

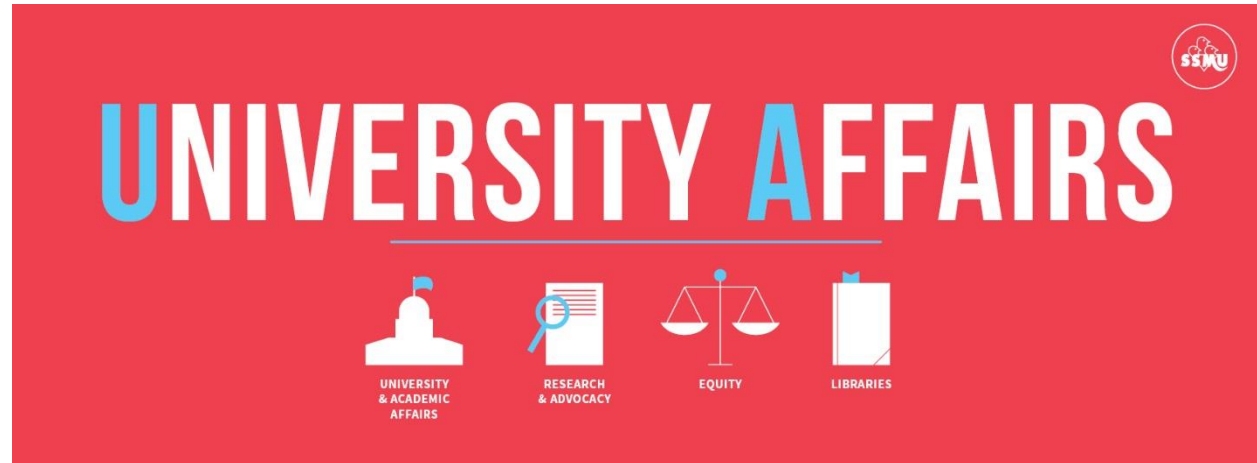


Office of Vice-President (University Affairs)

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Located on unceded, Kanien'kehá:ka traditional territory

REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT (UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS)

SEPTEMBER 15, 2016



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to a new school year! My name is Erin Sobat and I'm incredibly excited to be serving as your SSMU VP University Affairs for 2016-2017. The UA team is responsible for university representation and academic affairs; research, advocacy, and policy development; equity programming and complaints; and the Library Improvement Fund. You can always get in touch via email (ua@ssmu.mcgill.ca) or drop by my office hours on Thursdays between 10:00AM-12:00PM. Read on to find out what we've been up to!

UNIVERSITY & ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

SENATE

Senator Orientation

- Conducted retreat trainings on university governance & administration, Senate structure, Senator role & responsibilities, advocacy skills, University Affairs portfolio, etc.
- Currently organizing make-up trainings, compiling project-specific resources, scheduling individual goal-setting meetings, etc.

Senate & University Committees

- Received over 30 applications for remaining committee seats! Making selections this week & holding first committee rep training this Thursday, September 15th
- First Senate meeting next Wednesday, September 21st at 2:30PM (Leacock 232)

UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Office of the Deputy Provost Student Life & Learning (DPSLL)

- Meeting this week to discuss issues for year including building, mental health training, experiential learning & equity education
- Meeting next week to discuss status of Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) negotiations



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Office of the Dean of Students (ODoS)

- New Dean has started mapping current disclosure & reporting processes for sexual violence
- Working together to form new Medical Notes Working Group under the Enrolment and Student Affairs Advisory Committee (ESAAC)

Office Social Equity & Diversity Education (SEDE) Office

- Collaborating on new French lexicon of social justice terminology
- Supporting SPF application for Community Projects Manager (Racialized & Ethnic Students)
- Advocating for senior administrative support of community engagement programming

STUDENT SERVICES

Service Harmonization & Wellness Strategy

- Initial communications on Mental Health/Counselling integration released in [Whatsnewstudents](#)
- Formally requested student seats on Wellness Steering Committee & project groups
- Working with VP Student Life to organize focus groups for students with lived experience

Academic Matters Working Group

- Conducting environmental scan of McGill academic support resources
- September meeting cancelled; next meeting on Wednesday, October 5th
- Also sitting on Undergraduate Skills Program Steering Committee (Teaching & Learning Services)

Student Services Funding

- Wrote [feature article](#) on Student Services funding issues & inflated overhead charges
- Possible next steps: open letter to administration, new cost-sharing negotiations, strengthening Internal Regulations around FIOs & referenda, provincial level advocacy

LIBRARIES

Library Improvement Fund

- Extended [LIF Committee application](#) until this Friday, September 16th @ 5:00PM
- Meeting with Communications Librarian & new Open Access Researcher this Thursday
- Will be meeting with Library administration regarding operating budget & projects for year

FACULTY RELATIONS

McGill Academic Roundtable (MART)

- First monthly meeting of VP Academics this Tuesday, September 13th
- Discussing goals & priorities for year, event collaborations, Know Your Rights campaign, assessment policies, Student Academic Summit, etc.

University & Academic Affairs Goals – Fall 2016

- Fill all seats on university committees
- Train all reps on university committees
- Implement senator alternate pool for committees
- Goal-setting meetings with every senator
- Host 2nd annual Student Academic Summit
- Memorandum of Agreement signed



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ADVOCACY & RESEARCH

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Sexual Violence Policy

- McGill draft [Policy Against Sexual Violence](#) released on Monday for community-wide feedback
- Joint SSMU-PGSS statement released on Tuesday regarding policy outlook & consultation
- Working with PGSS, SACOMSS & others to organize focus groups for late September

Ad-Hoc Committee for the Review of the Charter of Student Rights

- Next meeting Wednesday, September 21st; current priorities include strengthening language on accommodations, disability & intersectionality; ensuring consistency with other policies; & improving students' awareness of their rights
- Academic Research Commissioner currently compiling Charter examples from peer institutions

Unpaid Internships Policy

- Phase 1 (background research) completed in August; researcher began drafting policy framework
- Currently completing phase 2 (environmental scan of McGill practices & issues), including information meeting with relevant internship & career offices
- Hope to present at September 29th Council & circulate proposals for October consultation

McGill Smoking Policy Working Group

- McGill is moving forward with transition to a smoke-free campus, based on consultation results & required steps outlined in [SSMU Smoking Policy](#)
- Community consultation planned for late September & early October (e.g. Town Hall)

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Alternative Campus Histories

- Alternative histories timeline will be integrated into new University Affairs website
- Hoping to have all content, citations & images incorporated by end of September

First Generation Student Support

- Awaiting final report from summer researcher; hoping to release before end of September

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Charter Case

- Compiling Charter of Student Rights case on academic accommodations for October submission
- Currently reviewing student testimony from [Facebook event](#) & [feedback form](#)
- Will be following up with respondents & conducting some further Faculty outreach this month

Know Your Rights

- Re-launched www.ssmu.ca/studentrights!
- Organized Add-Drop awareness campaign including social media promo, new posters & tabling
- Speaking on CKUT's *All Things McGill* show from the SSMU lobby on September 19th @ 11:00AM



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- Advocacy & Research Goals – Fall 2016**
- Re-launch Student Rights website
 - Host Add Drop “Know Your Rights” campaign
 - Publish Alternative Histories Timeline
 - Submit Charter case on academic accommodations
 - Sexual Violence Policy approved at Senate
 - Fall Reading Break approved at Senate
 - Unpaid Internships Policy approved at Legislative Council

EQUITY

SSMU EQUITY

Equity Policy Revisions

- Currently drafting revisions for September 29th & October 13th Legislative Councils
- Addressing inconsistencies, accessibility, conflicts of interest, assessor structure, etc.

Equity Committee

- Received 18 applications for members-at-large! May conduct further outreach to specific groups
- Planned meeting before end of month to discuss goals, committee & advocacy structure, etc.
- Planning to organize roundtable meeting of campus equity groups for October or November

Consent Week Panel

- *Sexual Violence & Power Dynamics in the University Setting*: Thursday, September 29th @ 6:00pm
- Met to discuss vision & determine content; currently finalizing last panelist & discussion questions

Fall Projects

- Accessibility Policy implementation & Universal Design advocacy
- Cultural appropriation campaign & possible workshop around Halloween
- Improved POC student support resources, such as closed WRAP groups & mentorship program
- Implementing baseline equity training through Minerva Academic Integrity Tutorial

INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Indigenous Solidarity Policy

- Task Force on Indigenous Education launching on September 22nd at relocated Hochelaga Rock
- Meeting with VP External & Indigenous Affairs Commissioner regarding collaborations
- Assisting with response to notice of seizure motion for Fall General Assembly

- Equity Goals – Fall 2016**
- Establish more representative Equity Committee structure
 - Host Consent Week panel on power dynamics
 - Host roundtable meeting of campus equity groups
 - Equity Policy revisions approved at Legislative Council
 - Add UD standards to McGill capital funding criteria
 - Consult on POC mentorship network and/or WRAP groups



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SSMU-WIDE

GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Governance Reform

- Reviewed draft of *SSMU Equitable Governance Report* for release this week
- Bringing forward Ad-Hoc Governance Reform Committee with President to this week's Council

Governance Documents

- Bringing updated Committee Terms of Reference & Motion Regarding the Future of the Accountable Leadership Policy to this week's Council meeting
- Working with President, Directors & legal counsel to finalize new Conflict of Interest Policy

Provincial Representation

- Circulated [feature article](#) on Student Services funding to AVEQ Executive
- Next Members' Assembly scheduled for October 8th– 9th in Montréal (hosted by CSU)
- Mobilization Camp scheduled for October 21st–23rd in Trois-Rivières (aveqcamp.ca)

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

University Affairs Website

- Finalized website framework, formatting & user guide with developer
- Currently updating page content for late September launch!

University Affairs Social Media

- Like the [SSMU University Affairs](#) & [SSMU Equity](#) pages for important updates!
- Regularly scheduling posts on committee opportunities, student rights, events & more
- First-ever University Affairs listserv launched August 23rd; second edition will be this week or next

Student Experience Survey

- 2015 Student Experience Survey Report completed in Winter 2016
- Possibility of hiring contract coordinator to develop follow-up survey

<p style="text-align: center;">SSMU-Wide Goals – Fall 2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conflict of Interest Policy revisions approved• Accountability Policy & Committee revisions approved• Launch University Affairs Listserv• 500 like count on SSMU UA Facebook page• 500 like count on SSMU Equity Facebook page• Launch new University Affairs website• Conduct new Student Experience Survey
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Respectfully submitted,

Erin Sobat
Vice-President (University Affairs)