



REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT TO COUNCIL

JANUARY 12TH 2017

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT (AOI'S)

Accountability & Transparency:

1. Timeliness of Reports

Council:

1. Prioritize more trainings when needed and outreach for feedback / requests for information

INTERNAL GOVERNANCE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD)

General

The Board is currently in the process of scheduling its new meeting times for this semester. At the last meeting of this semester the Board met to talk about the Reference Question on the legality of the BDS Motion brought to the GA last semester. Those conversations are public and the minutes will be made so for reference by anyone around this table or the media.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Committees

Ad-Hoc Equitable Governance Reform Committee: The Committee is meeting now to talk about timelines for this semester. With the Winter Referenda coming up soon, we're hoping to have at least 2 items on the ballot, including composition and accessibility of Council positions.

~~Equity Training;~~

- Council Composition;
- Board Composition;
- Accessibility of Council Positions;



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- Non-Academic Discipline; and
- Clubs and Services.

Health and Dental Review Committee: At the end of last semester / the beginning of this semester there was an evaluation done, taking into account the desire for the VP (Finance) to be more accessible (by email, etc.) and it was decided that some items should be moved around in order to free up some capacity to allow for that. As such, I will be taking Niall's place on this Committee and sending out a Doodle to set up the first meeting asap.

Indigenous Affairs Committee: Similarly, it was decided that the Portfolio, as well as the VP (External Affairs), would have more capacity if the portfolio were to primarily be managed by myself and the VP (UA). As such, reporting on Indigenous Affairs and the Committee will happen primarily through the Presidents Report to the Legislative Council.

GA

Academic Amnesty

By the end of last semester, after working with the Associate Provost and the Dean of Students, the proposal for an Academic Amnesty program would be send up to the Provost for input. I'm not clear if the Provost has had a chance to take a look at the proposal, but hopefully we'll follow up on that soon at our regular monthly meeting.

Winter GA

The Communications and Publications Manager (Wendy) and I have been meeting to create a marketing and promotion plan for the GA, as well as plan for the Facebook event page to go up soon. As there was completely fair concern about the first GA not meeting quorum, we are hoping to expand on our marketing for this semester.

PRESIDENTS' ROUNDTABLE

Currently working on scheduling our regular monthly meeting times for this semester.

POLICY PROJECTS

Ethical Expenditures Policy

Over the break there was a desire by one of our student staff to give input on the Policy so it was delayed a bit longer. We're just finalizing now and my apologies about the continued delays.

Menstrual Hygiene Products Policy



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~~SQ - Done, pending approval by Council.~~

Conflict of Interest Policy

SQ - 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 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

SQ - 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. The Committee seems to be on a timeline for early next semester.

REPRESENTATION & ADVOCACY

SENATE

Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity Subcommittee on Persons with Disabilities

The working group recently met with MOOS in order to talk about a Sustainability Checklist that they are developing. We're hoping to collaborate with them to ensure our checklists come out at similar times and have minimal overlapping content (to ensure that both are necessary).

Senate Committee on Physical Development (CPD)

SQ - CPD met last Thursday and was somewhat uneventful. Questions were asked about new construction project priorities and a lot of emphasis was put on the Powell site. It currently doesn't seem like we'll be able to get a spot in the building. We also reviewed some of the RVH plans and conceptual models.

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

ESAAC met to discuss to proposal for our edits to universities policy on gaining tenure. The proposal was met with a fair bit of discussion but it was eventually decided that there was a way forward on the



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initiative. Erin, Chris (the dean of students) and I will be following up on that to work on drafting some legislation to include in the Terms of Reference for the Tenure Review Committee.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS (BOG)

Board Reform

[The report was released](#) before the break (view it here) with an accompanying [press release](#).

After the Motion was tabled to have the Board produce a report on how Community Engagement could be included in the Boards decision making processes, I'll be working with McGill's Secretary General (Edyta Rogowska) to redevelop a proposal. In the meantime there is a fair bit of activity happening around coordinating an effort to improve governance at the University.

Pre-Board Meetings ('BoG Caucus')

Currently working on scheduling these meetings for this semester.

Executive Shadowing

Currently working with our Communications and Publications Manager (Wendy) to have the form put up on the website! It will also be linked to on the facebook page for the Executive Information Session.

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

SQ - 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 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). There was a meeting that happened this morning that was mainly talking about catering and advertising, but Sacha can talk more to that in his report.



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I've been working a bit with Kahli since one of the Services keeps being denied space on campus "due to the MOA" but the MOA says they just need approval from the DPSLL, not that they can't hold space external to the SSMU building. The extend of my involvement has really just been setting up meetings and communicating info – will soon be passing off to Elaine & Kahli when it comes time to actually meet.

McGill Alumni Association (MAA)

A meeting happened before the break to start planning this year's McGill 24.

McGill Association for Continuing Education Students (MACES)

SQ

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.

This coming week MOOS will also be hosting its first review session for the Catalyst Awards. The Presidents of all the major student unions will be also be sitting on the Committee to give their input.

Post-Graduate Students' Society (PGSS)

SQ

Student Housing & Hospitality Services (SHHS)

SQ

Social Equity & Diversity Education Office (SEDE)

SQ - 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 subsidies but if there was a commitment by the office of the Provost to dollar match a fee there might be 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)

SQ



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Residences / Inter-Residence Council (IRC)

SQ

MEDIA

Campus & City Papers

Trib Exec Reviews came out before the break, feel free to check them out [here!](#)

McGill Daily Exec Reviews came out a few days ago, feel free to check them out [here!](#)

I encourage you to review these and think carefully about how you can better hold our Executive better accountable to the constructive comments that they wrote.

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

SQ - 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).

COLLABORATION

PERMANENT & STUDENT STAFF

Ryan, Erin 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.



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EXECUTIVES

Indigenous Affairs:

For Indigenous Affairs, we've been working on planning the Allyship Conference, working on the Indigenous Solidarity Policy, working to develop a list of resources that exist on campus, and will soon be in talks with ISA about them potentially gaining club status.

Joyfully Submitted,

Ben Ger
President