



“Is it a crime, to fight, for what is mine?”
- Tupac Shakur

Report to Council

November 3rd, 2011

For your information

Community relations:

Met with Hélène from the Milton-Parc Citizens' Committee and Jane Everett, McGill's Dean of Students. We agreed it might be necessary to send a message to all students to remind them to be good neighbours, but also what the trash pickup days are, what the fines are for leaving trash out at the wrong time, public urination, public drinking, etc. We could include a link to this wonderful website which details a lot of the information on trash pickup, the fruit of some of Maggie and I's efforts (and the folks at Eco-Quartier Plateau-Mont-Royal): <http://www.ecoquartierduplateau.org/plus/en/index.html>

The SSMU Executive Committee also discussed the creation of a student research position on alternative frosh models, to inform discussion about what type of Frosh/Orientation SSMU wants to organize next year. I'll report orally on what our decision was (ie whether the position was created or not).

External affairs:

- External Affairs Committee:
 - o First meeting happened on October 21st, mostly consisted of everybody getting each other up to speed.
 - o Met again on the 26th of October, we mostly split up the work of contacting campus student associations to ask them to promote the November 10th demonstration.
- TaCEQ meeting last Sunday: Reminder – TaCEQ is SSMU's provincial student lobby group.
 - o We mainly talked about the logistics of the November 10th march. The march will begin at Place Emilie-Gamelin at 2 pm and will end at McGill College and Sherbrooke (right by McGill!). Each Quebec-wide student association will be expected to provide “marshals” (preferably bilingual ones) and some street medics (medicine and nursing reps: heads up!).
 - Simon, SSMU's political attaché and researcher, will be helping the TaCEQ executive with communications that day (ie running after journalists to make sure they interview someone on the executive.)
- ASSE Congress: Reminder – ASSE is a grassroots student association spanning many student associations in Quebec. Their congress happened over the weekend at CEGEP de Maisonneuve out east. The big discussion was over the modalities surrounding the creation of a temporary coalition of student associations around



- ASSE for the duration of an eventual student strike in the winter. The founding congress of this coalition, which will be named “CLASSE” or “Coalition Large de l'ASSE” will be open to student associations which make decisions in General Assemblies, which advocate for free education, and which have a mandate to join the coalition.
- Press conference with Sherbrooke Student associations: I talked to people from PGSS as well as the two student associations in Sherbrooke (grad and undergrad). We are organizing a press conference on November 7th to urge a quick and fair resolution to the support staff strikes which are taking place on both campuses right now.

Mobilization/campus affairs:

- About ten McGill students came to the October 22nd march in Quebec City, lower turnout than expected. It was a very energetic protest however. The bus rental cost \$939.88 .
- I have been hosting classroom discussions about the MUNACA strike (about a half dozen in the last week including 2 this morning).
- Inter-union council:
 - o On October 27th, there was a rally to encourage McGill to come to a quick resolution to the strike at noon at the Roddick Gates. The rally went down to Occupy Montreal/Square Victoria/Peoples' Square (!).
 - AGSEM may held a bagel and coffee session prior to the rally, starting at 11 am, at the Y-intersection.
- November 10th demonstration against tuition hikes: propaganda machine is in gear. Stickers got printed, soon to be followed by newspaper ads, a large banner, posters, more stickers, and web/social media stuff.
- I participated in a live CKUT broadcast from Shatner regarding MUNACA, tuition hikes and financial realities of universities: it was great!

Other:

- Simon, SSMU's researcher, has done some analysis of McGill's budget. He is now working on research on international students.
- Disciplinary proceedings with the administration: My interview with Andre Costopoulos was last Friday, and was scheduled at the same time as Councillor Micha Stettin's. We both learned that the hearings are scheduled in relation to the fact that, McGill Security alleges, cars were prevented from passing on campus during a Mob Squad action last October 11th, while I was in a meeting of SSMU's executive committee... The accusations have been dropped, and I have been fielding many interviews with the media about this specific issue (campus press, CBC, The Gazette, Open File Montreal).
- Dressed up as Colonel Mustard for 4Floors. Huge success.

For approval



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

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

None.

Upcoming

- General Assembly Reform Town Halls on November 2nd and 3rd
- Inter-union council meeting
- External Affairs committee meeting: Friday at 3:30.
- Strategic Summit on Equity and Diversity (Friday afternoon)
- Press conference in Sherbrooke next Monday with student associations regarding support staff strikes.
- Promoting the **November 10th demonstration against tuition increases** – a lot. 1 pm, Roddick Gates, be there or else.

Respectfully submitted,

Joël Pedneault VP (External)