



**Report of the Vice President (University Affairs) to  
the Legislative Council of the Students' Society of McGill University  
Meeting of January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

Happy New Year! I hope you all enjoyed your breaks! Mine was pretty Jerseytastic.  
Unfortunately not JerseyShoretastic. But I did read a lot of Paulo Freire.

"Liberating education consists in acts of cognition, not transferrals of information"  
–Paulo Freire

**For Information/Discussion:**

**H1N1**

- A. As many of you know there was a short term vaccination clinic set up in Health Services for a few days during exams. As far as I know most of the planning for H1N1 preparation will not be continuing at the same level as it was last semester. Health authorities are still encouraging people to be careful with their health and take good care of themselves. It is recommended that people still get their seasonal flu vaccines.

**SSMU Affairs**

- B. “The McGill We Want”: The Task Force is making progress. I will be launching a large amount of material over the course of next week once students are more open to information. We will be hosting a series of forums called “The Take Over” that will empower students to dialogue about how they would like to improve their education and experience at McGill. Will has spent the break compiling existing data and creating a skeleton document. Check the website and look out for the advertisements. Once the campaigns get into full swing I would appreciate all of the help I can get to spread the word.
- C. Student Equity Committee: Will be bringing a revised Equity Policy to next Council for approval. Meeting with Choose Life will also begin this semester. I will have more to report on this issue next Council after our first meeting with them of the semester. Jonathan has begun planning Social Justice Days with QPIRG, which will most likely be happening sometime in March.
- D. Library Improvement Fund Committee: There was some concern in December that the University has not been matching the funds for the LIF. This issue was cleared up by Janine Schmidt and I have been assured that this will be closely monitored in the future. Will being reporting further on this committee to Council as the year progresses.
- E. UAC: Please come and see me if you are interested in sitting on University Affairs Committee.

**University Affairs**

- F. Senate: Next meeting, January 20<sup>th</sup>.  
a. Meetings for the remainder of the year: Wednesdays 2:30pm in Lea232



- i. February 10
    - ii. March 24
    - iii. April 28
    - iv. May 19
  - b. Questions to be asked are in progress of being planned by Senate Caucus.
  - c. I have been met with some concerns about our Committee Representation. It is unclear whether or not there are some committees that are simply not meeting. We have also lost representatives and until we get more times will be tough.
  - d. See attached final submission of recommendations on the Research Policy. We will most likely be seeing the final policy at this upcoming Senate meeting.
  - e. Resignation of Senator: As you all know, Senator Nick Wolf resigned. I will report further updates orally.
- G. Principal's Task Force: There will be a meeting next Thursday at 5pm for Councillors to discuss the recommendations that we will be putting forward to the Principals Task Force. We are requested to make 1 or 2 recommendations to address each of the 3 areas of Diversity, Excellence, and Community Engagement. The final document will be prepared by myself and Will, and the final recommendations will be presented at next Council for approval before the recommendations are sent to the Principal. Thus far a broad characterization of the recommendations we are tossing around are as follows:
- a. Diversity: Encouraging Access to McGill for Underrepresented Groups, Providing Resources to Staff to Accommodate a Diverse Student Population, Utilization and Expansion of Existing Equity and Diversity Resources on Campus
  - b. Excellence: How do undergraduate students measure excellence? Hands-On Experience, Research Opportunities, Diverse and Flexible Programming, Excellent Professors and Learning Resources, Post-Graduate Support; Expanding Our Means for Self-Evaluating Excellence
  - c. Community Engagement: The use of community engagement as a tool for learning, Resources and Activities for Local and Commuter Students, Programming for the Community/Resources for Non-local Students to Become a Part of the Community
- H. Course Packs: I have been informed by Jim Nicell that due to late submissions by the majority of professors requesting course packs that many courses will see their course packs late again. It is important to acknowledge that this is not the fault of Printing at this point. Professor Nicell has set up a webpage on the McGill Bookstore website that will allow students to track if their coursepacks are ready.
- I. French Clause on Syllabi: Please inform me if it is discovered that the French clause is missing on a syllabus. If there is a high volume I will be following up on this next week and examples would be useful.
- J. MART: Meetings have been scheduled for the remainder of the semester, please check with your VP Academic and encourage them to get in touch with me. I have not heard back from everyone yet.



- K. Classroom Standards Working Group: I have become a part of an exciting new group that will be setting architectural, technological, and other standards for all McGill classrooms. This could mean anything as technical as “all classrooms must have this level of acoustic reverberation” or something as simple as “all classrooms must have this much cushion on the chairs”. The Working Group is still in its very early stages. I sort of threw everyone off when I suggested that we define a “classroom” as the entire experience that a student has with the act of going to class in a room (this would include entering a classroom, leaving a classroom, and negotiating between classrooms).
- L. Course Scheduling: I hope to make a lot of progress on changes to Course Scheduling this semester. Kathleen Massey, the McGill University Registrar, has been very helpful thus far. Professor David Noble Harpp has charged me with the task of getting McGill professors to record a brief YouTube-type video explaining why you should take their course. While I will not be running around campus with a video camera, I will be trying to work with the Registrar to brainstorm and streamline the process. This may not be fully implemented until after the Registrar has tackled the issue of Coordinated Scheduling, but I am optimistic that we can do a lot of small things to make Course Scheduling on the student end less stressful and more intuitive (The phrase “Shopping Cart Technology” is being thrown around).
- M. Advisory Committee: I will be continuing my work on the Advisory Committees for the Selection of the VP RIR and the Director of Libraries.

### **Sustainability**

- N. Sustainable Projects Fund: At the time this was written there was nothing new to report.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

- O. SCTP, SCTL, Advisory for the Selection of RIR/Director of Libraries, APC, Senate, Meeting with the Deputy Provost, CSS, Equity, Choose Life

### **For Approval:**

none

**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