



**Report of the Vice President (University Affairs) to  
the Legislative Council of the Students' Society of McGill University  
Meeting of September 17, 2009**

**For Information/Discussion:**

**Summer Activities**

- A. Research: I commissioned 3 research projects this summer.
- Technology and Assessment: This project is examining the current education and assessment technologies used at McGill (including WebCT, clickers, and webwork) and community reactions to the technologies in order to provide a foundation for making recommendations on improvements and features that would be beneficial to learning at McGill. The deadline has been extended.  
\*Will provide additional oral update.
  - Grade "Flation": This project set out to examine the phenomena of grade inflation and deflation at McGill across departments and was supposed to examine grading standards. It was not completed.
  - McGill's Use of Strategic Enrolment Management: This project examined McGill's plans for using "strategic enrolment management" to change the way that we recruit, enrol, and maintain students across faculties. It has been completed. Feel free to come to my office if you would like to see a copy and learn more.
  - Applied Student Research: By completing a project he once started, last summer, Dana Lahey has produced a fascinating study on "ADR" programs across the country and
- B. Conflict of Interest Policy: I took on the task of drafting a Conflict of Interest Policy for the SSMU. The goal of the policy is to give support to our decision makers and to maintain the integrity of our options. There is a lot of room for a Conflict of Interest to arise, and the past has shown that it is difficult to navigate these awkward situations. The policy addresses 3 key areas, 1. Decision making bodies, 2. Hiring, 3. Decision-making bodies.
- C. Centralized Learning Services: Work was begun on a project to improve learning and academic resources at McGill through the centralizing and expanding of learning services. This is a project that is still in its very preliminary stages and is currently under the jurisdiction of the Vice President Clubs and Services, participants from Student Services, and myself.
- D. Sustainable McGill: I worked closely with Jonathan Glencross and Jim Nicell (University Services) to create a plan for bringing McGill's sustainability initiatives to the next level through the creation of a Sustainability Fund. More information to come.
- E. Acclamation Task Force: Vice Presidents External, Finance and Operations, Clubs and Services, and myself met to discuss by-laws surrounding elections in order to prevent further mass acclamations in the future. These revisions will come to a later council.



- F. Support for other members of the Executive Committee and Faculty Student Associations: I attended and advised on meetings between members of the Executive and representatives of Faculty Students' Associations and the University to facilitate discussion and offer support.
- G. Securing the Society: Worked with other Executives in discussions with Administrators to secure the sustainability and safety of the Society. More information to come on specific issues.
- H. Awards of Distinction: I completed the Awards of Distinction for the 2008-2009 academic year.

### University Governance and Administration

- I. The first Senate meeting will occur on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 2:30 pm. **I will report on this meeting orally**
- J. Senate Caucus: the members of the 2009-2010 Undergraduate Student Senate Caucus are as follows...
  - a. Arts: Sarah Woolf, Nick Wolf, David Marshall
  - b. Science: Andrew Ling, Mitran Mehta
  - c. Management: Jérémie Drouillard
  - d. Engineering: VACANT (due to resignation, will be filled soon)
  - e. Music: Al Halavrezos
  - f. Medicine: Hana Thomas
  - g. Law: Faizel Gulamhussein
  - h. Dentistry: Mostafa Altalibi
- K. Issues
  - a. Course Packs: Towards the end of the last academic year, McGill terminated its agreement with Eastman Systems and made the decision to take on the task of compiling course packs internally through the Bookstore and Printing Services. This decision was primarily the result of annoyance with complying with new government regulations that require the University to go to public tender at the termination of its contract. The switch raised significant concern in students associations and professors. These concerns were raised with Jim Nicell (University Services) and Professor Morton Mendelson (Deputy Provost). An informal question was asked about Course Packs at Senate and a meeting was held (attended by Vice President Clubs and Services in my absence) to discuss the status of course packs in July. I encouraged University Services that the administrative switch was not of major concern, provided that course packs were on time and that the quality of the documents was at the normal standard. Discussions around this internalizing also signifying a step towards all online classroom resources followed and projects over the summer in Libraries have been working towards making this possible. Unfortunately, the Fall has come and many course packs are late. A question is being asked about this issue on the first meeting of Senate. **Will provide additional information orally.**
  - b. H1N1: Over the summer, the University decided to create a Pandemic Contingency Planning Group in order to prepare McGill for the impact that



the H1N1 pandemic will have on our administration, education, student life, and community safety. I sat on this group acting as the undergraduate student representative and gave extensive input on academic concerns. Please see me if you would like to view any documents I produced on the matter.

- c. Research Policy: A new research policy is being drafted through the office of William Foster (Policies and Procedures). Some students approached me with concern about the ethical soundness of the project. I have been maintaining contact with Foster in order to ensure that student input on the policy is welcome. The policy will be coming to Senate twice this year, first in the Fall for consultation.
  - d. Secretary General: At the end of June, Johanne Pelletier, the Secretary General of McGill, resigned from her position. Line Thibault was appointed as interim Secretary General. Despite attempts at being involved in the process of selecting a new Secretary General (an impartial office that oversees the Governance activities of the University), a new Secretary General (Steven Strople) was selected without consultation. I will be asking a formal question about this at the first Senate meeting. **Will provide additional information orally**
- L. Other Events
- a. McTavish Street Closing (pilot): As part of its many green initiatives, McGill has reached an agreement with the city of Montreal to close McTavish street to traffic.
  - b. McGill has facilitated the creation of a new bike path on University Street.
  - c. Chancellor: the new Chancellor, H. Arnold Steinberg, has begun his term.
  - d. Ombudsperson: After an unnecessarily long wait, Spencer Boudreau has been selected as our new Ombudsperson for Students.
  - e. "G5" comments: The Principal, along with 4 other Presidents from major Canadian Universities made comments to Macleans magazine in the context of an editorial. The information from the interviews was compiled into a document that outlines these 5 University's plans to phase out undergraduate education (placing the burden on smaller schools) and align their focus on graduate education and research. This provoked a controversy among Canadian Universities. **Will provide additional information orally**

#### **Other Smaller Projects and Goals for the Year (preliminary stages)**

- M. Libraries: Working with the LIFC to refashion our priorities, goals, and relationship with the libraries.
- N. Equity: Working to restructure Equity at McGill to ensure effectiveness.
- O. Working with the Black Students' Network: The BSN has expressed interest in revamping the Caribbean Studies and African Studies programs in the Faculty of Arts. I will be working with them to provide whatever help or guidance they require to realize their goals.
- P. The early release of the exam schedule.



**Meetings**

Q. Over the summer, regular meetings were held with the Deputy Provost Student Life and Learning (Morton Mendelson), the Executive Director of Student Services (Jana Luker), the Associate Vice Principal University services (Jim Nicell) and others.

**The Vice President University Affairs**

R. Please see the Appendix for a list of committees I will be sitting on this year.

S. Committees of Council under my portfolio

- a. University Affairs Committee
- b. Award of Distinction Committee
- c. Library Improvement Fund
- d. Equity Committee

**Attached**

T. Committee Appointments

**Please do not hesitate to contact me about any topics discussed in this report or relating to my portfolio**

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Dooley  
VP University Affairs 09-10



**Appendix: Student representatives on University Committees**

<b>Steering Committee</b>	<b>Rebecca Dooley</b>
<b>Nominating Committee</b>	<b>Rebecca Dooley</b>
<b>Committee on Enrolment and Student Affairs</b>	<b>Rebecca Dooley</b>
	<b>Andrew Ling</b>
<b>Academic Policy and Planning Committee (APC)</b>	<b>Rebecca Dooley</b>
	<b>Sarah Woolf</b>
	<b>Mitran Mehta</b>
<b>Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee</b>	<b>Jeremie Drouillard</b>
<b>Committee on Libraries</b>	<b>David Marshall</b>
	<b>Nick Wolf</b>
<b>Subcommittee of APPC on Teaching and Learning (SCTL)</b>	<b>Rebecca Dooley</b>
<b>Subcommittee of APPC on Course and Teaching Programs (SCTP)</b>	
	<b>Rebecca Dooley</b>
<b>Teaching and Learning Spaces Workgroup</b>	<b>Rebecca Dooley</b>
<b>Workgroup on grading</b>	<b>David Marshall</b>
<b>Senate Committee on Physical Development</b>	<b>Faizel Gulamhussein</b>
	<b>Ivan Neilson</b>
<b>Subcommittee on Environment</b>	<b>Maggie Knight</b>
<b>Committee on the Coordination of Student Services (CSS)</b>	<b>Rebecca Dooley</b>
	<b>Sarah Olle</b>
	<b>Al Halavrezos</b>
	<b>Barbara Dourley</b>
	<b>Karina Gould</b>
	<b>Andrew Doyle</b>
	<b>Alex Brown</b>
<b>Advisory Committee on Alcohol Policy</b>	<b>Ivan Neilson</b>
<b>Athletics Board</b>	<b>Jose Diaz</b>
<b>CAPS Advisory Board</b>	<b>David Marshall</b>
	<b>Mitran Mehta</b>
	<b>Hana Thomas</b>
	<b>Sarah Olle</b>
<b>Counseling Service Advisory Board</b>	<b>Nick Wolf</b>
	<b>Mostafa Altalibi</b>
<b>CCSS Finance Committee</b>	<b>Jose Diaz</b>
<b>Health Service Advisory Board</b>	<b>David Marshall</b>
	<b>Al Halevrezos</b>
<b>Advisory Committee on International Students</b>	<b>Jose Diaz</b>
<b>Sub-committee on Residences</b>	<b>Alex Brown</b>
<b>Joint Senate-Board Committee on Equity</b>	<b>Hana Thomas</b>
<b>Subcommittee on Women</b>	<b>Sarah Woolf</b>
<b>Subcommittee on Persons with Disabilities</b>	<b>Al Halavrezos</b>
<b>Subcommittee on Race and Ethnic Relations</b>	<b>Faizel Gulamhussein</b>
<b>Subcommittee on First Peoples</b>	<b>Hana Thomas</b>



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

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Office of the Vice-President (University Affairs)

Bureau du Vice-président (affaires universitaires)

**Subcommittee on Queer People**

**Rebecca Dooley**

**Committee for the Principal's Prize for Excellence in Teaching**

**Rebecca Dooley**

**Committee for the Principal's Prize for Excellence in Administration and Support Staff**

**Rebecca Dooley**

**Student Advisory Committee on Information Technology**

**Rebecca Dooley**

**David Marshall**