



Report of the Vice-President (University Affairs) to Legislative Council

December 3rd, 2015

I know I include this at the top of every one of my reports but the incredible dedication of my team has been extremely obvious to me in the last two weeks. Thank you to everyone who has stepped in to ensure that important work still got done – and done well- during my absence. I couldn't have asked for a better team to be working with.

The work in this report is a summary of all areas of the University Affairs Portfolio. All activities are the product of the hard work of many people including, but not limited to, other Executives, Senators and student staff.

University & Academic Affairs

General Updates

Fall Reading Break

- MAUT consultation showed that Faculty are generally in favour of the principle of a Fall Reading Break but disagree on the proposed timing. A consultation survey was sent out to Arts Faculty as well.

Inclusive Registration Project

- SQ

Senate

Senate Meetings

- Senate discussed the [response](#) to the Question Regarding the Impact of International Tuition Deregulation
- This Senate there is an upcoming [Open Discussion on Research Funding and Support](#). As well PGSS Senators submitted a [Question Regarding Management and/or Ownership of Companies by McGill University Professors](#).
- See full agenda and Senate docs on the [McGill website](#)

Senate Caucus

- Senate Caucus struck an ad-hoc working group to draft a non-smoking harm reduction proposal. The proposal will be discussed at the upcoming SSMU Legislative Council meeting.



Senate & University Committees

- Attended Senate Steering and discussed changes to the reading material presented for the Open Discussion

Memorandum of Agreement Negotiations

- VP Houston and I attended the first meeting with the Office of the DPSLL regarding the MoA negotiations.
- We reviewed the MoA in detail and discussed the historical context of many of the clauses and the overall structure of the MoA.
- Fun fact: McGill has had an MoA with SSMU before they were legally mandated to recognize us as the accredited student association

Library Relations

- Followed-up with Libraries regarding the creation of an Interfaith Meditation Space

Library Improvement Fund Committee

- The Committee has been working on outreach through tabling and setting up whiteboards in the library
- We are accepting ideas/proposals to improve the libraries on a rolling basis
- The goal is to ensure that the LIF is distributed in a manner that is more student-driven than in past years

McGill Academic Round Table (MART)

- SQ

University Relations Projects/Goals to Complete in Fall 2015

- ⊖ Present MoA demands to the University
- ⊖ Organize the Student Academic Summit for VP Academics and Presidents of Faculty and Departmental Associations
- ⊖ Re-establish the McGill Academic Round Table (MART)
- ⊖ Launch the SSMU Know Your Rights Campaign
- ⊖ Compile a binder of committee reports at the end of the semester



Advocacy & Research

Policy-Work

Sexual Assault Policy (SAP)

- SAP policy revision took place on Nov 22nd. The SAP open forum was also successful. A finalized policy draft should be available soon.
- If you have feedback on the policy or suggestions for stakeholders to consult, I invite you to email sap.mcgill@gmail.com.

Research Projects

- Complete draft of the Equitable Hiring research project has been received. Once it is reviewed a final copy will be available for distribution

Committees

University Affairs Committee

- The University Affairs Committee will be hosting a Student Research competition. Selected applicants will have the opportunity to be paid for a research project they designed that in some way supports the advocacy efforts of the SSMU. For more information see our [web posting](#). Please promote it to your Faculty Councils – we would like to encourage students from all disciplines to apply.
- We are also discussing a way to better share SSMU's research to support student advocacy at McGill and other universities

Policy Advocacy & Resource Committee (PARC)

- Will hopefully be hiring a Policy Advocacy and Resource Coordinator for the new year



Advocacy & Research Projects/Goals to Complete in Fall 2015

- ~~○ Re-establish the University Affairs Committee~~
- Re-establish the Policy Advocacy & Resource Committee (PARC)
- Provide training to PARC co-chairs and assist in training the committee members
- Host a Society Research project competition
- Increase the visibility of student research projects
- ~~○ Work with the SAP working group to incorporate stakeholder feedback and intersectionality into the policy~~

Mental Health & Well-Being

Student Services

Student Services Unit Review

- Student Services underwent its first cyclical unit review. Unit reviews are two-day intensive processes that involve comprehensive self-study documents, interviews with all major stakeholders (including students, McGill staff and administration, Faculty, Directors of each unit and the front-line staff). The review team will be producing recommendations based on all the information it has collected which will greatly impact the operations of Student Services

Seasonal Affective Disorder Lamp Rental Program

- Promotional material and planning of the Happy Lights program is complete
- Unfortunately due my absence and a backlog of work with the Executives this project has been significantly delayed
- We hope to get the program launched soon however in the meantime students can rent a lamp from Mental Health Services or stop by MORSL on the second floor to use a lamp for free during the day

Mental Health Space

- The VP Clubs & Services are working on a proposal for the smaller space
- We will be doing some outreach to determine how best to use the latter space



SSMU Mental Health Initiatives

Includes updates on the implementation of SSMU's Mental Health 5 Year Plan

Website & Social Media

- Hope to send a “Spotlight: Mental Health” listserv to highlight important resources during exams
- The McGill Mental Health Hub website (mcgillmentalhealthhub.ca) has been launched. If you have any feedback on the website please send it to mentalhealth@ssmu.mcgill.ca

Mental Health Committee

- Both working groups have been meeting and are working on a number of fantastic initiatives
 - The Outreach Working Group is focusing on raising awareness for mental health and mental illness through social media, events, tabling and other creative means.
 - The Advocacy Working Group is focusing on advocacy based on research and student consultation and will draft documents to propose changes to existing McGill policies and practices.

Mental Health & Well-Being Projects/Goals to Complete in Fall 2015

- ~~Revise the Mental Health Committee structure~~
- ~~Plan a successful 2nd annual Mental Health Awareness Week~~
- ~~Liaise with Mental Health & Counselling Services~~
- ~~Expand current mental health awareness outreach~~
- Establish a SSMU ‘Happy Lights’ rental program

Equity

SSMU Equity Initiatives

Equity Committee

- Equity Committee has met and discussed branding of SSMU equity and diversifying outreach events. One idea that we hope to pursue next semester once the mental health space is up and running include small group “safe space” discussions for minority groups to discuss their feelings/thoughts about the campus environment.



Indigenous Affairs

- The first Indigenous Affairs committee meeting occurred and we brainstormed goals and projects for the year
- Leslie Anne St Amour has been hired as the SSMU Indigenous Affairs Coordinator!

Accessibility

- VP Bialik and the SSMU Equity Commissioner are working on drafting an accessibility policy. Email equity@ssmu.mcgill.ca if you would like to get involved with it!

Equity Projects/Goals to Complete in Fall 2015

- ~~○ Liaise with organizers of #ConsentCampaign and host a panel as part of the week-long event~~
- Expand the diversity of SSMU equity event programming beyond typical education events such as speaker series and workshops
- ~~○ Strike an Ad-Hoc Indigenous Affairs Committee~~

SSMU-Wide

Outreach & Communication

Social Media & University Affairs Website

- SQ: Invite your friends to like the [SSMU University Affairs](#) Facebook page!

VP Internal Portfolio Delegation

SSMU Website redesign

- [Consultation survey](#) has received numerous responses. It's not too late to fill out and be eligible for some sweet prizes! Tell us all your favourite and least favourite things about the current SSMU website!
- We will now be focusing on what information should and should not be available on our website and then deciding the most logical, cohesive organization of said information.
- This project will be transferred back to the VP Internal next semester!



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

Office of the Vice-President (University Affairs)
Bureau du Vice-Présidente (affaires universitaires)

SSMU-Wide Projects/Goals to Complete in Fall 2015

- Present a public, detailed workplan and provide updates tasks completed through Council reports
- ~~Increase social media presence through Twitter and Facebook~~
- Create a University Affairs website with a 'Senator's Corner' tab to include information and updates about the UA portfolio
- ~~Update all website content related to the UA portfolio~~
- ~~Collaborative workplans with all student staff~~
- ~~Improve institutional memory particularly with respect to Senate and University Committees~~

Respectfully Submitted,

Chloe Rourke, Vice-President (University Affairs)