



## SSMU University Affairs Committee

Winter 2016

The University Affairs (UA) Committee has been busy this semester!

Our central focus has been on the **Memorandum of Agreement (MoA)** negotiations between SSMU and McGill, which are currently taking place. On this front, the UA Committee has been working largely to substantiate our demands legally or by citing peer institutions. We have also been strategizing about how to have our demands incorporated, which has led us to develop artillery and pressure tactics to be deployed later on in negotiations if necessary.

The UA Committee additionally ran **University Affairs Research Competition**. We had twelve research proposals submitted, conducted three interviews, and eventually hired two researchers. One of the researchers is focusing on First Generation students at McGill, surveying these students and researching peer institutions in order to inform SSMU support and advocacy efforts. The other researcher is working on assessing the feasibility of instituting a Transitional Year Program at McGill, which would support students that have historically faced barriers to entry at the University.

Finally, the UA Committee is helping develop the **University Affairs Website**. This is a new project, so little has been done on this front. However, we have begun compiling research projects done under the UA portfolio, in the hopes that this website can become a resource for research on university affairs.