



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

January 14, 2016

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

Senate

Senate

- A question was submitted regarding McGill's response to divestment from fossil fuels by Senator Sobat.
- Senator Kpeglo-Hennessey submitted a question regarding McGill's Employment Equity Policy. The question was referred to a working group that will draft reading materials in advance of the open discussion on Employment Equity during the February Senate meeting

Senate Caucus

- Consultation continues on the non-smoking harm reduction proposal.
- Senate Caucus also signed up to table at Activities Night!

Senate & University Committees

- Committee representatives are being asked to submit end-of-semester reports that will be compiled and published online

Memorandum of Agreement Negotiations

- VP Houston and I have a meeting with McGill on the 12th to discuss follow-ups from our initial meeting

Library Relations

- Committee has been actively soliciting proposals for the LIF through surveys and hosted a number of tabling sessions to consult students on the Libraries

Faculty Relations



McGill Academic Round Table (MART)

- SQ

Advocacy & Research

Policy-Work

Sexual Assault Policy (SAP)

- SQ

Research Projects

- SQ

Committees

University Affairs Committee

- The University Affairs Committee is hosting a Student Research Competition. The Committee will be reviewing the initial proposals and determine which candidates move on to the next stage

Policy Advocacy & Resource Committee

- PARC will be tabling at activities night and is recruiting members at large to serve on the Committee as well as hiring a student staff to chair PARC

Mental Health & Well-Being

Student Services

- Student Services Unit Review team submitted their report that details recommendations to improve Student Services at McGill. The recommendations should be made public shortly

SSMU Mental Health Initiatives

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

Mental Health Committee



- The Mental Health Committee is looking into partnering with a charity to build a yellow bench somewhere on campus. The bench serves as a physical representation of mental health awareness and suicide prevention.

Mental Health Forum

- Forum has been scheduled for March 19th

Mental Health Space

- Discussions continue to determine how best to organize the space to meet student needs. Multiple spaces on the fourth floor are being considered.

Happy Lights Lending Program

- The Happy Lights Lending Program has been launched! Students can drop by the SSMU Office to borrow a lamp. All that is needed is a \$30 cash deposit that will be reimbursed upon return of the lamp and a valid student ID confirming status as an undergraduate student on the downtown campus. Thank you to McGill Mental Health Services for their partnership in creating this program, including funding 50% of the costs and providing the resources and guidance necessary to establish the program.

Equity

General

- We've had a number of equity complaints submitted last semester. Thus far, the majority have been resolved informally.

Indigenous Affairs

- Indigenous Affairs Coordinator has started work and recruited more members for the Indigenous Affairs Committee

Accessibility

- VP Bialik and the SSMU Equity Commissioners are drafting a SSMU Accessibility Policy

Employment Equity

- SSMU will be hosting a panel on January 28th at 6pm. The panel will highlight the experiences of professors with marginalized identities in academia.



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

Outreach & Communications

Social Media

- Progress is being made on the UA website. Hope to launch it to make the work being done in the UA portfolio more accessible

Respectfully Submitted,

Chloe Rourke, Vice-President (University Affairs)