



## Report to Legislative Council

January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012

### For your information

#### **Community relations:**

- A message to students regarding community relations was drafted by the Milton Parc Citizen's Committee, the Office of the Dean of Students, and myself, and sent out. The message included information about getting home safely after late-night studying, as well as fines for raucous behaviour. Everyone should have received it from the Dean of Students in their email inboxes.

#### **External affairs:**

- Simon (SSMU's political attaché and researcher) worked on a letter to the Minister of Public Security regarding police presence on university campuses, as per a council mandate. He recommended we investigate the matter ourselves before communicating with the Ministry – I have asked him to research the laws surrounding private security forces in Quebec as well as municipal regulations on police behaviour on university campuses
- TaCEQ: met in Sherbrooke in December. To be honest, this was a depressing meeting. TaCEQ is having trouble making a splash as an organization given its small number of student associations. One interesting idea came out of the meeting, which is to put 7000 small red boxes (7000 because that is how many students will be excluded from university if fees are raised) under Christmas trees. This idea never materialized. I brought up the events of November 10<sup>th</sup> in a motion, which would have mandated TaCEQ to condemn the police violence on campus. My motion was amended (watered down) to strongly question police presence on campus. Councillors Uribe Arango and Burnett were present at the meeting with me.
- CLASSE founding congress in Valleyfield: Happened the same weekend in December as the TaCEQ meeting. The delegation that went to TaCEQ joined up with Amber Gross (SSMU Political Campaigns Coordinator) to attend the congress. Essentially, ASSÉ was officially joined by a handful of other student associations representing around 20 000 members, to form the CLASSE (Coalition Large de l'ASSÉ). This will likely be the core group of student associations to go on an unlimited student strike next semester.
  - o A large student demonstration will take place the Thursday of the week following the beginning of a general student strike, likely towards the end of February. This may or may not compete with our Winter break.
  - o A demonstration in solidarity with student struggles abroad will take place in March.
  - o Our delegation got tons of ideas for how to mobilize students and started working on a calendar. So far, ideas include: holding an "Education week"



the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of January; and a training weekend for activists the weekend before.

- The total cost of fielding a three-person delegation to TaCEQ and a four-person delegation to the CLASSE founding congress was \$418.32 (including transportation, food, and congress fees).

### **Mobilization/campus affairs:**

- Occupation of the McGill Board of Governors: I was present in the room as an observer when students decided not to leave when the BoG moved into closed session. I guess these things just kind of happen at McGill now.
- Concordia – UQAM – McGill meeting: student activists from all three campuses met twice since the last council meeting. We decided to meet regularly (hopefully with UdeM people next time) in an informal setting, to share information, plan joint actions, and form a listserv. So far, this group has called a joint demonstration against tuition increases on February 2<sup>nd</sup> which will go by each campus.
- MUNACA: The strike ended! 72% of MUNACA members voted to end the strike. There was a welcome back coffee and muffins event which was very cheerful, but which I could not go to.
- Invigilators: AGSEM was approached by the administration with an offer to go into first contract arbitration – my understanding is that a strike was thus avoided.
- I attended an end-of-the-semester dinner of the Inter Rez Council on December 11<sup>th</sup> with Councillor Uribe.
- The results of the Jutras Inquiry were released. I was pleasantly surprised by some aspects of it, underwhelmed by others. The report will serve as an excellent historical document and was very thorough in its chronology of the events of November 10<sup>th</sup>.
- **Education week:** With some help from QPIRG and lots from a good crew of student activists, SSMU is planning a week of events from January 12-20 on a large number of topics. See website below for more details.

### **Other:**

- Gave a radio interview to an independent journalist regarding November 10<sup>th</sup>
- Gave an interview to the Montreal Gazette regarding end of MUNACA strike. I underlined the fact that pensions can still be changed unilaterally by the university but that the outcome can be considered a success nonetheless.
- Gave interviews to CBC and CTV about the results of the Jutras Inquiry.
- The other execs came over to my place on December 14<sup>th</sup> to debrief the semester.

### **Upcoming**

- Working on SSMU policy proposals re: international students and out of province students
- “Better neighbours” campaign website.
- Education week! Education-week.info. January 12-20<sup>th</sup>.



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

Office of the Vice-President (External Affairs)  
Bureau du Vice-président (affaires externes)

Respectfully submitted,

*Joël Pedneault* VP (External)