



## Report of the President to Council for November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011

I think we're all still trying to process the events of November 10<sup>th</sup>. I hope we can move forward in a spirit of greater compassion between members of our community and make sure that changes are made so that we never have the riot police on our campus again.

### ***Student Constituencies & Democratic Processes***

*SSMU Committees* – Steering Committee and the Bylaw Review Committee met.

*General Assembly Reform* – Two Town Halls were hosted which, although poorly attended, promoted a detailed discussion. I wrote a Hyde Park piece for the Daily on the subject of GA reform. Thanks to Councillor Clarke for writing a piece in Le Débit. The Notice of Motion on the agenda for this meeting reflects the initial proposal of the bylaw review committee, with the understanding that more debate is needed over the next two weeks and that substantial amendments will likely be proposed. After lots of efforts to solicit proactive contributions, we are now moving into the reactive input stage of the process.

*Strategic Summits* – Congratulations to the Equity Committee on their successful Strategic Summit on Equity and Diversity at McGill. Given the time taken up coping with the events of November 10<sup>th</sup>, the November 18<sup>th</sup> summit on Student Space on Campus is being postponed until next semester. The January 20<sup>th</sup> strategic summit will focus on campus sustainability.

*Athletics* – The Athletics Roundtable met and had a productive discussion about how to further increase the support for student athletes on this campus.

*Elections McGill* – We saw a 9.5% jump in voter turnout (from 15.2% last Fall to 24.7%). Congratulations to QPIRG and CKUT on their questions passing. Thanks to Elections McGill (Elections SSMU), the campaign committees, and everyone else who helped to get the vote out.

*Presidents Roundtable* – I met with the Presidents' Roundtable and small and large faculty caucuses this week. Topics addressed included the McGill name and upgrades being made to student space. Additionally, I met with the presidents of MUS, EUS, and BASiC concerning various issues.

*First Year Council* – VP Fraser and I met with the recently elected First Year Council and last year's FYC to help set them off to a good start this year. There seems to be a general interest in improving institutional memory year-to-year.

*November 10<sup>th</sup> Tuition Hike protest* – Great turnout despite the ridiculous weather! I was glad to see so many Councillors in attendance.



### ***Human Resources***

*Comptroller Interviews* - The General Manager, HR Advisor, and I have begun interviews for a new Comptroller, since Steven Tamas is taking early retirement.

*Sustainability Coordinator Evaluation* – With the General Manager and HR Advisor, I completed the Sustainability Coordinator's evaluation (following his probationary period since being hired). We are happy to welcome David as a permanent employee.

*General* – We had a staff meeting (with cake!) where permanent and student staff shared updates with each other and got a chance to explain their current projects. I continue to support execs and staff members with various HR issues.

*Staff Bylaws* – Status quo.

### ***Sustainability***

*Sustainability Coordinator & Environment Student Staff* – Still good conversations going on regarding the plans for strategic planning for sustainability at both SSMU and McGill. Several of us attended a lunch meeting with sustainability strategist Bob Willard, hosted by the Office of Sustainability.

*Interfaculty Case Competition in Sustainability* – Status quo. Deadline to apply has been extended to tomorrow (November 17<sup>th</sup>). More info at <http://ssmucasecomp.com/>.

### ***McGill Administration & University Governance***

*Riot Police on Campus* – It's impossible to sum up this issue in this report. These events were deeply distressing and will take time to heal. I hope the We Are All McGill gathering on Monday was a helpful first step in that direction. Along with other members of the SSMU Executive, I assisted in coordinating medical care and emotional support for students who had been pepper sprayed or otherwise traumatized, both on the evening of November 10<sup>th</sup> and subsequently through providing information on services through our listserv statement and hosting a cookies and tea session. Emily and I met twice with the Deputy Provost, as well as with Dean Everett, Jana Luker (Student Services), Jim Nicell (University Services), and Louise Savard (University Safety) to discuss the Administration's response to the situation.

*MOA/Lease* – By the time Council meets, I expect we will have signed the MoA, as mandated at our last meeting. Discussions on the Lease continue and our two ad-hoc lease committee meeting have been helpful.

*MUNACA strike* – Status quo. It's disheartening to hear that there is a pause in the negotiations but it was a pleasure to have MUNACA workers join the November 10<sup>th</sup> march through the streets of Montreal.



*Board of Governors* – I attended a meeting of the Nominating, Governance, & Ethics Committee. Additionally, I met with the Secretary General Stephen Strople to discuss potential changes to the University's Statutes as well as to the terms of reference for the Committee to Advise on Matters of Social Responsibility.

*Senate* – This month's Senate meeting is on the Wednesday of this week. VP Clare, one of the other student senators, or I can report orally if desired. VP Clare and I attended an open forum discussion on the ASAP 2012 academic policy document.

*Joint Senate-Board Session on Undergraduate Research* – I attended along with most of the other student senators. Some productive conversations came out of the event, although some tables fared better than others.

***Other***

*Campus Community Campaign* – Redpath Museum Flashlight Tours were popular once again and went off without too many problems, although McGill had forgotten to book a security agent and porter.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Knight  
*President*