



**Office of President**

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# REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT TO COUNCIL

**NOVEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> 2016**

## INTERNAL GOVERNANCE

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD)

#### Transition Process

The 2015/2016 Board of Directions term has ended and we are now in the process of ratifying the new BoD. Ryan (General Manager) and I have been talking with the Province to work out our timelines and make sure that we are fulfilling requirements since we are technically in a space where the SSMU doesn't have a BoD. This is perfectly normal and allowed however specifics of when we will have everyone registered are still important.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

#### Rotating Council

SQ

#### Committees

Ad-Hoc Equitable Governance Reform Committee: The Committee is still discussing Equity Training for staff and elected representatives, as well as will be going through a training on SSMU's governance structure at tomorrow's meeting. Unfortunately the Committee couldn't meet last week due to scheduling but, if anyone is interested in attending any of these meetings in the future, they will be happening in the Boardroom from 11:30-12:30 every Friday.

### GA

#### Academic Amnesty

As some of you may know the GA has passed (woop!) and we're now into the online ratification period for the Motions that are required to be voted to keep the SSMU running (new BoD ratification & nomination



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of the auditor). Though the GA didn't meet Quorum we're hoping this can act of as a fire under the administrations feet to have them act sooner. In recent conversations with Chris Buddle (the Dean of Students) we were told that they would be discussing the topic this week and in advance I've started to collect some documents showing how this lack of recognition by high level administers as to the importance of student decision making negatively affects turnout and representation at the GA. See below!

<http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2013/02/ssmu-winter-general-assembly-fails-to-meet-quorum/>

“We did 85 Facebook announcements, 59 class announcements, 8.5 hours of flyering in targeted buildings, 9.5 hours flyering outdoors [and we still didn't meet Quorum].” – Josh Redel

<http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2012/10/ssmu-fall-ga-struggles-with-quorum/>

<http://www.mcgilltribune.com/news/ssmu-ga-fails-to-meet-quorum-324681/>

<http://www.mcgilltribune.com/news/ssmu-fall-ga-fails-to-meet-quorum-becomes-consultative-forum-13123/>

## **Security and Efficiency Improvements**

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## **PRESIDENTS' ROUNDTABLE**

We've decided to change Presidents Round Table to once every two weeks. Things we worked and are continuing to work on collectively include the post-election support letter, Mental Health 101 and individualized faculty-level Mental Health faculty training initiatives, the Menstrual Hygiene Products Fee, and Centraide.

## **POLICY PROJECTS**

### **Ethical Expenditures Policy**

We have a rough draft of the Policy done and are looking for feedback now. If anyone reading this is interested (Councillors, Members, or other) please feel to reach out. There has been one conversation about including companies that support political individuals or institutions that themselves promote harmful ideologies, but looking for input on that.

### **Menstrual Hygiene Products Policy**

SQ — Done, pending approval by Council.

### **Conflict of Interest Policy**

We've decided this would be better as a procedural practice & has sparked a larger conversation as to how our Policy and Plan book currently works. We're potentially looking at remodeling that book to look



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more like a *Policies, Plans and Procedures* book to better emphasize the need for more pragmatic internal procedures \*in addition to\* a lot of our conceptual and ideological mandates. This will hopefully better outline how we function to those working with us internally & to the Membership.

**Equitable Hiring Practices Policy/Amendments to the HR Policy**

Out for internal consultation (predominantly with Equity Commissioners). Once we're passed that stage we'll build it up more and send out for external consultation.

**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.

**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)**

SSAP met a few weeks ago and we talked about Mental Health 101 mandatory additions to the requirements for the Tenure process and there was support for the idea. It's now being kicked up to ESAAC.



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## BOARD OF GOVERNORS (BOG)

### Board Reform

Leslie Anne has submitted a 'final rough draft' of the report, which is currently being reviewed for extra edits but we're on track to have it out next week.

I'll be going to the Nominating, Governance and Ethics Committee (NGE) meeting on November 29<sup>th</sup> from 3-5 to talk about the report that the BoG will be producing through the Committee. I sent a Motion/letter to them for approval but it has been redirected straight to the Committee.

### Pre-Board Meetings ('BoG Caucus')

BoG Caucus met last week to go over some of the documents that were given to us in prep for the Joint Board-Senate meeting on Sustainability. I gave out an early draft of the report Leslie-Anne has been putting together as well for feedback. After we get more comments back we'll be trying to edit to report to match.

### 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.

SQ – Executive shadowing for students has been pushed back to second semester sadly due to some of the unexpected events of first semester but Etienne and I have made a form and are ready to go with the program whenever.

## CAMPUS RELATIONS

### Deputy Provost, Student Life & Learning

#### Centraide

SQ - 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.

#### MOA

Jonathan is taking a while to get back to us on this but we've had conversation in both MOA meetings and others that have suggested we'll be removing the McGill name regulations, removing some of the



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restrictions on advertising on campus, and adding in some info that the Office of the DPSLL will be providing us on future years to make our lives easier (e.g. global class lists).

Post-Election Support

In a meeting with the DPSLL (Ollivier Dyens) and the Provost (Christopher Manfredi) we asked the administration to sign on to a bi-partisan letter that addressed internal ramifications of the US election (e.g. assuring students, particularly marginalized students, on campus that resources exist and we are committed to both continue supplying and improving them). This was unfortunately met with strong resistance, with the administration's response mainly highlighting their long-held belief that McGill is not affected by external events and that no letter insuring international & marginalized communities (faculty, student & staff) that McGill is committed to supporting them would be signed onto by them.

**McGill Alumni Association (MAA)**

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**McGill Association for Continuing Education Students (MACES)**

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**Macdonald Campus Students' Society (MCSS)**

SQ

**McGill Office of Sustainability (MOOS)**

MOOS has been hosting a number of Vision 2020 Action Team meeting (McGill's sustainability commitment) and I'm sitting on the Governance & Administration Action Team. Things that my Action Team have been talking about include: the addition of a McGill Positions Book to building accountability, usability and transparency in relation to any actions taken by McGill's Vice-Principal (Communications & External), the creation of a Taskforce of Climate Change Prevention/Carbon Neutral Campus action, Divestment from Fossil Fuels, and Equitable Governance Reform.

**Post-Graduate Students' Society (PGSS)**

SQ

**Student Housing & Hospitality Services (SHHS)**

SQ – More in Sacha's report and some things touched on in the MOA section above.

**Social Equity & Diversity Education Office (SEDE)**

I sit on a SEDE Fundraising working group that has met once and is looking at strategies to assure that all their programs are well funded. There have been early conversations about ancillary fees, which I personally am on the fence about considering how many administrative services students already subsidize but if there was a commitment by the office of the Provost to dollar match a fee there might be



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room for a larger conversation. This however has not yet (and may never) been brought to him or his Office.

## Campus Life & Engagement (CL&E)

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## Residences / Inter-Residence Council (IRC)

SQ

## MEDIA

### Campus & City Papers

Following the conversation outlined above in the Post-Election Support section of this report I was in contact with the Montreal Gazette, who soon after produced the following article:

<http://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/mcgill-students-stressed-about-trump>

### 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 see the events and governance calendar for September you can click [here](#)!

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

### Advisory Council on Sustainability

The Advisory Council on Sustainability met a few weeks ago. It is still unclear as to how this body is intended to function under the Vice-Principal (Administration & Finance), Morty Yalovsky, and considering it is purely advisory (aka it has no decision making power), but it certainly has a wealth of very cool perspectives around the table. The Council however is predominantly made up of external experts on Environmental Sustainability and definitely lack some important internal perspectives (the McGill School of the Environment, Divest McGill, Macdonald Campus Students' Society & Macdonald Campus Graduate Students' Society all do not have seats on the Committee).



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## COLLABORATION

### PERMANENT & STUDENT STAFF

We are currently doing probation evaluations of all of our student staff.

Ryan and I have been meeting to talk about more internal restructuring that we can do in both the short and long terms to build a more effective Society on an administrative level.

### EXECUTIVES

The executive spent a day working at a Café on Tuesday, have been trying to organize (and re-organize) a Bota Bota trip, and Elaine is currently killin' on snapchat for McGill Women in Leadership!

Indigenous Affairs:

Make sure to check out the event David and I helped organize for the Provosts' Taskforce on Indigenous Education here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/617963325073667/>

Post-Election Action:

Come out for the event (Post-Election Solidarity Rally) Erin, myself and two students have been working on here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1376641235703246/>

Referenda:

Definitely hit attending on the Vote Yes facebook event here:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1782663628668352/>

+ actually vote here: <https://ssmu.simplyvoting.com/>

We have two polling booths set up this election cycle as well in both McLennan & Schulich!

*Joyfully Submitted,*

Ben Ger  
President