



Report to SSMU Council

November 26, 2009

Absence

I am not at Council this week. I will be able to answer any questions about my report or discuss anything in more detail individually – call me, text me, email me, come by my office, Facebook chat me, write on my wall, send me a Facebook message, Tweet me, Googlewave me, BBM me, write a message on my board, or put a note in my mailbox.

Note: These are all actually ways you can contact me.

Clubs, Services, and ISGs

McGill First Aid Service on-call – MFAS currently provides first aid services to student events (such as athletic games and alcohol-related events) that may require a fast response. Last year they submitted a proposal to McGill to go on-call every day to be available for any campus emergencies during class times. McGill has been very hesitant, at first for liability reasons, now for nit-picky details such as ending the day at 4:30 pm vs. 7 pm and having proper snow footwear. I am working with the Director of MFAS and the head of McGill safety to understand whether altering these small details will improve their chances of McGill accepting their proposal, or whether McGill is just finding reasons to reject their proposal.

Organic Campus - As part of the Five Year Plan for Sustainability, Organic Campus will work with SSMU to establish a permanent storefront in the building. Organic Campus has applied for and been granted funding from the Generations Pact to help establish this store. However many issues have not been addressed. McGill has not given us permission to do establish this store or renovate this area. We will need new permits. We have concerns about staff structure, inventory control, and more. We will be working with Organic Campus on these issues before moving forward with this project.

Choose Life follow-up – I informed our Front Desk staff and McGill Events Bookings they are no longer a club and gotten our IT Manager to take down their website.

There has also been national press coverage on the suspension on CBC (TV, radio, and online), National Post, and on various talk radio shows. Most of it is totally factually inaccurate and just leads to us getting more hate mail. Favorite descriptions of SSMU: “neo-con over-lords”, “Stalin-ish”, “communist”...

Opt-outs – I attended a great meeting with members of CKUT, QPIRG, several QPIRG working groups, Midnight Kitchen, and other interested parties about opt-outs. McGill moved opt-outs online and under their control in 2007, at which point SSMU quickly passed a policy to fight against the system. The main topics discussed were why people opt-out, if opt-outs are/can be



truly informed under the current system, and a strategy of how to best confront the increase in opt-outs.

Publications

Old McGill – This is picking up! We have a cover design, page ladder, and a team. We have already received 100 orders – wowzers! I am working to try to incorporate more club/service photos.

Tribune – The Editor-in-Chief has met with the chief legal counsel of McGill. They are moving forward on incorporating with the McGill name.

Building

Interior signage - Pauline and I worked with Metalplas on Phase 2 of the interior signage. They drafted an estimate for \$8,975.00 (plus installation) for 16 signs, 50 room number plaques, and 3 banners. The banners will replace the current hideous artwork between the 3rd and 4th floor. The central 10' x 15' banner will have the SSMU and AEUM logo. The thinner banners flanking it will have photos of student involvement from the past 100 years, taken from Old McGills. I am very excited about the banner project! *This project will be brought for approval at Executive Committee on Wednesday.*

Exterior signage – After several conversations with Professor Covo and Sportmedia about the architectural elements of the sign, Sportmedia is doing final drawings. These drawings will be presented to the Secretariat and Deputy Provost for approval.

Dishwasher - The dishwasher is fixed! Plate Club can now operate again.

Cafeteria Break Out Room – We received a quote of \$71,700 from McGill Facilities and Minicucci architecture firm to create a formal meeting room beside the Lev Bukhman room. This quote includes demolishing the floor finishes, light fixtures, and an opening for a new door, vinyl floor tiles, glass door, folding partition wall, blinds on 5 windows, repainting and lighting. 54% of this cost is the actual construction, and 46% is additional fees. This is ridiculous, but a McGill standard. *This project will be brought for discussion at Executive Committee on Wednesday and will come to Council before moving forward.*

10 Year Plan for the Building – I have worked to thoroughly outline and analyze the principles, space usage, energy usage, and financial model of the building. I am now working on the proposed renovation projects.



Other

100 Years of SSMU – I commissioned a researcher to outline the past 100 years of SSMU projects and issues. Eric Van Eyken has been hired. He is laboriously going through old Tribunes and Dailies to compile a succinct history of issues and projects on McGill campus. We will have this final document by the beginning of next semester. He has already compiled most of the 1980s. Teasers – QPIRG's first project was instituting recycling at McGill! In 1984, SSMU owed over \$700,000 to McGill! PGSS was under the SSMU from the early 1960s until...?

Ambassador Fee – Jose and I are working on the by-laws and application for the Ambassador Fund. I have met with SAE design team for their input. These will be presented at the first Council next semester.

Committee on Student Services – This is the Senate Committee which gives large-scale strategy and priorities to McGill Student Services (student health, mental health, counseling, CaPS, etc.). We had our second meeting last Monday. We discussed the model for inflationary increases, the objectives of each of the student services for this year and projects to use some of their long-term savings. At our next meeting in January, we will be setting areas of priority/improvement for next year. These priorities will shape our later budget discussions and in the end may lead to a student services fee increase referendum.

Data input clerk and club website designer – I am hiring these two part-time positions. The data input clerk will input all the club descriptions into the website, a boring but necessary job that our Communications Manager doesn't have time to do. The clubs website designer will help clubs design their own websites.

Meetings

For your information since last Council, I attended the following meetings: Jana Luker (Executive Director of Student Services) and Wes Cross (Finance and Systems Manager of Student Services), Committee on Student Services, Coffee with SSMU Execs, Exec Committee (x 2), AIESEC, Organic Campus (storefront proposal), McGill First Aid (on-call proposal), Clubs and Services Committee, QPIRG and others (opt-outs), SAE Design Team (Ambassador Fee), Old McGill staff, interview for data input (x 3), and BPR (energy audit).

Since the last Council, I have spoken with approximately 60 students about SSMU issues, mostly at these meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Olle
Vice President (Clubs and Services)