



Report to SSMU Council

October 1, 2009

Clubs, Services, and ISGs

Silent No More Awareness Campaign event – This event was held in Lev Bukhman on Thursday September 24. Choose Life also promoted it at a table they had booked through the SSMU in the lobby of Shatner and at Three Bares Park, which was booked through McGill. I spoke with the SSMU Security Supervisor, the External Coordinator for QPIRG, and the President of Choose Life before the event to discuss parameters and worst-case scenario plans. We had two security guards and myself present at the event and protest. The event and protests went as smoothly as possible. The event itself was very sparsely attended – the majority of the audience was composed of campus press and SSMU executives. The protestors did not impede on the event and were extremely cooperative when asked to clear fire exits. I have received several questions about how to remove Choose Life's club status. Only Council and J-Board have the power to remove club status. To initiate this process, an individual can file their complaint through any Councilor or through Equity, Clubs and Services, or Executive Committee. This Councilor or Committee may then make a motion or recommendation to remove club status. As per By-Law Book III:

“2.1 Council may revoke the accreditation of a Club, Service, Activity, or Medium by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote. Council must give the Club, Service, Activity, or Medium fourteen (14) days written notice of the meeting of Council at which the motion to remove accreditation will be tabled.”

Any individual may also file a petition with Judicial Board. As per the SSMU Constitution:

“30.1 There shall be a body entitled the Judicial Board which shall be the final authority on:

- the interpretation of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Society;
- the interpretation and legality of all motions passed by Council;
- the interpretation and legality of all procedures, questions and results of all referenda and elections;
- the interpretation and legality of the constitutions of all Society activities, clubs and functional groups;
- the interpretation and legality of any other groups as requested.

30.2 The Judicial Board shall follow principles of natural justice, including equity and good conscience. The Judicial Board may establish its own rules of practice.

30.3 The Judicial Board shall have the power:

- to declare invalid any act of Council, the Executive Committee or the General Manager which violates this Constitution and Bylaws;
- to declare invalid any act of a Society activity, club or functional group which violates this Constitution and Bylaws or its own constitution;
- to declare invalid any referendum or election that violates this Constitution and Bylaws;
- to order the placing of a referendum question on a ballot in cases of undue procedural delay.



30.4 All decisions of the Judicial Board shall be binding on the parties involved, and there shall be no appeal from such decision.

30.5 The Judicial Board shall provide written reasons for its decisions within thirty (30) days of the hearing in question."

Service meetings – In the past two weeks, I have met with MISN, TV McGill, SACOMSS, The Flat, Walksafe, Midnight Kitchen, Black Students' Network, Drivesafe, and McGill First Aid to go over each service's budget and SSMU's accounting procedures.

QPIRG Opt-out – This year the opt-out movement is being pioneered by the McGill Anatomy and Cell Biology Student Society, PLQ McGill, Conservative McGill, Free the Children McGill Chapter, and The Student Network for Economic Development. (Um, sure, whatever.) I encourage interested Councilors to read up on the Facebook Group "QPIRG: Opt-Out!" for more information. I will also be discussing opt-outs in more depth on Council retreat this weekend.

Room Booking online – I launched room booking online on Monday September 21. We have gotten several requests and have been able to process them quickly and efficiently. We have received positive feedback on the easiness of the system from both clubs and our front desk staff, who processes the requests. I am very happy this project has launched successfully – it's such an easy way to make being a club easier.

Activities Nights – Here is my more in-depth report on Activities Nights:

Before the event, I sent out a message in the August 10, August 26, and September 2 listservs reminding groups to apply for tables. It was also posted on the SSMU homepage and on the flatscreens. Table allocations and directions (including pass directions) were emailed out to the clubs and services listserv and all the emails listed on the table application forms on September 10 and September 14.

This year we increased the total number of visitors by 50% from last year and 120% from the year before. Overall we had more than 500 table volunteers each night and nearly 4,000 visitors overall. We also have nearly doubled the rate at which we admit visitors from 2007, resulting in shorter wait times. Here is the comparison to the past two years:

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|--|----------------|---------|----------------------|
| • Sept. 19 th 2007 | 1736 (+/- 100) | 5 hours | 6 people per minute |
| • Sept. 11 th 2008 | 2620 | 5 hours | 9 people per minute |
| • Sept. 14 th and 15 th , 2009 | 3788 | 6 hours | 11 people per minute |

Every single problem around Activities Night is a result of having building and floor capacities. There is no level of organization or planning that can prevent these problems -- we can only to our best to work within these parameters.

Most visitors fly through Gerts and the 1st floor, and then must line up to access the 2nd and 3rd floors. When those floors are at capacity, we then must stop the admission line. If we can keep visitors in Gerts and on the 1st floor for longer, we can spread out visitors on multiple floors and maximize the use of our floor capacities.

The pass system is also meant to cap the number of volunteers at a known and manageable number, and also give volunteers the ability to jump the line. Great in theory, not as great in practice. There are always excuses and complaints about forgetting passes, not knowing about passes, etc.



This year two doors on the 2nd floor were opened and used as exits/entrances. This threw off our counts and put us in danger of accidentally exceeding our capacity. We had to do a total recount of the 2nd and 3rd floors. Everyone was stopped from going upstairs while we did a total recount. This was totally unforeseen and random. It did not and should not happen again.

Overall I am incredibly proud of Activities Night and look forward to Winter Activities Night. I will try to brainstorm how to improve the pass system and ways to keep visitors in Gerts longer, improvements to which will allow more students to get into the building and at a faster rate. If anyone has any suggestions or feedback, please let me know.

Publications

Old McGill – After seven interviews last week, we selected an Editor-in-Chief, but she turned down our offer ☹️ We will have to make a decision about this ASAP to get a staff together. Our priorities are focusing on featuring the Faculties and clubs and services more heavily than we have in the past.

I am also going to bring a referendum question by which Old McGill would be funded by a fee levy. Every graduate would then get a copy of Old McGill at convocation. This would be a great way to promote campus unity and ensure every graduate has a memento from their time here. Printing 6,000 copies of Old McGill would greatly reduce the printing costs of each book and reduce the time spent on sales, allowing for a cheaper and better product. We are still finalizing the numbers, but expect the fee to be around \$4/semester.

Events

Student Leader 5 a 7 – It was good to touch base with some of the faculty executives.

SSMU Execs and Councilors Wine and Cheese – I hope this went well. As I am writing, it hasn't happened yet.

Council retreat – I have been preparing workshops to teach you all the things you don't know (so fun!). Besides the basic logistics, I will be giving presentations about issues affecting student life on campus such as opt-outs, space, controversial events, and funding. I am also excited to get the answers to some remaining questions I have – where is this "Gerts" I keep hearing about? How much money can I spend on redecorating my office? Why does Council take so long?

Controversial events on campus townhall - October 8th, at 5:30 pm, with Professor Mendelson, open to all students. This should be great fodder for discussion and thought.

Culture Shock – Culture Shock is a week-long event series of radical anti-racist programming put on by the SSMU and QPIRG. I have been meeting with QPIRG to compose the content and define the logistics. This year we are focusing on providing more 101 events and other programming accessible to all students – in other words, defining what "radical anti-racist programming" means.

Other

Referendum

Questions - I spent much of my time writing and editing referendum questions for the following fees:

- TV McGill - \$.50/semester to fund TV McGill's continued growth



- Ambassador Fee - \$1/semester to fund trips to conferences and competitions
- Old McGill - \$3.50?/semester to get every graduate a copy of Old McGill

These questions must be submitted to Student Accounts for approval ASAP. They will come to Council in October.

McGill Tribune independence – Because the Tribune has not incorporated, decided on their final budget, or organized a “yes” campaign, they have requested we push the independence referendum question to a special referendum period the spring. It will then have to go to BoG in April.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Olle
Vice President (Clubs and Services)