



Students' Society of McGill University
Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Office of the Speakers
Bureau de Présidents du Conseil

January 10, 2012

SSMU Councillor Reports

January 12, 2012

Meagan Lepitre – Physical & Occupational Therapy Rcepresentative

- POTUS is working on many very interesting events and projects for the winter semester
- During the first week of school, POTUS is holding it's first pub crawl, entitled 'Frost Week' for all Physical and Occupational Therapy Students. There will be approximately 1/3 of our undergraduate students participating
- At the end of January, we will be representing McGill at the PTOT games, hosted by Université de Montréal. Last year, McGill came in second, and we are hoping to make it first this year!
- Finally, at the beginning of February, the POTUS fundraising committee has organized a Red Carpet event at the Realto Theatre to raise funds for Leucan.
- As for me, I had a very restful vacation and am excited to get back to school and work!

Jim Niu – Science Representative

General

The science representatives have been holding office hours every Thursday together for the last semester and it's been really fun! We hang out in Burnside basement and talk to students. Most people really have no idea what SSMU does for them so this is a great opportunity to talk to them about it. We will get together and see our schedules to find what works for this semester.

Library Improvement Fund Committee

We held our first meeting near the end of last semester. I've also been talking to a lot of students about the libraries. If you have any comment, suggestion, or idea for improving the library, let me know! It can be something as small as there aren't enough power bars in room whatever in whichever library, or if you have a request for new furniture...etc so let me know about anything you have in mind!

Julia Kryluk – Science Representative

- Met with Councillor Burnett and some concerned science students about the increase in tuition issue. A group of Science students want to organize a GA to find out how science students really feel about the increase. After much consideration I decided to remain impartial on the issue until after a decision has been reached at the GA. How ever I have made it clear that I am available to



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answer any questions regarding GA protocol or other questions of that nature. If they collect the required amount of signatures, a GA would be scheduled for the end of January.

- Unfortunately due to exams myself, Councillor Niu and Councillor Qin decided not to hold office hours in December. We will be resuming office hours the first week back to classes.
- Attended SSPN meeting in early December. Discussed details for week 101 at Gerts happening the first week back to class. Super excited for week 101!!

Raphael Uribe Urango – Residences Representative

- Happy New Year to Everyone first of all. This term the IRC plans to hold numerous events ranging from a beach day to a Valentines Day . IRC has a total budget balance of \$10,974.31.

Jamie Burnett – Arts Representative

General

Happy new year! Here's hoping everyone had an excellent and relaxing break. We've gotten a lot done so far, and this semester will be no less crazy.

Mid-Year Review

I'd like to take this first Council meeting to look over some of the commitments I made during my campaign - what got accomplished, what didn't, and in some cases, why things may have not gotten done as well as they should have.

- **Accessible Education.** During my campaign, I promised to fight for accessible, public education for all students regardless of origin. This past semester I worked hard mobilizing for the national demonstration against tuition hikes on November 10th, including a one-day student strike by the AUS. I've also been involved as a member of the External Affairs Committee in attempting to expand policy and demands for out-of-province and international students, pursuant to the mandate the committee received at the Fall general assembly. More work needs to be done on this though, including more active consultation with out-of-province and international students themselves to find out what their concerns are, something the committee has discussed but not found time to really carry out much. I'm hoping that the Education Week (more info below!) event on international students might be a good first step in this direction.
- **Protecting Our Programs.** Many smaller Arts programs at McGill have faced funding, curriculum and resources pressure for some time. The African Studies program, for example, recently had its introductory course cancelled - one of only two courses in the program itself, the other being an upper-year research course. I worked with the African Studies Student Association to obtain support from the AUS at the AUS's fall general assembly, in lobbying the Faculty of Arts to reinstate the course and expand its support for the program. Challenges I faced involved balancing the roles of SSMU and the AUS in fighting for Arts programs (with



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each association, for example, having different representatives within different bodies of the administration), and finding effective ways to coordinate support for multiple small programs, including African Studies but also including programs like East Asian Studies and Women's Studies. In addition to continued work in support of African Studies, I'm hoping efforts can expand to other programs as well.

- **Action and Democracy.** With a historic general assembly and a historic one-day strike, last semester was one the AUS should be proud of, and I'm certainly proud of the work I did personally. One common challenge I discovered was in finding ways to balance consultation and participation with action. I'm hoping that as general assemblies become better institutionalized, more active and more effective within both the AUS and SSMU, it will be easier for students themselves to make their voices heard. Campaign commitments I made dealing with off-campus issues such as affordable housing were certainly less-addressed than they could have been, something partly explained by an unexpectedly busy semester. However, I'm hoping that in the new year I can begin work on some of them.

Tuition Hikes

This semester is shaping up to be a major one in the history of the student movement in Québec. More to come.

Education Week

In coordination with the PGSS, QPIRG and other organizations on campus such as Queer McGill, SSMU is organizing a week and a half of educational and other events from Thursday, January 12th to Friday, January 20th. Events include introductions to tuition hikes, workshops on anti-sexism and anti-racism, discussions about environmentalism and university governance, and many more. Find the full schedule of more than 30 events at www.education-week.info.

Office Hours

As of the submission of this report, Arts Rep office hours for this semester are still to be confirmed, but either Councillor Bi or myself will be happy to report orally.