



Report of the VP University Affairs to Legislative Council
September 25, 2011

Note:

Let me know if you want me to reformat my report at all! I want it to be as accessible as possible to all.

Senator Resignation

Council has been notified and subsequently, I have sent an email to be forwarded to the Medicine/Nursing and Dentistry Student Associations. If all goes as planned, we will have two new Senators within two weeks.

Senate Information & Development Session & Cocktail

Yesterday, Senate Caucus attended an orientation session for incoming Senators. It was long and didn't offer too much new information, considering the majority of us have already read the Senate Statutes. However, Maggie and I had a productive conversation with Stephen Strople about ways in which students can become more involved with the orientation session.

We also met a few other Senators that will likely be good allies in the upcoming year.

Senate Caucus

The team is coming together well. We've been touching base periodically and the majority have been updating me with what is going on in their faculties. They have all proven to be dedicated and willing to work. For example, Tom has been committed to revamping Senators' Corner. The new website is soon to come. After last meeting, a couple of us grabbed beers.

Last meeting was primarily dedicated to strategising for the upcoming Senate meeting. Next meeting we will be discussing outreach & future plans. I am going to be rotating chairing amongst the different Senators. This will be great experience and ensure that Senate Caucus isn't dominated by the UA.

One highlight was that PGSS came and we strategized together to ensure that we would be supportive of one another. We agreed that this was successful for Senate and agreed to continue doing this for the rest of the year. Additionally, I have put out feelers to the MacDonald Campus Executive to see if we can further coordinate.

As a side note, Janina has been great!

Senate

Victor was kind enough to come take Senator photos before our first Senate meeting! We all looked dapper, if I may say so myself. Overall, for a first meeting, I believe we did exceptionally well. There was a lively discussion about MUNACA. Senators had multi-partisan support for dismantling of the image of "business as usual" presented by the University. The Principal is a talented speaker and managed to force the agenda forward at times. Unfortunately, this



minimised the ability of the student senators to have their views heard. Most notably, both the SSMU & PGSS Senate Caucuses requested that our abstentions be recorded in regards to the appointment of Harassment assessors. However, the secretary informed us that this would not be possible.

Please let me know if you would like to know more about Senate, I can forward you our minutes!

Academic Amnesty

Senate Caucus will be looking into the possibility of bringing forward a motion in regards to Academic Amnesty to the next Senate meeting. We will be reaching out to different Senators for their support and input. Academic Amnesty ensures students that they will not face discipline for not crossing a picket line either for reasons of conscience or other difficulty. Do you feel that students should have access to Academic Amnesty? For a time limit? Let us know your thoughts!

Committee Allocations

We have sent notice to the selected people and mentioned to them that the positions may be temporary depending on which committees new Senators wish to sit on. Additionally, the positions were confirmed through Nominating Committee. I think this committee needs serious reform.

Activities Night

Congratulations to Carol for a record-breaking Activities Night. It was fun working together and also highlighted how much work our porters do.

CESA

I recommended in CESA that the University Admissions Review Committee develop a disclosure procedure to protect students. They were open to the idea and a format will be proposed for next week.

Steering

Steering was an eclectic mix of personalities and although it seemed very sporadic, we did manage to generate some productive conversations. Most notably, we managed to have a discussion on how to facilitate discussion so that Executives and specific councilors do not dominate the discussion.

Maggie

After Steering Committee, Maggie and I had a productive conversation about our different working styles and how we can better support one another. I find these conversations very important for my sanity. Thanks Madame President.

SACOMSS

I met with SACOMSS and came up with a clear game plan for Senate and how to address the report on Harassment and Sexual Harassment.



AGSEM

I talked to AGSEM about some questions for Senate Caucus to raise about TAs during Senate.

Strategic Summit on Student Consultation

The Strategic Summit was fruitful and had a good number of participants. I think the first one went well and will allow for people to move forward with different themes. Multiple administrators came. It would be good to figure out how to reach out to students that aren't normally represented at these sorts of activities. It also provided a good base for the Consultation Fair!

Consultation Fair

In discussion with Ian, Janina and Maggie, we came to the conclusion that a rotating roundtable would be the most effective and interactive way of framing the fair. It would allow for issue specific discussion while allowing for students and administrators to meet up. Finally, it will be followed up with a 'Drinks with the Admin'. Building community comes from a bottom up direction.

Mendelson

We discuss Opt-outs, Homecoming, Movies in the Park, the Consultation Fair and the strike. They were unwilling to discuss Opt-Outs or the MUNACA strike in too much detail. What is perhaps fruitful is that they gave us a criterion as to what exactly an alternative Opt-Out System may look out. They are also excited about the Consultation Fair!

Frosh Roundtable

I went to this with Todd and Maggie. It was interacted and allowed for both administrators and students to interact. It was generally a frank decision and honestly, could provide a model for how consultation should occur.

Board of Directors

We had a meeting and ratified all the decisions of Council. I am looking forward to the next meeting when the Board is less of an autocracy. REFORM IS GOOD.

Dean of Students: Security

During my meeting with Jane Everett, we discussed the night route that I went on with several members of the administration and the importance of safety messaging to students. She asked me to review the discussion with the Exec.

Dean of Students: Selection Committee Restructuring

Councillor Paterson and I have been discussing different ideas. Let me know if any of you are interested in participating.

MART

I have been in contact with Social Work about them hosting the next MART meeting. I think it will likely be here at SSMU.



Research & Human Resources

Mentorship Programme Research

A job callout has been placed.

Academic Research Coordinator

A job callout has been placed.

Social Justice Days

A callout has been placed.

Equity

Equity Team

We met two weeks ago and planned out how the two positions will work together throughout the next year. Furthermore, I emphasize the importance of me stepping back. Cassie will be working to institute a stronger appeals process as well as a review of the basic grammar & spelling of the policy. Ryan will be working on several outreach projects including fundraising and writing articles for the two campus papers.

Equity Meeting

See attached report

SEDE Calendar Launch

I dropped by to the launch. It was a little strange to see my artwork blown up so big. In any case, it was great to liaise with different members of the equity community.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Clare
VP University Affairs