



Office of President

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REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT TO COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 29TH 2016

SUMMARY/NOTES:

SQ = Status Quo

Though I unfortunately was sick both Sunday and Monday, these last few weeks have still managed to be fairly jam-packed. From working on the Free Menstrual Hygiene Products Policy, to new projects surrounding the GA (adding scanners on every door to improve efficiency, and working with the admin to get a academic amnesty policy to the Senate floor so all students can attend the GA without worry) there definitely has been a fair amount of fun project work, but administrative overhead has still been the largest consumer of my time (this might be a common theme though). In other news, Presidents Round Table and Steering Committee met for the first time (this week and last), MoA negotiations re-opened with the Office of the DPSLL, and there has been a fair bit of buy-in for the Ad-Hoc Equitable Governance Reform Committee!

INTERNAL GOVERNANCE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD)

Application Process

SQ - I wrote and developed an application form for the 2016-2017 BoD. It is currently out for review and will be posted on Monday October 3rd.

General

The Board of Directors didn't meet quorum at its last meeting and as a result the Board is going to be changing its meeting times to fit a better schedule for everyone. Though this is not ideal, it's a changed that is both necessary and best for an effective and *present* Board until the new BoD is appointed in November.



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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Rotating Council

SQ - All is good for Rotating Council, I'm just waiting to confirm a few more spaces!

Committees

Steering Committee: Met for the first time. We're trying to iron a better time now.

Ad-Hoc Equitable Governance Reform Committee: Callouts went out two (2) weeks ago and so far we're up to 6 seats on the Committee (not including Will and Adam) and I'm planning on striking the Committee at 10 Members. The groups who have gotten back to me include: Hillel, McGill Women in Leadership (MWIL), the Office of Students with Disabilities (OSD), Queer McGill (QM), and the Black Students Network (BSN).

GA

Academic Amnesty

Igor, Erin and I met with the Associate Provost (Policies, Procedures and Equity), Angela Campbell, and the Dean of Students (DoS), Chris Buddle, to talk about either an academic amnesty program (meaning you can't be marked in any of the classes your in/missing) or cancelling all classes during SSMU's General Assembly. We're doing some broader outreach for low-level feedback to see if we'd have support when/if this was brought to a higher-level decision-making channel (Senate or another).

Security and Efficiency Improvements

Wallace (Security Manager) and I have been working with McGill and some external companies to add in some improvements to help streamline the GA. The goal is to add scanners to all doors in the building so staff don't have to check individual ID's as people come in and we can eliminate some of the administrative overhead (finding more volunteers, wasting time doing that, etc.). This would also help facilitate room booking (on weekends and during the week) by giving us the ability to grant people temporary scanner access during their allotted booking time.

PRESIDENTS' ROUNDTABLE

Presidents' Round Table met this past week and felt super productive! We talk about a bunch of topics ranging from joint Advocacy initiatives (e.g. Mental Health 101), First Year Council, Free Menstrual Hygiene Product distribution and faculty association support during campaigning, fundraising for Centraide, and more. We'll be meeting on a by-weekly basis to follow up, discuss more ways we can work together and



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how my Office/SSMU can best serve theirs & their constituents. (Personal note: all the faculty Presidents this year are so bomb and amazing and I'm SUPER excited to work with them this coming year!)

POLICY PROJECTS

Ethical Expenditures Policy

SQ – Delayed due to workload currently on the Office of the Vice-President (Finance) and President.

Menstrual Hygiene Products Policy'

Elaine and I have met with Health McGill a few times now to get general feedback as well as talk about any assistance that can be provided with distribution – specifically through kiosks around campus. This was also a discussion that happened at Presidents Round Table, to which a few faculties had comments about the need for additional distribution points in some buildings (e.g. MacMed). I've also reached out again to Queer McGill (QM) for input, but unfortunately it doesn't seem like the Union for Gender Empowerment (UGE) will be able to comment as they are short staffed at the moment.

Conflict of Interest Policy

A conversation with legal, Ryan, Erin and I took place last week that concluded with a number of concerns being raised by legal. Legal was left with the task of sending us some of the higher-level concerns they had so that we could address them on our end, however we're still waiting on those.

Equitable Hiring Practices Policy/Amendments to the HR Policy

Erin, Niall, our HR Advisor and I drafted a skeleton for the Policy to be sent out for consultation. We're each taking time to make a bunch of comments on the skeleton for context and to highlight areas that need particular attention from those reviewing it to give comments & concerns.

Amendments to the Accessibility Policy

SQ - See below for updates on the progress of the Accessibility Checklist being developed by the Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity, Subcommittee on Persons with Disabilities. Once this is done a more in depth conversation can start as to how this Checklist can becoming more SSMU applicable.

REPRESENTATION & ADVOCACY

SENATE

[Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity Subcommittee on Persons with Disabilities](#)

SQ – the Working Group for the Accessible Events Checklist just booked their next meeting so I am currently just waiting for us to meet. We are still in the process of figuring out how it can be implemented and formatting it to be more accessible itself.



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Senate Committee on Physical Development (CPD)

SQ – The Committee hasn't yet met for the year, though it did meet a few times over the summer to wrap up some unfinished business and do some brief introduction to some of the new members of the Committee.

Enrollment and Student Affairs Advisory Committee (ESAAC), Subcommittee on Student Affairs Policy (SSAP)

SQ - This year I'll be sitting on the Subcommittee on Student Affairs Policy, a subcommittee of the ESAAC mandated to identify policies and procedures that differ across faculties and to assess the rationale for and effects of those differences, to initiate and monitor harmonization efforts regarding Faculty student affairs policies and procedures, to coordinate communications to Faculty Student Affairs Offices regarding Subcommittee decisions, and to evaluate achievement of common policies across faculties. Though a meeting schedule hasn't yet been sent out to Committee members, on the agenda at some point that I'll be bringing up is the possibility of linking Mental Health Trainings to McGill's requirements for tenure.

General

The first Senate meeting of the year happened last week and a number of concerns were brought up by Student Senators in regards to a few issues including the composition of the new Taskforce that was launched on the Thursday, a lack of sufficient data on our student population breakdown, and the land acknowledgement that was released not matching up with the one that was recommended by the Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity, Subcommittee on First Peoples. Feel free to check out Erin's report for more details on this!

BOARD OF GOVERNORS (BOG)

Board Reform

SQ - As mentioned before, Leslie Anne (Alt. & Equitable Gov. Researcher) is in the process of compiling the second half of the report that came to Council this week, which will include recommendations on Structural BOG Reform. The report should be out in October and we'll be meeting weekly to talk about it.

SQ - I've also been in communications with McGill's new Secretariat (Edyta), discussion smaller changes that could happen in the short-run in order to ensure more consultation in the recruitment and appointment processes for Members at Large (on BoG and it's Committee's).



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Pre-Board Meetings (‘BoG Caucus’)

As the year is coming up fairly quickly [McGill Association of University Teacher \(MAUT\)](#), the Post Graduate Students’ Society (PGSS) and I have been putting in work to lock down a monthly meeting date that works for everyone for BoG Caucus – a Pre-BoG Meeting that will be used to increase knowledge sharing and collective capacity for decision making at the Board level amongst elected members. A time has been locked down for this meeting, which Victor and I will be chairing.

Presentations and Executive Shadowing

Erin and I made the presentation for Board and sent it in for review so we’re just waiting to hear back from them. The first Board meeting is taking place next week.

Etienne and I are doing callouts for the student specific executive shadowing program and throughout the next few months and a number of Board Members have signed up to spend a day with an Executive. This will hopefully build upon solving the problem listed above.

CAMPUS RELATIONS

Deputy Provost, Student Life & Learning

The Centraide campaign is something the President of SSMU usually has some involvement in, and this year Ollivier (the DPSLL) will be one of the Co-Chairs of the Committee that will be helping coordinate the campus wide-initiatives related to it. We had a meeting this week to go over some of the things we could do (raffles, competitions, etc.), and I brought it up at PRT to see if faculties would be interested in getting involved again.

Erin and I met with Jonathan Nordland to start some negotiations over our Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). The MOA is basically the document that formalizes what our relationship, as a separate legal corporate entity that happens to also be heavily tied into campus life, is with the University.

McGill Alumni Association (MAA)

SQ

McGill Association for Continuing Education Students (MACES)

SQ

Macdonald Campus Students’ Society (MCSS)

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McGill Office of Sustainability (MOOS)

SQ



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Post-Graduate Students' Society (PGSS)

SQ

Student Housing & Hospitality Services (SHHS)

SQ

Social Equity & Diversity Education Office (SEDE)

SQ

Campus Life & Engagement (CL&E)

I have had a few meetings with Aleks from CL&E at this point and we've fully in the planning faze for the Student Executives at McGill Learning, Engaging, Sharing & Strategizing (SEAMLESS) Summit. Though a date is yet to be locked down we'll be having workshops on Advocacy, Policy and Motion Writing, how to access Funding across campus and an Organigram Competition, as well as some cool speakers from across campus!

Residences / Inter-Residence Council (IRC)

I gave a little speech on leadership and involvement at the recent hall council orientation for executives that happened Saturday. Was both fun and (hopefully) helpful for that incoming group of potential student leaders!

MEDIA

Campus Paper

SQ

Communications (SSMU Video, Organigrams, and Monthly Calendars)

SQ - If anyone wants to see the video that was developed for frosh and general knowledge on how SSMU works / how to get involved, feel free to check it out [here](#)! Also if you want to see the organigrams on how SSMU's Government works and what Executives do feel free to check out [here](#) and [here](#)! Finally, if you want to the see the events and governance calendar for September you can click [here](#)!

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Advisory Council on Sustainability

SQ - This is a new Council that will be housed under the portfolio of McGill's Vice-Principle (Admin & Finance). I'll be sitting on it this year but no information on the agenda, Committee Terms of Reference, or meeting times have been released yet.



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LEADERSHIP & SUPPORT

PERMANENT & STUDENT STAFF

SQ - Zach and I are currently working on some visual tools to match up with the portfolios – Executive and specific (Mental Health, Governance, etc.)

As of now, due to some unfortunate circumstances, my Office is functioning as the Recording Secretary (though our outgoing Recording Secretary, Melissa, was kind enough to help with this past weeks Council Minutes) and am filling in for a few vacant/reduced/removed staff positions but am still feeling great!

EXECUTIVES

With September coming to an end each individual Executive and I will be having check-in's for general updating that might not have already happened, as well as to give feedback to each other. The first check-in is Friday and will be going on for the following two weeks.

GENERAL PROJECTS

MENTAL HEALTH

Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP)

SQ - WRAP Spaces in SSMU have been booked and will be happening throughout the year now! If you want more detail on when these will be taking place feel free to contact myself, the VP Student Life, or the clinic themselves.

Mental Health 101 for Faculty

As mentioned, Mental Health 101 training was brought up at Presidents Round Table and each member of that Round Table will be bringing the idea back to their respective Faculty Council's for feedback. I'll be sending out a follow up email to them soon and am looking forward to hearing what comes out of those discussions.

PERSONAL NOTE: IT WAS NIALLS BIRTHDAY TWO DAYS AGO AND DANS WAS ON SUNDAY EVERYBODY WISH THEM

Joyfully Submitted,

Ben Ger
President