



## Report to Legislative Council

February 9th, 2012

### For your information

#### **Community relations:**

- Met with Hélène Brisson from the MPCC. We discussed several ideas for how to move forward with respect to what residents seem to feel is a deteriorating situation in the neighbourhood.
  - o People are starting to talk about “broken window phenomenon” and thus asking for increasing police presence in Milton-Parc. I’ve been trying to promote less repressive ideas such as putting in place measures to avoid crappy rental situations, setting up a team to mediate when conflicts inevitable arise as students make noise in the neighbourhood which could get city funding.

#### **External affairs:**

- Met with Peter Tikasz, VP Business Operations of MCSS. We discussed upcoming demonstrations around the tuition increases.
- International students campaigns
  - o An inter-campus group to advocate for international students’ interests has been set up, with initial participation from folks at UQAM, Concordia and McGill. I was present at the meeting. The outcome is to try to gather international students’ testimonies and organize an international students-only group to advocate for their own interests with respect to fees etc.
  - o Met with Juhi Sujan from MISN, regarding how to move forward in terms of policy-centered advocacy for international students.
- Communications committee of TaCEQ: it sort of met, delegates were unsure how to discuss the matters at hand (launching a mass public campaign around the tuition hike) without minutes of the last meeting, and the meeting ended there.
- I attended the Congress of the CLASSE for part of the last weekend and gathered information on when the next student demonstrations are happening (see below).

#### **Mobilization and campus affairs:**



- McGill Inter-union
  - o I attended. It was the first one since the MUNACA strike ended.
- CLASSE training camp in the SSMU building on January 29<sup>th</sup>
  - o We gave the CLASSE space in the building on Sunday since they couldn't find rooms in CEGEPs or universities anywhere, possibly because the Ministry of Education was spreading misinformation about what the event was about. It happened peacefully as expected.
- "Town hall" with administrators on the Jutras report
  - o I found Heather Munroe-Blum's comments to be troubling with respect to increased police presence on campus.
- BoG special meeting on the Jutras report
  - o I attended as an observer and did not participate in the rousing rendition of "Barrett's Privateers" which prevented the meeting from happening.
- AUS General Assembly
  - o I attended. It was frustrating to see the assembly lose quorum after debate went in circles for too long. Also was organized at a horrible time.
- SSMU General Assembly
  - o Also sad to see it lose quorum so quickly. I'll be glad to vote in favour of the motions that got support at the GA.
- Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> demonstration
  - o This was a very energetic demonstration. Very spontaneous disruption of a CaPS event which CSIS and Correctional Services were tabling at in the SSMU building. I couldn't see what was going on and can't confirm allegations of disruptive behaviour.

**Other:**

- Hiring of 2 new political campaigns coordinators: Kevin Paul and Dan Kunda Thagard were hired as SSMU political campaigns coordinators, and will be joining Amber Gross in organizing events, material creation and distribution, etc.
- So you wanna be a SSMU Executive: I attended and provided thoughts on how campaigns may look next year.
- Board of Directors meeting: I attended and proposed some changes to the motion to resume J-Board proceedings affecting when the Board of Directors can overturn a ruling of the J-Board.
- Gave interview to Tribune journalist regarding February 2<sup>nd</sup> demonstration; with Délit and Daily on the mechanics of a student strike.
- Attended J-Board hearing on the QPIRG referendum question. I did not intervene.



- Attended meeting of the Community Engagement Committee (see report next council meeting, props to Max Luke for his dedication!).

## Upcoming

- Tuition fee campaigns strategy meeting – happening tomorrow from 4-6 pm in the Break out room.
- Continuation of inter-campus international students' group meeting this Thursday
- TaCEQ meeting this Sunday in Quebec City (11 am). Documentation sent out on time, so we can field a delegation!
  - o The External Affairs Committee will discuss the agenda points and formulate recommendations.
- Grievance committee: I sit on this and there is a hearing next Monday evening.
- February 16<sup>th</sup>: there will be a mass blockade of the Montreal Trade Centre to protest the introduction of fees in health care, tuition fee increases, and changes to the hydro billing system. Everyone is welcome to participate – 8 am, Square Victoria.
- EdUS hosting a town hall on a variety of campus issues in the Education building on the 16<sup>th</sup>. I will speak on tuition fees!
- Feb 20-24<sup>th</sup> is reading week. I plan on staying in town and aiding other student associations with their mobilization work, when I'm not busy catching up on school work and projects that I'd like to wrap up before the end of the year.
- Also, Feb 20<sup>th</sup> is likely to be the beginning of this major student strike in Quebec which you have heard of. More to come as General Assemblies take mandates in the next few days – check [tuitiontruth.ca](http://tuitiontruth.ca)!
- Next McGill interunion: March 1<sup>st</sup> at 2 pm.
- Upcoming demonstrations:
  - o Feb 16<sup>th</sup> (Trade Centre)
  - o Feb 20<sup>th</sup>: Regional student demonstration to start the beginning of the strike. 4 pm, Place Emilie Gamelin, Metro Berri-UQAM
  - o Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>: Another student demonstration in Montreal? To be confirmed.

Respectfully submitted,

*Joël Pedneault* VP (External)