



Report of the President to Legislative Council

November 1, 2012

Student Democracy and Constituencies

Judicial Board – The decision has been made and the final report completed. The results were released last Friday, October 26. As for Justices at Large, I will move forward with nominating one of the two candidates that were interviewed. For this year, we will stop the process there. The time put into the process is no longer warranted for this search process, however we will be able to carry forward a more thorough recruitment in the coming season.

Council – After a solid conversation regarding our last Council with the executive team, I will be working with the Speakers to implement a few minor changes to Council. I am also in the process of booking the next three roaming councils. Next week will hopefully take place in either Carrefour or La Citadelle. The two after that will take place in one of the new Active Learning Classrooms and another in the Law Moot Court. There will be short tours accompanying each of these locations.

Presidents' Roundtable – The last meeting was held on Thursday, October 25; EUS hosted us in their meeting room. We discussed having a student society “conference”, DPSLL feedback and next steps, course evaluation strategies, the Iron Rink and interfaculty sports competitions, entrance requirements, Memoranda of Agreement, professional faculty accreditation woes, and several other upcoming events and projects. It is a really great group of people. We have some good ideas for increasing overall turnout for course evaluations, and I'm sure many of you will hear about this from your faculty councils. SSMU will also be hosting a student society conference in late November to discuss best practices and to share ideas surrounding leases, MoAs, taxes, services, events, managing an executive team, and much more. Finally, there will probably be a good show of interfaculty competition in the way of sports come the winter season!

Elections SSMU – They are ramping up for referendum season! Many of our issues have been resolved, so we should be good to go for the campaign period. Please remember to get in touch with the Elections SSMU folks if you want to help out or plan to run a yes or no committee.

General Assembly – Online ratification closed with a little over 13% voter turnout. While by no means a huge turnout, it at least beat the 10% that many naysayers said would be impossible to surpass. In that regard, I think the first online ratified GA was a success. We also had about 15% watch rate on the videos embedded in the ballot. Again, not an overwhelmingly high number, but at least it was more than 0. I think we learned a lot from this past GA and we have a lot to move forward on. I think we also need to start seriously discussing the format of the GA and its future. I think they are in important part of student life here at McGill, but we need to keep improving and building them in ways that work best for McGill students to share their ideas and debate on actions.



Governance Document Review Process – We embarked on 20,000\$ process of reviewing our governance documents during the summer. After last year's intense by-law review period, the last exec thought it wise to get the documents reviewed professionally to ensure legal compliance and general coherence. We have been working with our legal team for about two months to review the general structure of our documents. They have been working primarily on the Constitution. At this point, the By-law Review Committee and the Policy Committee will take over and start to review the new constitution format, review the by-laws and policies, and start to prepare them for final revision by our legal team. After that, we will go to referendum to finalize the new constitution. It is a huge process, and we can use as many councillors as possible to help get it done efficiently and effectively.

McGill Governance & Relations

Lease – We have had two very productive conversations with Professors Mendelson and Masi. While there is still a lot to clear up, we are ready to move forward. The details will be discussed in confidential session.

Board of Governors – The student supper and student fair ideas have been addressed with the Chair and the Secretary General. We will move forward on these for an event early next semester. This past Friday was the annual Board Retreat (followed by a lunch followed by Executive Committee). The conversation was good, and that's about all I can say. We also discussed several internal McGill matters, and the debate surrounding those topics was again quite interesting... wish I could say more!

Senate – The last Teaching and Learning Spaces Working Group meeting involved a very good conversation and debate over teaching space on campus, ownership of space, and the evolution of certain spaces. We also discussed the exciting renovations to Leacock 132. I will hopefully have some more hard data to share with everyone about this for next Council.

Alumni Association/Campus Community Committee – Status quo (rest period after Homecoming!).

Sustainability

Environment Commissioners – Environment Committee is setting up its first Green GA that will be a display and presentation of all of the different green/sustainable projects and clubs on campus. Also, members of the committee have been assigned to different groups on campus so that they can participate in their meetings and report back to EnviroComm and also take information the other direction.

ECOLE – We are moving forward with changing the team around and continuing research.

Green Events – The GBE has been talking with other schools about how her role works at their school. She has also been working with smaller events to help them run sustainably.

Green Building – The GBC will start working on an evaluation of the HVAC system in the building. His other projects include feedback mechanisms in coordination with the Environment Committee.



E-Waste Bin – We have all of the necessary information to move forward with the e-waste bin. We are now waiting on Building Committee to make a decision regarding placement and funding. Hopefully the bin will go somewhere visible in the building to encourage people to use it while simultaneously preventing disposal of items that are not supposed to go in the bin.

Peace, love, and happiness,

Josh Redel
President