



SEMESTERLY REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT FALL 2015

A brief overview:



Legend: Items in **black** are traditionally in the President's portfolio, items in **red**, however, are not. Items in **green** are new initiatives.

- To see my calendar, please visit: <http://bit.ly/1WHFhAN>
- *Note: The role of the President is largely administrative and is not designed to take on projects or things of the like, but rather support the Executives and permanent staff members in their work*

GOVERNANCE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Traditionally undertaken jointly with the General Manager*

- Met twice over the summer and meets monthly during the year
- We are considering revising the structure of our BoD to reflect what other student unions do (Council does the political work, BoD does the financial and legal work), because at present, we use Council as our functional BoD, and the BoD simply ratifies Council decisions on a monthly basis – this project may have to wait for next year, as we are considering other major governance changes this year

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

- Slowly succeeded in finding the info of & contacting all Councillors over the summer months
- Organized Councillor & Senator Retreat, with the help of the Parliamentarian & Speaker



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- All but 1 of the vacant Councillor seats have been filled and said Councillors have received orientation
- Coordinated Councillor & Senator Equity Trainings
- [Legislative Council Committees](#)
 - I sit on the Steering Committee (reviews Council submissions) and Internal Regulation (IR) Review Committee (reviews all of the IRs)

[GENERAL ASSEMBLY](#)

**Traditionally undertaken jointly with the Vice-President (Internal)*

- Scheduled and am facilitating the organization of both GAs (Nov. 9th & Feb. 22nd)

[GOVERNANCE DOCUMENT REVIEW](#)

- Have been working with the Internal Regulation (IR) Review Commissioner to complete the review of the [IRs of the Presidential Portfolio](#) (October-present)
 - Many sections are being cleaned up, so consultation with various groups is ongoing (related to Judicial Board, Elections, Council and the Board of Directors)
- We've reviewed 2 other sets thus far: the External Affairs and the Finance & Operations IRs

[PRESIDENTS' ROUNDTABLE](#)

- Coordinate monthly meetings between the Presidents of all the faculty associations to collaborate, share resources & best practices and learn about what others are doing
- [Lassman Graduation Photography Contract](#)
 - Negotiated, reviewed & signed both our contract with Lassman, in addition to our Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the faculties over the summer
 - Work with Garry Lassman to ensure that service provision for students is on point

[JUDICIAL BOARD](#)

**Traditionally, the General Manager would ensure that the hiring of the Judicial Board (JBoard) justices goes well and is removed from the Executives, to avoid potentially biased influence*

- Currently reviewing the Internal Regulations relating to the JBoard; 6 are hired

HUMAN RESOURCES

[PERMANENT STAFF](#)

- **SSMU Values:** In conjunction with various permanent staff members, developed the 'SSMU Values' document, which was designed to better align the goals and visions of our staff members within their respective departments to be more cohesive and student-centered
- **Social Committee:** Informally chair the Social Committee, which provides ideas on what kinds of social events the office would like to see; organized monthly socials.
- **General Manager (GM)**



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- **Resignation:** The GM announced their resignation early on in the semester and I worked with fellow executives to develop a contingency plan moving forward, namely the [delegation of their responsibilities](#)
- **Recruitment:**
 - Revised their job description with the Executives and consulted numerous recruitment firms to decide on which one we would go with for the hiring
 - Have been working with Kenniff & Racine for the recruitment
- **Supervision:** Have been supervising the following full-time staff since their departure:
 - Events Manager
 - Communications & Publications Manager
 - Human Resources Advisor
 - Daycare Director
- **Conflict Resolution:** Have taken on the task of resolving interpersonal and interdepartmental conflicts within the office, in the absence of the GM. This is *incredibly* time-intensive and is not something I can report on.

STUDENT STAFF

- Organized Student Staff Orientation, which involved our 200-ish student staff attending anywhere from 2-6 of our trainings offered, depending on their role (Equity, Mental Health, IT & Archiving, Sustainability, Office & HR), each of which had 3 sessions offered
 - Facilitated all of the Office Trainings
- Revised the Student Staff Orientation Guide
- Helped recruit our HR Coordinators (2)
- Supervision & management
 - Internal Regulation Review Commissioner
 - Parliamentarian
 - Speaker
 - Sustainable Events Coordinator
 - Environment Commissioners (2)
 - Ethics Commissioner
 - Secretary General
 - Recording Secretary (early September)
 - General Manager Administrative Assistant (early October)
 - Presidential Administrative Officer (late October)
 - Family Care Commissioner (November)

EXECUTIVES

- Conduct weekly check-ins with the Executives, in addition to tri-weekly/monthly Workplan meetings, where we review their goals and assess priorities and needs, both upcoming and unaddressed – my role is to support them in their work and help whenever needed
- Chair Executive Committee, which meets weekly for 4 hours



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- The Vice-President (Internal) announced their resignation in late September and I worked with fellow executives to develop a contingency plan moving forward, namely the [delegation of their responsibilities](#)
 - Although none of their tasks were delegated to me directly, the President would traditionally receive support from the VP Internal with the General Assembly and event organizing for the Centraide Campaign
- Organizing a retreat for the Execs on Nov. 13th-15th
- Spearheading the consultation regarding “Restructuring SSMU”, with the Executives, which will entail lots of consultation in the coming weeks regarding the potential addition of a 7th Executive and a massive reshuffling of the portfolios, which have become unsustainable

REPRESENTATION & ADVOCACY

SENATE

- **Senate**
 - Senate has met twice this year; nothing much to report on that front
 - **Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity Subcommittee on Aboriginal Peoples**
 - We’ve met twice and have many projects on the go
 - We’re working with the University on the final iteration of the traditional territorial acknowledgement
 - Beginning discussions for the (hopeful) eventual creation of an Indigenous Secretariat (2021, the 200th anniversary of McGill, seems quite timely!), which would spearhead both recruitment of and support for Indigenous students and faculty

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

- The Board of Governors met on October 8th and discussed the audited financial statements and communications with the government regarding the allegations of violating Bill 100 (executive pay)
- **CAMSR** (Committee to Advise on Matters of Social Responsibility)
 - This committee receives the petitions from Divest McGill regarding divesting our holdings in the fossil fuel industry; we’ve met twice since the beginning of my term and will meet on Wednesday. After CAMSR decided not to go with a study conducted by an external group which proved to be too vague and expensive, we have been seeking the advice of experts internal to the McGill community

CAMPUS RELATIONS

- **Deputy Provost, Student Life & Learning (DPSLL)**
 - Meet every 3 weeks with Chloe to discuss issues, projects and collaborations
- **First-Year Undergraduate Network (FUN)**
 - Coordinated the first meeting of FUN, which has now become part of the SSMU First-Year Council for all incoming students



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- **McGill Alumni Association (MAA)**
 - Collaborated on SEAMLESS (student exec conference) and are collaborating on a project to be launched in March 2016 related to philanthropy at McGill ~stay tuned
- **McGill Association for Continuing Education Students (MACES)**
 - Collaborating on events for the Centraide Campaign, helped them with their by-laws
- **Macdonald Campus Students' Society (MCSS)**
 - Went to Mac to meet their team; collaborating on the Centraide Campaign
- **McGill Community Council (MCC)**
 - Meets monthly on Tuesdays, aims to serve as a group where we discuss the positives and negatives associated with decisions made by the administration and aim to both communicate said info to high-level administrators and learn from it
- **McGill Office of Sustainability (MOOS)**
 - Met with their team in July to build our relationship – Environment Commissioners meet with them frequently
 - I will be sitting on the Catalyst Awards Review Committee
- **Post-Graduate Students' Society (PGSS)**
 - Collaborated on the organization of SEAMLESS
- **SEAMLESS – Student Executives At McGill Learning, Engaging, Strategizing & Engaging**
 - With Campus Life & Engagement (CL&E), PGSS and the MAA, we organized the 4th annual SEAMLESS (Oct. 18th) – went well, feedback was positive
- **Security Services** –Met with them in October to discuss our work with them & partnership
- **Student Housing & Hospitality Services (SHHS)**
 - FADAC – Food and Dining Advisory Committee
 - Met in October; SHHS is opening up a new (all-halal) shawarma & shish taouk location called Paramount in Trottier, woohoo!
 - SHHS is also going to post the ingredients for all the products online soon, which is incredible, especially for students with dietary restrictions
 - Residences
 - Worked on a presentation to Floor Fellows about Frosh (August)
 - Organized an info session for first-year students with Rez Life
 - Have been meeting with the SHHS Director, Mathieu, to discuss collaborations

MEDIA

- Conducted various interviews over the past many months for external & student media
- Held a Reddit AMA in June

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

- Supervise the Environment Commissioners, who are very self-led in their coordination of Environment Committee and the many events and endeavours undertaken by said group
- The Sustainable Events Coordinator is working on incorporating elements of sustainable event planning into SSMU's event management software, in addition to our own events



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FAMILY CARE

DAYCARE

- Conducted interviews over the summer & recruited [Nadia Ottaviano](#) for Daycare Director – she began work on Nov. 2nd! I will be supervising them until we have a General Manager
- Took on some of the administrative responsibilities of the Daycare in the absence of both the General Manager & Daycare Director
- Sit on the Daycare Board of Directors and will be helping with lease negotiations in January 2016 (preparations have begun)
- Have been having ongoing discussions with PGSS with regards to their MoA (contract) with the Daycare, as it is soon expiring

FAMILY CARE

- Worked with McGill's Family Resource Coordinator to on the first-ever Student Parent Orientation in September – allowed for resource sharing, networking & community building
- Hired the first-ever [Family Care Commissioner](#) and will be working with them on projects

PROJECTS & OUTREACH

- **AVEQ** (Association pour la Voix Étudiante du Québec) – Attended a few conferences throughout the summer with the VP External to represent the SSMU in the development of this new student federation, but had to take a step back due to recent resignations
 - **Centraide Campaign**
 - **Traditionally would have been undertaken jointly with the VP Internal*
 - Have been meeting regularly with the McGill Centraide Committee, as one of the 3 campaign co-chairs; our goal is \$475'000 this year, at McGill!
 - Organized an activity at Engage McGill with the VP External to acquaint incoming students with Centraide and its place in the McGill community
 - Organizing the first-ever [Centraide Cup](#), an interfaculty competition to raise funds for Centraide, from Nov. 1st to Dec. 1st – the prize is soon to be announced!
 - Organizing the first-ever [Centraide Apartment Crawl](#) with various other students groups, on Nov. 21st in the Milton-Parc & Lower Plateau areas (\$10 tickets, join us!)
 - Also organizing a Gerts Night for Centraide, in addition to a Pancake Breakfast!
 - **Handbook** – Oversaw the development of the Handbook and its content
 - **Target McGill, Parents' Tent & Discover McGill** – Coordinated the development of content for incoming students and parents for both events with the Executives.
 - **Inclusive Registration Forms Project** – Launched and delegated this project (to Chloe), due to the shifting of tasks with the resignation of the General Manager.
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GENERAL MANAGER TASK DELEGATION

**Note: This section is repeated from what is mentioned above, but consolidated for clarity (these are tasks that were delegated to me both once the vacancy was announced and prior)*

- **Social Committee:** Informally chair the Social Committee, which provides ideas on what kinds of social events the office would like to see; organized monthly socials.
- **Supervision:** Have been supervising the following full-time staff since their departure:
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 - Human Resources Advisor
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PERSONAL

Although 2015 has been an outrageously shitty year, this experience is a constantly enriching one and I'm super grateful for how great of a team we have here! The Execs work tirelessly (80~hr work weeks) to make sure that this ship is kept afloat, and our permanent staff put in more hours than they're paid for just to see this long-term endeavour through, so props to all of them! I also get to see all the Daycare kids walk to and from the Daycare from the window in my office, so there's always that to look forward to. Never hesitate to shoot me an email if you have any thoughts, positive, negative, or unresolved!

In solidarity,

Kareem Ibrahim