity strategy

Indigenizing the Academy Policy

- met with SEDE Indigenous Education Coordinator for update on Dec.2nd (will report orally)
- focus groups will be held on the Traditional Territory Acknowledgement Policy in Winter 2015

► **Faculty Academic Relations**

- final MART meeting of the semester scheduled for Fri.Dec.5th
 - topics: Sexual Assault Policy, Academic Rights, Academic Experience Survey, Budgets

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