

External Affairs Committee report
4 February 2010

The external affairs committee has had three primary goals for this academic year: the establishment of TaCEQ as a provincial-level student federation, the creation of an external affairs policy handbook for SSMU, and increasing students' awareness of current education-related issues.

TaCEQ

SSMU's external affairs committee spent a number of weeks reviewing the proposed by-laws of the organisation. Among other things, we helped define the terms of membership, modified the organisation's language policy, and clarified voting procedure. All of our amendments were accepted at the TaCEQ's inaugural GA, held in Quebec in December.

Policy Guide

SSMU lacks a formal external policy guide; given the various issues that have come up recently (and others that are expected to arise in the next few years), it would be prudent for SSMU to have codified its positions on external affairs. To that end, the committee has been conducting research into relevant topics ranging from the distribution of student aid to how the university raises and spends funds. The results of our research will be formulated into policy suggestions, to be proposed to council in mid-March.

Student Awareness / Mobilization

The mobilization committee (a subcommittee of external affairs) has been reconvened after a hiatus of a few years. Its goal is to raise awareness of the broader issues that impact students. The mobilization committee is planning a series of workshops on topics like SSMU and the student movement, and the fiscal capacity of the state (particularly as regards education funding). The mobilization committee is also working to raise awareness of TaCEQ and its campaigns. Membership on the mobilization committee is open to all McGill students, so please encourage anyone who is interested to contact Sebastian.

In summary, we have reviewed the by-laws of the TaCEQ and seen them through to implementation; the SSMU external policy document is in the works; and the mobilization committee will be in full swing by next week.

David Lipsitz
Chairman, External Affairs Committee