



Report of the President to Executive Committee
September 23rd, 2011 (for Council on September 29th, 2011)

What an intense couple of weeks! The start of the school year continues to be exciting and extremely hectic as always (perhaps somewhat more so this year in light of the MUNACA strike!). A huge thank you to the Executive team, SSMU staff, and all the Councillors who have stepped up to the plate in so many different ways. It's been especially great having the Secretary General in the office to help me out!

Student Constituencies & Democratic Processes

Legislative Council – It has been a pleasure to see many Councillors in and out of the SSMU Office for meetings, committees, or just to talk about the issues of the day. We have received generally positive feedback so far on the functioning of Council during our first meeting (sorry about it being so long!) as well as about Council Retreat. The Athletics Rep resigned, so we are in the process of determining a replacement. I have also been in continued communication with EUS regarding the situation with the Architecture Rep.

SSMU Committees – I have been chairing and coordinating Steering Committee (meeting weekly) and Nominating Committee (which met September 23rd). The Secretary General has been helping me coordinate the Ad-Hoc Bylaw Review Committee (which has its first meeting on Sept 28th).

General Assembly – We received five substantive motions for this semester's General Assembly, which have been made available in English and French on the SSMU website. Thanks to the Speakers and Execs for their hard work in preparation and to all the people helping out with publicity. This report will be out of date by the time we have Council, so I will be happy to report orally if desired.

Strategic Summit on Student Consultation – Emily and I worked on putting this together (with support from the Secretary General, University Affairs Secretary General, and General Manager). At the time of writing I've yet to see how it goes, but I hope this experiment in student consultation will be successful and I will report orally if desired! The next strategic summit, which will address tuition hikes, will be held on September 30th.

Board of Directors restructuring – I worked with SSMU's legal counsel and the General Manager to ensure that due process for restructuring of the Board of Directors is respected. While we recognize that it may not be the last time we need to adapt this structure, based on our ongoing review of the bylaws and Constitution, we believe that it is better in the interim to make the BoD more representative. As an Executive team, we have submitted a General Assembly to bring forward the proposed change for a 16 member Board (15 voting (including all Canadian members of the Executive), 1 non-voting (General Manager)); the proposed change would also require that all members of the SSMU's Legislative Council be permitted to attend BoD meetings and be given the same amount of notice as is mandated for Directors. We hope that this composition will make the BoD more broadly democratic while not setting unreasonable expectations regarding the likely number of Canadian citizens or permanent residents elected to Council.



Presidents' Roundtable – While all the faculty association presidents and I have been very busy, we had productive meetings this week. I posted the signed memo sent by most undergraduate student societies to the Provost regarding the term extension of the Deputy Provost without student consultation on the SSMU website; we received a reply on September 22nd, which will also be posted. The Opt-In Campaign has been well supported, although opt out rates remain a substantial concern.

Activities Night - We broke an attendance record and ran a very smooth event despite most of our porters are on strike. Congrats to the SSMU team (particularly Carol and Andrea). I enjoyed doing volunteer entrance door duty, which meant I got to meet a lot of people and help them fix their various issues.

Athletics – The most recent Athletics Roundtable will be hosted the same week as Council. I have been able to help connect organizers from PGSS, Varsity Council, and the Deputy Provost's Office for McGill participation in the Run for the Cure (October 2nd) and have provided communications support (e.g. the Facebook event, tabling suggestions, etc.). Emily and I also cheered on some of McGill's student athletes at a Martlets soccer game (where we defeated Concordia 3-1 ☺).

Request for SSMU membership list – I received a request from a SSMU member for SSMU's membership list, as is every member's right under stipulations laid out in the Companies Act (since SSMU is a non-profit corporation and accredited student association). This has required considerable attention, given the legalities and the obvious concern regarding students' privacy. I welcome feedback from Councillors and the student body at large on this issue (and recognize that more details may need to be explained).

Elections McGill – I have been working with CEO Rebecca Tacoma to sort out various technical issues with our online voting system.

Human Resources

Student Staff Orientation – I've met with all the student staff within my portfolio and have been answering their questions as needed. Big thanks to our HR Advisor Marie-Elaine for all her hard work in making sure we are acting as better employers!

Permanent Staff Evaluation – I have been and will be working on the evaluations of the Comptroller and the Communications and Publications Manager with the General Manager, HR Advisor, and other execs as appropriate.

General – I have been supporting execs and staff members with various HR issues.

Sustainability

Sustainability Coordinator & Environment Student Staff – This team has set up biweekly sustainability staff caucuses to keep themselves up to date and has a clear vision for their respective responsibilities. Environment Committee has had a fantastic turnout so far and



presented a session at the Sustainability Fair hosted on lower field on September 23rd. From here they will be choosing campaigns to work on for the semester.

Sustainability Projects Fund Working Group – We extended the call for nominations until 5pm Friday, which were subsequently evaluated by the Nominating Committee.

McGill Administration & University Governance

MOA/Lease – We were able to send our latest revision of the MOA document regarding the use of the McGill name to McGill on September 18th. Unfortunately, McGill's negotiator is not available to meet with us until October. The Deputy Provost's Office has not provided us with our fees, as we currently do not have an active MOA and therefore do not have a current right to receive our fees any earlier than the legally mandated deadline in October. We are trying to get as much accomplished through electronic means as possible.

Senate – I attended Senate Orientation, Senate Caucus, and the first Senate meeting of the year. It was a lively meeting which I expect Emily will report more fully on.

MUNACA strike – I have been continuing to try to convey information we learn about the current state of negotiations and the impacts on students both to the faculty associations and to the Deputy Provost's Office (which does not always seem to have concrete knowledge of what students are experiencing on the ground). This raises the question of whose responsibility it is to monitor impacts on students and provide them with as many answers as possible to their questions and concerns. I have been to the picket lines a few times to show my support on behalf of the SSMU, as per the motion passed at the last Council meeting.

Board of Governors – I attended the BoG Orientation session as well as my first Nominating & Governance Committee and Building & Property Committee meetings.

Meeting with the Deputy Provost – Emily and I met with the Deputy Provost. The main areas of discussion were the MUNACA strike, the block party, our upcoming strategic summits and consultation fair, the opt outs issue, ongoing MOA/Lease negotiations, and the frosh debrief event (see below).

Meeting with the Principal & the Deputy Provost – All members of the Executive except Todd (who had a conflicting Senate committee meeting) met with the Principal and the Deputy Provost. Issues addressed include the MUNACA strike, community relations (we gave her a Milton Parc pin and asked her to work with senior admin to integrate awareness of the feelings of the longterm residents of the neighbourhood regarding the term "McGill ghetto" into the staff and governance aspects of McGill), ongoing consultation processes, our memo regarding the Deputy Provost's term, and our plans for a student-run café.

Integrated Orientation debrief – I attended this session with the Student Life and Learning team along with Todd and Emily and representatives from several faculty associations. It was a constructive start to what I hope will be a productive process in addressing some of the concerns about this year's Orientation.



McGill Food and Dining Services – I met with the MFDS team to hear about their plans for the year and provide them with some advice on how to effectively engage students in decisions about food on campus. We also talked about our mutual interest in exploring integrating food operations in the Shatner building with meal plan and eco-clamshell systems available elsewhere on campus.

Other

Friendly Neighbourhood Block Party - This event was a great success, so props to Joel, Carol, and all the other execs and volunteers (and the weather!) who helped out. We laid a strong foundation for future years and made MPCC and a lot of corn-and-hot-dog eating Milton-Parc residents happy. I barbecued a lot.

Arts Internship Event – I stopped by this series of presentations and was pleased to see that LEA 232 was packed!

Personal – I will be away in England from October 1st-7th to attend my grandfather's memorial service and ashes spreading. I will be monitoring emails as much as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Knight
President