



Report of the President to Council for November 3rd, 2011

Student Constituencies & Democratic Processes

Legislative Council – Welcome to our new First Year Council representative, Michael Lessard. I hope you all found the three-week break between Council meetings productive. Thank you to those of you who were able to attend the special confidential session of Council last week.

SSMU Committees – Steering Committee met twice since the last Council meeting. The Bylaw Review Committee also met twice, but didn't have full participation from Councillors. Nominating Committee was unable to reach quorum, but approved the names of the Judicial Board Justices via email.

General Assembly Reform – We received about 130 survey responses (at the time of writing) and hosted Town Halls on GA Reform this week. The intended schedule is to have the proposed bylaw changes come for first reading at November 17th's Council meeting and for debate and potential adoption on December 1st. The Secretary General has conducted research on how GAs are structured at other universities and has assisted with other aspects of the GA reform process.

Board of Directors – First meeting of the new Board today.

Strategic Summits – The next two summits are on November 4th (Equity and Diversity at McGill; led by VP Clare and the Equity Committee) and November 18th (Student Space on Campus; led by VP Fraser and me). It would be great to see lots of Councillors out to share your thoughts and listen to your constituents.

4Floors – Congrats to SSPN and VP Plummer on selling out of tickets and creating a great time for 1200 students. Kudos also to the exec for their costume efforts—I enjoyed putting together my Mme Peacock costume. Todd can report fully on the ups and downs of the event organizing overall.

Athletics – I've been able to attend the Homecoming and Shaughnessy Cup Redmen football games, a Martlet Hockey game, and the recent Quebec Cup swim meet at which McGill's student athletes were extraordinarily successful (congrats!). I hope to meet with the Athletics Roundtable next week.

Request for SSMU membership list – I continued to spend time on legal aspects of this issue.

Elections McGill – First Year Council elections had a 10% higher turnout rate this year than last year. Carol and I will be supporting FYC in getting its activities going, with help from Councillor Kourilova.

Presidents Roundtable – I have meetings with the Presidents' Roundtable and small and large faculty caucuses this week. I can report orally if desired.



Inter-Residence Council – I met with the IRC President and Councillor Uribe Arango to discuss IRC's plans for the year as well as McGill and SSMU matters of interest to IRC.

Human Resources

Staff Bylaws – I started work on revising SSMU's HR bylaws with our HR Advisor, Marie-Élaine. This hasn't been done in a while and requires an update.

Archivist Position – I worked with the HR Advisor and General Manager to bring forward the job description for an archivist contract position.

General – As usual, I have been supporting execs and staff members with various HR issues. I have also appended reports from many of the student staff who work within the President portfolio, as per the motion passed at Council.

Sustainability

Sustainability Coordinator & Environment Student Staff – Please see attached report.

Environment Committee Networking & Pumpkin Carving event – EnviroComm hosted an event in Gerts. I was able to attend for part of the event and meet lots of green group leaders.

Interfaculty Case Competition in Sustainability – Status quo. Deadline to apply is tomorrow (November 4th). More info at <http://ssmucasecomp.com/>.

McGill's Sustainability Strategic Planning process – I have been working with the Sustainability Coordinator to provide feedback on the process McGill is hoping to undertake starting next semester to set the vision for sustainability at McGill. We have been focusing on how to ensure students are meaningfully included as both leaders and participants, as well as how SSMU's (probably faster) process can complement and strengthen the campus-wide process. We also met with staff in McGill's Office of Sustainability regarding this process.

McGill Food and Dining Services – Along with most of the Executive and Councillors Kunev and Uribe Arango, I was the guest of MFDS during their local food week to provide feedback on what they are doing in terms of local food sourcing and communication of practices, as well as to investigate infrastructure needs if we are going to integrate eco-clamshells and other sustainability measures into SSMU's cafeteria.

McGill Administration & University Governance

MOA/Lease – The end of this process is potentially in sight, but nevertheless continues to require significant amounts of my time (along with Emily and Carol).

MUNACA strike – Status quo. Congrats to VP Pedneault and Councillor Stettin on their excellent interview on CBC Daybreak.



Consultation Fair – Huge kudos to Emily and Janina (UA Secretary General) for putting this together (in concert with Iam Simmie of Student Services and Robyn Wiltshire of the Deputy Provost's office). It was a great success, especially for its first year, and I believe has set a good foundation for future such events.

Board of Governors – I am in communication with McGill's Secretary General regarding potential changes to the terms of reference of the Committee to Advise on Matters of Social Responsibility as well as the University's statutes. Additionally, I attended a breakfast in honour of this year's Beatty Lecturer during Homecoming Weekend.

Senate – Emily will report in more detail, but student senators put in a lot of work on the academic amnesty motion. While it ultimately failed to pass, the standard of debate was high and we received a lot of support from other (non-student) members of Senate. Additionally, I attended the committee meeting for the Senate Committee on Physical Development at Macdonald Campus and Senate Caucus each week.

Food And Dining Advisory Committee – I attended FADAC's first meeting of the year and heard about ongoing small-scale renovations in BMH as well as continuing sustainability efforts.

Meeting with McGill's VP External Relations – I met with Olivier Marcil at his invitation. We primarily discussed his new role as well as community relations, where I asked for his help in raising awareness amongst McGill staff about issues in the Milton-Parc neighbourhood.

Other

AUCC meeting – I was invited by the Principal to attend a session of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) last week, where I was able to discuss the future of Canadian universities with a number of Canadian post-secondary institution principals and presidents. After the session, I gave an impromptu tour of McGill, SSMU, and PGSS to student leaders from Queen's, U of T, Mt. Allison, U of Manitoba, and UNBC.

Montreal Walks for Mental Health – I had the pleasure of joining the Social Work Students' Association and the President of the Medical Students' Society in standing against stigma in this 5km walk to raise awareness about the importance of mental health awareness.

McGill Book Fair – I helped VPs Patel, Fraser, and Clare and Councillors Burnett and Kunev move leftover books from the McGill Book Fair to the SSMU basement.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Knight
President

See attached: Reports from Student Staff in the President Portfolio



REPORTS FROM STUDENT STAFF IN THE PRESIDENT PORTFOLIO

Secretary General: Jessica Wang – October 28, 2011

Most recently, I've been working on By-law review pertaining to the General Assembly. I've done some research with regards to how other schools hold their General Assemblies. I have also worked on promoting the general assembly and attending regular Ad-Hoc Bylaw Review committee meetings, which is focusing on amendments to the bylaw, especially those that pertain to the General Assembly.

In addition to researching the general assemblies, I have also researched other universities' committee on matter of social responsibility with relations to responsible investing. This research entailed emailing university secretariats and compiling documents regarding the committee. More recently, I've also worked on researching student representation on the Board of Governors at other universities in Canada.

I have also organized a Meet Your Representative Wine and Cheese that took place on Thursday, September 29, 2011. This included creating a budget, shopping for groceries, ordering wine, assembling platters and cleaning up. Further miscellaneous tasks include compiling notes for Council retreat, scanning and creating folders for previous council, executive, and senate documents as well as typing up notes for Strategic Summits.

Sustainability Staff

October 28, 2011 - Compiled by: David Gray-Donald, SSMU Sustainability Coordinator

Introduction

Hi! My name is David Gray-Donald and I am the SSMU Sustainability Coordinator. The creation of my position has allowed student sustainability efforts to become bigger and more ambitious than previously, and better coordinated between students. The introduction of a permanent employee in this role has meant that we have had to work out who is doing what. That has taken some time to figure out, but it feels comfortable now and the arrangement should allow us to do big things in the future, and some big things are on the horizon. This report includes an update on what the sustainability-focused student staff have been up to this term so far, all of whom I communicate with regularly.

Environment Commissioners (Aryeh Canter, Tanya Taggart-Hodge, Cameron Butler)

Recurring responsibilities

- Coordinating weekly Environment Committee meetings open to all McGill students
- Holding office hours to answer questions and collaborate with any interested students
- Coordinating the efforts of students holding official volunteer roles: Science Advisor, Communications Coordinator, Intercampus Outreach Coordinator, Faculty Liaison, Sustainability Ambassador Coordinators (2). This includes working through work-plans that were established by working with each volunteer:
 - Examples: Lisa (Academic Liaison) is working on interfaculty roundtable on the environment, Yang (Inter-University Outreach) is involved in a new coalition in Montreal for students working and collaborating on sustainability issues, Kari



and Andrea (Sustainability Ambassador Coordinators) are organizing workshops every two weeks on various sustainability issues

- Chairing the 5 Year-Plan working group, re-structuring what is left to be done and systematically working through action items
- Chairing Green Corner working group to determine how to best use the current space, and planning for future use of space once renovations are completed
- Attending Funding Committee Meetings
- Staying in touch with green groups, organizing monthly events for green groups to network and get to know what is going on (held our first event this week, pumpkin carving in gerts)
- Attending the “Sustainability Caucus” so all relevant staff are up-to-date updating and coordinating projects that build on the work of Dave (Sustainability Coordinator), Rodrigo (Green Building Coordinator), Marie-Line (Green Events Coordinator) and Maggie (President)
- Supporting Marie-Line with the organization of the Green Events team

Campaigns/Projects Coordination

Bottled-Water Ban Implementation Project

We are working towards better implementation of the bottled-water ban in SSMU, creating effective signage through posters and educational flyers, holding various tabling events to educate the McGill community about the importance of eliminating bottled water use, preparing a map of the 5 new water-bottle refill stations on campus and raising awareness around these stations, holding an artistic workshop to make sculptures out of used plastic bottles, circulating a petition against bottled-water use to hold as a leverage tool, organizing an audit event at y-intersection (sorting garbage, demonstrating the amount of recycling in garbages), working with the office of sustainability on the McGill bottled-water policy, looking into selling or donating reusable bottled to student body, and finally, looking into issues around larger events (discover mcgill, frosh etc) and identify effective strategies around these events re: bottled-water use and waste.

Student Gardening Project

We have made great strides this semester connecting students to student gardening. We have begun to compile a map of all the community gardens and farmers markets to use as a resource. We are planning a vermicomposting workshop for November, and gardening workshops for late winter. Along that line, we have begun to determine what may be a usable space for a greenhouse in coordination with Campus Space Planning. The Class Action Gift selection committee has this as a potential project to select to fund.

Energy Consumption Project

For the goal of changing students' behaviour to reduce their energy use, the focus is on awareness. A main part of achieving this goal is by creating signs to place around the Shatner building, reminding students to turn lights off when they leave rooms, taking the stairs instead of the elevator, not leaving chargers plugged because they drain energy, etc. Those



signs are currently being designed by students. There is also a survey of energy use in the clubs offices that is being planned, which will be carried out by the end of the semester to find ways of reducing their energy consumption, as well as a lighting/energy audit that is being spearheaded by the Green Building Coordinator. The Sustainability Ambassador Coordinators are planning a student apartment winterization workshop for November which will teach students how to better prepare their homes for the winter. Lastly, we are planning ways of helping ERC teach students about energy efficiency and use during the "Fight the Power" campaign, which spans most of November.

Green Building Coordinator (Rodrigo Jiminez Chavez)

Researching: current energy consumption in the building, possibilities of creating a baseline report for assessment of future projects (including collecting past data, energy metering plans, and energy normalization & costs calculations), possibilities of a carbon credits system once standardized measurement is in place

Reviewing: available information to build a plan of action. This includes the 2008 SSMU Sustainability Assessment and the 2010 Energy Audit. An application to the SSMU's Green Fund is pending for the purchase of the ISO 50001:2011, which will help develop an efficient and consistent plan based on best practices.

Evaluating: possibilities to improve the heating control in the Shatner Building (one of the points listed in the 5 Year Plan). Not enough information has been obtained yet regarding the feasibility and extent of this project from an infrastructural point of view, but two different approaches are being considered:

- Setting up a texting system for students to report high or low temperatures
- Installing devices to record temperatures to have a better idea of temperature fluctuations with time and in different areas

Attending: Environment Committee meetings, Sustainability Caucus meetings, 5-Year Plan for Sustainability meetings

Green Events Coordinator (Marie-Line Sarrazin)

Reviewing: the Green Events Guide, the room-booking system's checklist for events, how the new room booking system will work once launched in Winter 2012 and taking notes on how to integrate environmental considerations at that point in the event planning process

Documenting: how events such as 4 Floors function in terms of material flows and where flaws appear

Attending: Environment Committee meetings, Sustainability Caucus meetings, at least one SSPN meeting, major SSMU events such as 4 floors