



Students' Society of McGill University
Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Office of the Vice-President (External Affairs)
Bureau du Vice-président (affaires externes)

VP External's Report to Legislative Council

February 11th, 2016

Personal

Hit a personal low when I got my wisdom teeth out and found out about the SSMU base fee failure on the same day (rough) but I can definitely tell we're on the upswing! Shout-out to Anarchist Aunt Abby's column in the Daily for reminding me that a radical uprising is still possible, even for the overworked SHMU exec.

External Affairs

AVEQ

- Drafted a motion to be debated at council today!
- Worked with the coordination committee on matters of increasing social media presence, a press release on international students, and upcoming policies to be written
- Upcoming congress: February 20th – 21st at UQTR

UEQ

- Appeared to be little interest on council for continuing to work on this project; will communicate this to the association pending council decisions today

ASSÉ

- Helped organize an Anglophone contingent to the ASSÉ training camp last weekend
- Learned a whole lot about history, direct democracy, and some of the recent developments in the world of higher education (such as the Demers and the Roy-Tremblay reports)

International students

- A recent announcement was made by the provincial government that they will make more cuts to university funding, but that universities will be allowed to make up the difference by charging international students an additional 25% (around \$3000-\$4000 per year for international students)
- As this is in direct conflict with the SSMU's accessible education policy, we'll be keeping a close eye on any developments and see how we can coordinate mobilization efforts with other schools

Community Affairs

Milton Parc Community

- Greener streets project
 - Currently working on the mapping of high garbage areas in the neighborhood
 - Meeting with Projet Montreal this week
- Starting drafting content for a website on community relations following last council's motion
- CARE is SQ, planning signing ceremony soon

Community Engagement

- Screened "this changes everything" this week (such a good movie please everyone go watch it!!)



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- Planning for art and expression mixer

Campaigns

McGill Against Austerity

- Working on “Beyond McGill” series: <http://www.beyondmcgill.com/>
- First workshop of the series, Advocacy Journalism 101, is this Wednesday!

Divest McGill

- A lot of focus on strategy leading up to McGill's divestment decision
- Rally this Thursday outside the BoG
- Planning a strategy retreat for later this month

QPIRG

- Social Justice Days is this week!!
- Lots of workshops, speakers, and panels themed mostly around art and resistance – come on out!

Mention Soleil

For this council, I would like to give a major shout-out to Erin Sobat for all of the incredible work that you have done all year, but especially the work that you put in for the base fee campaign. Although we lost, I feel confident that we did everything that we could and I'm incredibly proud of the dedication that you demonstrated the past two weeks. I'm particularly grateful for how dependable you are; I can always count on you to help me move a motion or promote an event, and the overall commitment that you show to the SSMU and student life is really admirable. It's people like you who help make student life at McGill better, thanks for everything that you do!

With love and solidarity,

Emily Boytinck