



## REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT (UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS)

**MARCH 23, 2017**



SSMU is hiring for 2017-2018! Work in the University Affairs portfolio or another area at SSMU. Available positions include University Affairs Secretary General, Equity Commissioner, and much more. Previous experience in student politics is not required. Check out [www.ssmu.ca/jobs](http://www.ssmu.ca/jobs) and apply by March 31, 2017.

### UNIVERSITY & ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

#### SENATE & UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

##### Senate

- Next Senate meeting this Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>:
  - Discussing budget plan & proposed revisions to *Policy on Intellectual Property*
  - Receiving student aid & Strategic Enrolment Management reports
- Senate Caucus Representatives are proposing revisions to the Internal Regulations of Representation & Advocacy to automatically delegate senator elections to Faculty associations
- Will be submitting April Senate questions on diversity in enrolment & islamophobia on campus

##### University Committees

- Enrolment & Student Affairs Advisory Committee (ESAAC) meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup> cancelled; next meeting on Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>; hope to discuss continuation of final exam deferral pilot project
- Academic Policy Committee (APC) meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup> cancelled; next meeting on March 29<sup>th</sup>
- Vision 2020 Education Action Team meeting this Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>



## Student Life & Learning

- Student Assessment Policy subcommittee tentatively scheduled for this Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>
- Fall Reading Break Working Group meeting this Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>
- Next Undergraduate Skills Program Steering Committee meeting on Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>
- Currently awaiting clean draft of Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for final review & approval

## Student Services

- Committee on Student Services meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup> cancelled; next meeting on Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup> to follow-up on budget, Innovation Fund applications & committee role
- Attended feedback session for cyclical review of McGill Writing Centre on Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>
- Currently planning open letter regarding concerns with Counselling and Mental Health Services

## Libraries

- Library Improvement Fund Committee met on Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup> to begin reviewing proposals
- Final allocations will be reported to Legislative Council meeting on Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>

## ASSOCIATION RELATIONS

### Faculty & Department Associations

- Final McGill Academic Roundtable (MART) meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>

### Unions & Professional Associations

- Could not attend Inter-Union Council meeting on Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup> due to election results
- Next McGill Communities Council (MCC) meeting on Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> to finalize agenda topics for May meeting with Chair of Board of Governors

### Provincial Representation

- Next AVEQ Congress April 21-23 at Concordia to elect 2017-2018 executive; electoral timelines can be found at [www.aveq-nous.ca/en/elections-2017/](http://www.aveq-nous.ca/en/elections-2017/)!
- Sitting on the Research Committee; Political Campaigns Coordinators are now sitting on the Community Action Fund & Mobilization Committees

#### University & Academic Affairs Goals – Winter 2017

- ~~Host student senator information session~~
- Pass policy on academic amnesty for General Assemblies
- Pass policy against ancillary & overhead fee increases
- Memorandum of Agreement signed
- Create Board of Governors reform committee
- Make final Library Improvement Fund allocations
- Submit question or motion at every Senate meeting



## ADVOCACY & RESEARCH

### POLICY DEVELOPMENT

#### McGill Policy against Sexual Violence

- Administration has [announced the chairs](#) of the implementation & campus review committees; currently working with SACOMSS to ensure effective student representation on each group

#### McGill Ad-Hoc Committee to Review the Charter of Students' Rights

- Next meeting to review community feedback TBD; Charter will come to Senate for information in April & approval in May

#### McGill Policy on Intellectual Property

- Met with Associate Vice-Principal (Innovation & Partnerships) on Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup> regarding guiding principles for commercialization (including humanitarian licensing principles)
- Policy draft coming to Senate for information this month; principles will follow later

#### SSMU Policy against Unpaid Internships

- Motion to adopt *Policy against Unpaid Internships* approved at March 9<sup>th</sup> Legislative Council
- Will be following up on relevant mandates with the administration & AVEQ

### RESEARCH PROJECTS

#### Alternative Campus Histories

- SQ – Academic Research Commissioner is overseeing integration into UA website

#### Targeted Support Resources

- Planning [Café Collab consultation session](#) with SEDE for students with limited familial support
- Registration working group meeting on Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> to review admissions diversity data, suggest improvements & discuss implementation of retention-tracking software
- Working to allocate several dedicated bursaries for first generation/foster care students & to organize Student Life & Learning policy hack-a-thon for Fall 2017

#### Harmful Military Technology

- Researcher has completed review of initial ATI documents & is now investigating further cases

### SPECIAL PROJECTS

#### Academic Accommodations

- Finalizing submission to the Advisory Council on the Charter of Students' Rights
- Meeting with Dean of Students & Associate Deans on Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup> regarding centralization of academic accommodations in additional Faculties

#### Know Your Rights

- SQ – University Affairs Committee making further web edits & improvements throughout term
- Working with graphic designer to create flowchart poster on academic accommodations



### Advocacy & Research Goals – Winter 2017

- ~~Host Add-Drop “Know Your Rights” campaign~~
- Submit charter case on academic accommodations
- ~~Release first generation students research report~~
- ~~Release foster care students research report~~
- Release alternative histories timeline on UA website
- Launch sexual violence policy committee & campus study
- ~~Unpaid Internships Policy approved at Legislative Council~~
- Humanitarian Licensing Framework approved at Senate
- Charter of Student Rights revisions approved at Senate
- Fall Reading Break approved at Senate (for 2019-2020)
- Form committee on academic accommodation policies
- Launch online advocacy resources on UA website

## EQUITY

### SSMU EQUITY

#### Equity Policy

- *Motion Regarding Revisions to Equity Policy* postponed to this week’s Legislative Council meeting

#### Equity Committee

- [Social Justice Comedy Night with Hari Kondabalu](#) happening this Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup>!
- Rescheduling campus conversation on [Unpacking Love: Racialized Dating Preferences](#) & planning final conversation on diasporic family experiences

#### Accessibility & Universal Design (UD) Advocacy

- SQ – Collecting accessibility resources for UA website (related groups, funding sources, etc.)
- Awaiting postponed launch of online Universal Design for Learning (UDL) toolkit

#### Racialized Student Support Resources

- SQ – New Community Projects Manager (Racialized & Ethnic Students) has been hired; will be fleshing out SSMU collaboration (e.g. student mentorship network) over remainder of term

## INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

### Indigeneity & Solidarity Week

- Provide social media, promotional & logistical support for successful event series featuring Kahren’to:kon Hemlock, Cindy Blackstock, Kyle Mays & more

### Indigenous Solidarity Policy

- *Motion Regarding Revisions to Indigenous Solidarity Policy* approved at March 9<sup>th</sup> Council meeting
- Awaiting updates on preliminary report of the Indigenous Education Taskforce & 2017-18 budget allocations at March 22<sup>nd</sup> Senate meeting
- Will be meeting with IA Commissioner & incoming VP External regarding transition & remaining term priorities (e.g. Indigenous Affairs guide for student groups, course content advocacy)



- Equity Goals – Winter 2017**
- Equity Policy revisions approved at Legislative Council
  - Implement UD standards in capital funding committees
  - Launch Accessibility webpage on UA website
  - Indigenous Solidarity Policy revisions approved
  - Create Indigenous course content advocacy plan
  - Develop Indigenous Affairs guide for student groups
  - Develop framework for McGill diversity enrolment plan

## SSMU-WIDE

### GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION

#### SSMU Governance & Documents

- Stepped down from seat as a Director at meeting on Monday, March 13th
- Will continue to take direction from Board on developing improved prevention, reporting & response measures for sexual violence & other issues

#### Staff Hiring

- Finalizing improved employment equity statement & manager training; will be developing formalized policy & reviewing all job descriptions into summer months
- Currently hiring for [University Affairs Secretary General](#) & [Equity Commissioner](#) positions!
- Also supporting [Indigenous Affairs Commissioner](#) & [Community Affairs Commissioner](#) hiring

#### Executive Transition

- SQ – Working on University Affairs exit report, transition schedule & revised mandate letter
- Also assisting with development of External Affairs transition & training materials

### STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

#### University Affairs & External Affairs Communications

- Sent out University Affairs listserv on March 10<sup>th</sup>; last edition will be in early April
- Still finalizing new UA website content (i.e. additional advocacy, research & equity resources)

- SSMU-Wide Goals – Winter 2017**
- Approve Internal Regulations for Board of Directors
  - Formalize SSMU equitable hiring procedures
  - Launch University Affairs staff hiring
  - Send monthly University Affairs listservs
  - Prepare transition documents & training schedule
  - Develop long term student staffing plan

Cheers,

Erin Sobat  
 Vice-President (University Affairs)