



REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT (UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS)

APRIL 6, 2017



Have you ever wanted to see how McGill works behind the scenes? Are you passionate about campus issues like student services, academic programs, or equity? Do you have a great idea to improve student life? [Apply](#) to sit as a student representative on a university committee by April 17th at 5PM!

UNIVERSITY & ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

SENATE & UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Senate

- Senate met on Wednesday, March 22nd:
 - Discussed budget plan, student aid, Strategic Enrolment Management, graduate studies issues & proposed revisions to *Policy on Intellectual Property*
 - Provost has allocated \$500K towards 2017-18 Indigenous initiatives (\$2.3 mil over 5 years)
 - Vice-Principal (Research & Innovation) committed to including humanitarian licensing principles in upcoming commercialization guidelines (Fall 2017 timeline)
- Next Senate meeting on Thursday, April 20th:
 - Discussing proposed budget, revised *Charter of Students' Rights*, implementation of *Policy against Sexual Violence*, campus construction projects, Student Life & Learning report
 - Voting on revised *Policy on Intellectual Property* & Strategic Academic Plan 2017-2022
 - Submitting questions on university responses to Islamophobia & student diversity
- Legislative Council approved revisions to Internal Regulations of Representation & Advocacy that will now automatically delegate senator elections to Faculty associations

University Committees

- Vision 2020 Education Action Team met on Thursday, March 23rd to discuss final objectives
- Academic Policy Committee (APC) met on March 29th; next meeting on Thursday, April 13th
- Enrolment & Student Affairs Advisory Committee (ESAAC) meeting next Tuesday, April 11th; hope to discuss transfer credit policy & guidelines for accommodating students with dependents



Student Life & Learning

- Fall Reading Break Working Group met on Friday, March 24th to discuss possible models
- Undergraduate Skills Program Steering Committee met on Tuesday, March 28th
- Currently awaiting clean draft of Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for final review & approval
- Athletics & Recreation fee increase referendum failed with 64.3% “No” vote!

Student Services

- McGill Mental Health Working Group has released an [open letter](#) regarding ongoing concerns with Counselling & Mental Health Services
- Health & Wellness Strategy Advisory Committee met on Thursday, March 30th to discuss goals
- Next Committee on Student Services (CSS) meeting on Monday, April 10th to follow-up on budget, Innovation Fund applications & committee role

Libraries

- Library Improvement Fund Committee met on Saturday, April 1st to make final allocations (report submitted to this Legislative Council meeting)

ASSOCIATION RELATIONS

Faculty & Department Associations

- McGill Academic Roundtable (MART) met for final time on Tuesday, March 28th

Unions & Professional Associations

- McGill Communities Council (MCC) met on Tuesday, April 4th to discuss Board of Governors reform proposals for May meeting
- MCC meeting with Chair of Board & Secretary General on May 3rd to discuss reform proposals

Provincial Representation

- Next AVEQ Congress April 21-23 at Concordia to elect 2017-2018 executive; nominations are open until Friday, April 7th at www.aveq-nous.ca/en/elections-2017/!
- AVEQ currently hiring [researcher](#) to collect information on international tuition deregulation; also participated in *Journée de Réflexion* consultations for provincial sexual violence legislation
- Bringing motion to this Council meeting to support Quebec human rights case against citizenship-based discrimination

University & Academic Affairs Goals – Winter 2017

- ~~Host student senator information session~~
- Pass policy on academic amnesty for GAs – Tabled
- ~~Pass policy against ancillary & overhead fee increases~~
- Memorandum of Agreement signed – End of term
- Create Board of Governors reform committee – May Board meeting
- ~~Make final Library Improvement Fund allocations~~
- Submit question or motion at every Senate meeting – May Senate
- ~~Launch 2017-2018 McGill committee recruitment~~



ADVOCACY & RESEARCH

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

McGill Policy against Sexual Violence

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

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

- Revised Charter will come to Senate for information in April & approval in May; committee will meet to review feedback following April meeting
- Looking into best ways to address issues with “McGill context” jurisdiction

McGill Policy on Intellectual Property

- Final policy coming to April Senate for approval; Associate Vice-Principal striking working group to develop commercialization guidelines (with humanitarian licensing principles) for Fall 2017

SSMU Policy against Unpaid Internships

- SQ – Will be following up on relevant external mandates at AVEQ Members' Assembly

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Alternative Campus Histories

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

Targeted Support Resources

- Enrolment Services working group met on Wednesday, April 5th to review admissions diversity survey data; currently following up on further data collection & retention-tracking possibilities
- Café Collab [Year-End Showcase](#) next Wednesday, April 12th; come learn how to better support trans, racialized, Indigenous, caregiver, first generation & foster care students!
- Students from Care Researcher working to allocate dedicated bursaries for first generation/foster care students & organize Student Life & Learning policy hack-a-thon (Fall 2017)

Harmful Military Technology

- SQ – Researcher 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
- Faculty of Management is centralizing the processing of supporting documentation for accommodation purposes through their Student Affairs Office
- Met with SEDE Family Resources Coordinator on Tuesday, March 28th to discuss revising Guidelines for the Accommodation of Pregnant Students and Students Caring for Dependents

Know Your Rights

- Graphic designer has created draft flowchart poster on academic accommodations
- Will be finalizing University Affairs Committee changes to student rights website & discussing future possibilities with incoming VP University Affairs



- 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 – End of term~~
 - ~~Launch sexual violence policy committee & campus study~~
 - ~~Unpaid Internships Policy approved at Legislative Council~~
 - Humanitarian Licensing Framework approved at Senate – Fall 2017
 - Charter of Student Rights revisions approved at Senate – May Senate
 - Fall Reading Break approved at Senate (for 2019-2020) – Tabled
 - ~~Form working group on academic accommodation policies~~
 - Launch online advocacy resources on UA website – End of term

EQUITY

SSMU EQUITY

Equity Committee

- Campus Conversation on *Unpacking Love: Racialized Dating Preferences* held on March 29th
- Developing revised Equity Complaints flowchart for website & posters

Accessibility & Universal Design (UD) Advocacy

- SQ – Collecting accessibility resources for UA website (related groups, funding sources, etc.)
- Still 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

Indigenous Affairs Committee

- Met for last time on Friday, March 31st to debrief event series, committee role & recommendations
- Still collecting information for Indigenous course content advocacy & Indigenous Affairs guide

Indigenous Education Taskforce

- Provost has committed \$500 000 in funding for Indigenous initiatives in 2017-2018 (\$2.3 million over five years); awaiting final report of the Taskforce on June 21st to learn details

- Equity Goals – Winter 2017**
- ~~Equity Policy revisions approved at Legislative Council~~
 - UD standards for capital funding committees – Tabled
 - Launch Accessibility webpage on UA website – End of term
 - ~~Indigenous Solidarity Policy revisions approved~~
 - ~~Create Indigenous course content advocacy plan~~
 - Develop Indigenous Affairs guide – In-progress
 - Initiate McGill diversity enrolment plan – End of term



SSMU-WIDE

GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION

SSMU Governance & Documents

- Will be assisting with updating of governance documents based on year-to-date revisions (Constitution, Internal Regulations, Policy & Plans Book, Resolution Books)

Staff Hiring

- Attended equitable hiring training from SEDE on Thursday, March 30th; still developing formal employment equity statement, procedures & job description review
- Conducting interviews with incoming executives for University Affairs & External Affairs staff

Executive Transition

- Assisted with group training schedule & developed University Affairs training plan
- Currently compiling University Affairs exit report & revised mandate letter
- Also assisting with development of VP External transition plan & training materials

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

University Affairs & External Affairs Communications

- Final University Affairs listserv sent on April 3rd!
- Will be finalizing new UA website content in time for executive transition (i.e. additional advocacy, research & equity resources)

SSMU-Wide Goals – Winter 2017

- Approve Internal Regulations for Board of Directors
- Formalize SSMU equitable hiring procedures – In-progress
- Launch University Affairs staff hiring
- Send monthly University Affairs listservs
- Prepare May executive training schedule
- Complete exit report & revised mandate letter – In-progress
- Develop long-term student staffing plan

Cheers,

Erin Sobat

Vice-President (University Affairs)