



REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT (UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS)

NOVEMBER 17, 2016



UNIVERSITY & ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

SENATE & UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Senate

- Joint Board-Senate Meeting convened last Thursday, November 10th to discuss “McGill’s Sustainability Initiatives” (teaching, research, operations)
- Next Senate meeting this coming Wednesday, November 23rd:
 - Submitted questions regarding campus accessibility during construction & university regulation of unpaid internships
 - Discussing future of PhD studies & *Policy Against Sexual Violence* (for approval)
- Provost Christopher Manfredi attending Senate Caucus on Monday, November 28th

University Committees

- Participated in review committee for McGill Enrolment Services, November 9th-11th
- Vision 2020 Education Action Team met on Monday, November 14th to discuss priority areas



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- Academic Policy Committee (APC) meeting this Thursday, November 17th
- Enrolment & Student Affairs Advisory Committee (ESAAC) meeting on December 6th to discuss Faculty mental health training, Student Services changes, accommodation policies & more

Student Life & Learning

- Met with Dean of Students on November 8th regarding medical note & accommodation policies
- Met with Deputy Provost (Student Life & Learning) & Provost on November 10th regarding US election results, Library inter-faith prayer space, Royal Vic site & course equivalency policies
- Undergraduate Skills Program Committee meeting regarding curriculum competencies this Thursday, November 16th

Student Services

- International Health Insurance Advisory Committee met on Monday, November 7th; discussed plan coverage, communications, discrepancies & exceptions
- Met with Interim Senior Director & Directors of Counselling & Mental Health Services on Tuesday, November 8th regarding changes to medical note policies
- Committee on Student Services (CSS meeting last Wednesday, November 9th; discussed budget, cyclical review recommendation working groups & wellness service integration

Libraries

- Library Improvement Fund Committee met on Wednesday, November 9th to review consultation period results; meeting next Wednesday, November 23rd to decide Fall allocations
- Still working to have LIF Commissioner & ancillary financed from Library Improvement Fund

ASSOCIATION RELATIONS

Faculty & Department Associations

- McGill Academic Roundtable (MART) met on Wednesday, November 16th; discussed Faculty association updates & Know Your Rights campaign collaborations

Unions & Professional Associations

- Next McGill Communities Council met on Tuesday, November 1st; endorsed AMUSE strike & discussed draft *Policy Against Sexual Violence*, Board of Governors reform & more
- Meeting with President of AMUSE this Thursday, November 17th to discuss bargaining updates, cyclical review process, *Policy Against Sexual Violence* & more

<p style="text-align: center;">University & Academic Affairs Goals – Fall 2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fill all seats on university committees• Goal setting meetings with every senator• Host 2nd annual Student Academic Summit• Submit union feedback for Human Resources review• Submit student feedback for Enrolment Services review• Memorandum of Agreement signed• Make first round of Library Improvement Fund allocations• Submit question at every Senate meeting
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ADVOCACY & RESEARCH

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

McGill Policy against Sexual Violence

- Attended roundtable meetings with Parker P Consulting & Partners Meeting for [major SSHRC research project](#) addressing sexual violence on university campuses (November 3rd & 4th)
- Met with Associate Provost to discuss final policy revisions on Monday, November 14th
- Policy will be presented to Senate for approval on Wednesday, November 23rd; now looking towards implementation plans & proposal for comprehensive review of existing policies

McGill Ad-Hoc Committee to Review the Charter of Student Rights

- SQ – Priorities include stronger language on accommodations, disability & intersectionality; ensuring consistency with other policies; improving students' awareness of their rights
- Next meeting on Tuesday, November 29th to continue discussing revisions

Unpaid Internships Policy

- Awaiting response from Provost to Senate question regarding McGill regulation of unpaid internship postings (next Wednesday, November 23rd)
- Delayed in drafting process due to loss of student researcher; currently recruiting councillors to assist with policy-writing (aiming to have approved by end of January)

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Alternative Campus Histories

- SQ – Integrating timeline content & visuals into new University Affairs website

First Generation Students Support

- SQ – Academic Research Commissioner is reviewing draft report for release this month

Students from Care Support

- Met with interested student regarding programming, support, & funding possibilities around McGill students coming from foster and state care backgrounds
- Presentation at Legislative Council this week, to be followed by outreach & advocacy efforts

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Charter Case

- Drafting case for submission by end of month; also incorporated relevant comments into feedback for cyclical review of Enrolment Services (November 9th-11th)

Know Your Rights

- University Affairs Committee (UAC) still enhancing [Student Rights website](#) with added details on academic accommodations, Faculty-specific policies, administrator contacts, etc.
- Developing promotional materials, volunteer recruitment, & Faculty association collaborations for January outreach campaign (including possible panel event on academic rights)
- Collaborating with Faculty associations on assessment policy inventory (summarizing existing procedures, identifying gaps, sharing policy examples, & training on advocacy strategies)



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Advocacy & Research Goals – Fall 2016

- Re-launch Student Rights website
- Host Add-Drop “Know Your Rights” campaign
- Release First Generation Students Research Report
- Launch Alternative Histories Timeline
- Submit charter case on academic accommodations
- Sexual Violence Policy approved at Senate
- Unpaid Internships Policy approved at Legislative Council
- Fall Reading Break approved at Senate

EQUITY

SSMU EQUITY

Equity Policy Revisions

- Review meetings with Equity Commissioners cancelled due to personal reasons; currently rescheduling for later this month in order to submit revised policy for January at the latest

Equity Committee

- Organized Post-Election Solidarity self-care event on Thursday, November 10th; received some feedback about inaccessibility for trans & POC students
- Hosting closed [Race in the Academy](#) discussion on Thursday, November 24th
- Collaborating with PGSS on workshop for “Talking to Your Racist Uncle Over the Holidays”™

Equity Roundtable

- Planning on January meeting of campus equity groups (opportunity to discuss potential support needs & shared advocacy priorities)

Accessibility & Universal Design (UD) Advocacy

- Rescheduling Equity Commissioner meeting regarding follow-ups from student rep meeting as well as Accessibility Policy implementation priorities

Racialized Student Support Resources

- Mini-Wellness Recovery Action Planning (WRAP) groups for POC students will launch for Winter!
- May still organize meeting to discuss formal racialized student mentorship program

INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Indigenous Solidarity Policy

- Helped draft [public statement](#) regarding Titleholders motion at Fall General Assembly
- Indigenous Education Task Force hosting [Open Forum](#) on Tuesday, November 22nd (3:00-5:00pm)
- Providing support on university advocacy priorities; policy implementation & revisions; distributing resources to student groups; University Centre art project; Solidarity Week planning



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- Equity Goals – Fall 2016**
- Equity Policy revisions approved at Legislative Council
 - Identify “Equity Advocacy Network” groups
 - Host roundtable meeting of campus equity groups
 - Host Consent Week panel on power dynamics
 - Implement UD standards in capital funding committees
 - Establish POC only WRAP group(s)
 - Develop improved McGill territory acknowledgment

SSMU-WIDE

GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Governance Documents

- May replace Conflict of Interest Policy with resources guide & accessible graphics
- Will be advising Democratic Governance Review Committee as-needed
- Beginning initial consultations on SSMU Equitable Hiring Policy framework

Provincial Representation

- SQ – Acting as SSMU contact & resource for [Québec Contres les Violences Sexuelles](#) campaign
- Next AVEQ Members’ Assembly currently being scheduled for mid-January

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

University Affairs Website & Social Media

- SQ – Cross-posting regular blog updates, articles, surveys & reports
- Working with University Affairs Secretary General (and possibly University Affairs Committee) on website improvements (e.g. advocacy resources page)

Student Experience Survey

- SQ – Pushing back to at least January; identified some additional consultation areas

- SSMU-Wide Goals – Fall 2016**
- Conflict of Interest Policy revisions approved
 - Accountability Policy & Committee revisions approved
 - Launch new University Affairs Listserv
 - 500 like count on SSMU University Affairs Facebook page
 - 500 like count on SSMU Equity Facebook page
 - Launch new University Affairs website
 - Conduct new Student Experience Survey

Cheers,

Erin Sobat
Vice-President (University Affairs)