

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

Report to Council Presented October 15th 2009

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

"One sits the whole day at the desk and appetite is standing next to me. "Away with you," I say. But Comrade Appetite does not budge from the spot." -Leonid Brezhnev "God will not forgive us if we fail." -Leonid Brezhnev

Report of the VP External to SSMU Council

1. TaCEQ

SSMU hosted Table des associations meeting on Thanksgiving Monday October 12th that lasted **8 ½ HOURS F*%\$@!!!** The meeting was very productive and necessary.

- a) Intention was to have a GA to adopt the by-laws, but AELIES didn't show up because of political issues they are having with CADEUL instead, it was just a Table des association meeting.
- b) Discussed and strategized gaining recognition at the TPU as step to gaining recognition provincially. TaCEQ now in very good position since October 1st Demonstration because of strong alliances we have built with unions.
- c) After working with SSMU LPAC on translation, the English version of the quigereleducation.org site, whorunseducation has been sent to the webmasters...fingers crossed it's up by next week. This is exciting for accessibility of info on Governance issues to Anglophones
- d) Discussed and planned future campaigns and mobilization on governance issue. Looks like ASSE will no longer be taking leadership role, so that leave TaCEQ with responsibility. More info to come on TaCEQ campaign before end of 1st semester
- e) Picked date for inaugural General Assembly, to adopt by-laws and elect executive, and announce existence to public: November 21st and 22nd in Quebec City. Priority for SSMU now is to get TaCEQ website up and running.
- f) After finding out at Education Committee hearing (which was very successful for the TaCEQ) that the Minister had, to date, not been informed of our existence, we decided no longer to go through political attaché Madeleine Rheaume, who evidently has not done her job.
- g) SSMU's LPAC will be in charge of facilitating the development of a Policy Manuel for the TaCEQ, which will articulate common positions of the organization
- h) AFELC UQAM will have a referendum from November 9th to 13th which will have in it option to join the TaCEQ

2. Campaigns

a) Working with EdUS on planning Paid Practicum campaign. Met with Claudia Gucciardi, EdUS rep to SSMU, to map out action for next months and SSMU's involvement and support in that. EdUS will have new website coming out to launch awareness campaign and then other material through SSMU will follow.

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3. Research

- a) Transit age-cap on reduced fares: I've been communicating with law professors and constitutional scholars about the legality of the age-cap. This will inform our lobbying efforts with regard to this issue.
- b) Will present a report to Council, once thorough investigation is completed

4. SSMU website

- a) Have been working on revamping the content to the sections of the SSMU website pertaining to my portfolio
- b) This will include a page on the Municipal Election.

5. Chooselife

- a) Took up far too much of my time.
- b) Attended event "echoes of the Holocaust" to act as a student advocate.
- c) Conducted research into issues surrounding this club and supported many students interested in gaining more information about the issue.
- d) Drafted press releases from SSMU, should the external media have solicited them. Luckily they didn't.

6. CKUT

- a) Briefed two new undergraduate Board reps on all information necessary to be up to date on the issues of the radio station and provided them with a doc pack.
- b) Attended and participated in CKUT AGM on October 7th

7. Hiring

a) Have been looking over resumes for the Campaigns Coordinator position, details to be given orally.

8. External Affairs Committee

a) Sifted through the many interested people in this committee. Planned an informational meeting – details to be given orally – that will precede the first meeting next week.

Respectfully Submitted, Sebastian Ronderos-Morgan, VP (External) SSMU