



*Every day you may make progress. Every step may be fruitful. Yet there will stretch out before you an ever-lengthening, ever-ascending, ever-improving path. You know you will never get to the end of the journey. But this, so far from discouraging, only adds to the joy and glory of the climb.*

*Sir Winston Churchill (1874 - 1965)*

## **Report of the President to Council February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**Martlet Basketball:** (30 January) Second year Forward Anneth Him-Lazarenko puts up a double-double (16 pts 11 reb) to seal the win 57-51 over Bishops. One of McGill's most talented young athletes.

**Daycare:** I have received a revised contract from Daniel Simeone (PGSS President), with no significant additions or deletions. The term was slightly modified, and some cancellation clauses inserted. Overall, I think this will provide solid protection on for both sides, so I am not concerned.

**Generations Pact Projects:** Great News! We just received our funding. Both projects have already started, and I am anxiously awaiting an update from the Organic Campus Organic Storefront project. If we are going to make significant progress on this soon, I will need a full proposal.

**Plate Club:** I have received a preliminary budget from them, and a proposal for their structure. They would like to have two stipended positions which would support the lunch and events branches of the operation. Otherwise, it will still be dependant on volunteers. Both coordinators would be responsible for working a certain amount of hours, but this will not be sufficient for their entire operation. We will see what challenges they face this semester, and what their ideal place within SSMU is.

**Cafeteria Meeting Room:** I have secured matching funds from the Internally Restricted Endowment Fund for this project. This will cut the estimated \$71,000 cost roughly by half. I'm happy to be using it; this is what the fund was intended for. Further, we now have greater flexibility if identify other capital expenditures before the end of the year.

**Presidential Affairs Committee:** is now in the process of drafting terms of reference for the new committee structure. This is only half the battle as we need to massively rework Book I of the By-Laws; the committee section is hopelessly out of date.

**University Centre (aka Shatner) Lease:** Still waiting, no word.

**Referendum Questions:** You should already have had a first look at the Referendum Questions to be voted upon. This will be come later in the agenda. The deadline for student-initiated referendum questions is February 12<sup>th</sup>, and they require 500 signatures.



**Elections:** Nomination period opened February 1<sup>st</sup>. So far, we have not received any kits, but that will surely change. Currently, CEO Michael Vallo is working hard to recreate the excellent success of the Fall Electoral Period. He is reviewing which poll stations were most effective, and scouting new locations. Additionally, by diversifying their communication strategy (beyond print), they have found some extra money in their budget. With this, they are looking to offer a travel voucher from Voyages Campus. The last time this was offered as an incentive, voter turnout exceeded 30%.

**General Assembly:** So far, promotion has been very solid. We have had excellent presence on both Faculty and SSMU listservs, the SSMU main page and the GA minisite. As I write this report, the Facebook event is currently at 229 attending, and 195 maybe. Our first round of posters had just over a week before the deadline for motions which was January 28<sup>th</sup> at 12PM. VP Brown has finalized the advertising in all three newspapers (Daily, Delit, and Tribune). I have also purchased Facebook advertising, and I will update on that progress in person.

We are continuing to look for creative ways to spread the word as the date draws closer. As per our schedule, we will be assigning Councillors classroom announcement responsibilities.

**Athletics Board:** This meeting happened last Tuesday, and it was disappointing to say the least. I have included the basic budget with my report and there are a few lines that I find troubling.

- \$65,000 for playoff expenses, contribution withdrawn from the Office of Student Life and Learning
- \$75,000 contribution for the Director's salary withheld
- \$125,000 to pay the overhead recovery fee

In general, Athletics presented a very solid budget, but had to factor in these costs over which they had no control. Also, it appears that Athletics will not have control over its revenue increases, so the only choice is to cut from established programs.

This will likely result in the re-classification of several Level 2 teams, and funding cuts to those that remain. I am investigating to see if SSMU can offer additional support (beyond what is contributed from CLF already).

I brought this up directly with both the Provost and Deputy Provost, but they were unapologetic. Overall, I'm not impressed with the management philosophy coming from the Central Administration. Clearly, they enjoy having the prestige of a developed Athletic program, but not paying for it.

**Provost Budget Presentation:** VP Dooley and I met with the Provost to discuss the University's financial situation. Two delegates from PGSS were also invited. Essentially, the meeting was supposed to justify some of the difficult decisions being made by McGill. The University has a commitment to the Board and to the Government of Quebec to balance its budget by the end of fiscal year 12. In short, unless some pretty serious measures are taken, that won't happen.



**Meeting with the Principal:** This is scheduled for the 17<sup>th</sup> of February. Unlike our previous meeting VP Dooley and I will be accompanied by the entire Executive team so that we can address a broader range of issues. Please, contact me if there is anything you would like me to bring up with the Principal. An informal meeting is a rare opportunity and I would like to take advantage. We are criticized by Senior Administrators for being out of touch with the 'average' student, please help us change that.

**Law Students' Association:** I have been advised that the LSA Council has created a committee to examine their relationship with SSMU. I will have more details on this as the process develops.

**Senate Committee on Physical Development (SCPD):** SCPD received an update on the status of deferred maintenance at McGill. Even with the recent KIP (Knowledge Infrastructure Projects) money to the tune of \$100 Million, McGill is still at a figure of \$600+ million. AVP Nicell assured the committee that the position is stronger, because they have identified and prioritized the most pressing repairs.

**Food and Dining Advisory Committee (FADAC):** After the Committee on Ancillary Services (CAS) was disbanded, and by extension the subcommittee on Food, the University recently created this Advisory committee. This is a high priority for the new director of Food and Dining Services. The membership comprises all major student and staff association Presidents, and the Deputy Provost. The first meeting will be on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Board of Governors:** There will be a Board of Governors meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup>. I have been attending Executive Committee meetings. I anticipate the business at the Big Board to be related to employee benefits, and the recent issues with the Minister of Education.

**Succession Planning:** This happened on Monday, had a few interested candidates. Whether they will develop into real candidacies, only time will tell!

**Presidential Roundtable:** Had a very productive meeting with the Faculty Presidents. We discussed potential proposals to the LIFC from the Faculty level, fee levies at the Faculty level, and best strategies for General Assembly promotion.

#### Past Meetings

25<sup>th</sup> MAA Retreat  
25<sup>th</sup> Board of Governors Executive Committee  
26<sup>th</sup> Athletics Finance Meeting  
26<sup>th</sup> Presidential Roundtable  
27<sup>th</sup> Provost Budget Considerations  
27<sup>th</sup> MAA Board of Directors  
28<sup>th</sup> Senate Committee on Physical Development  
28<sup>th</sup> Succession Workshop with the First Year Office

#### Upcoming Meetings

8<sup>th</sup> Food and Dining Advisory Committee



10<sup>th</sup> MAUT Pre-Senate Meeting  
10<sup>th</sup> Senate  
10<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
12<sup>th</sup> Due date for Student Initiated Referendum Questions  
15<sup>th</sup> Campus Community Committee  
15<sup>th</sup> Board of Governors (Full Meeting)  
16<sup>th</sup> Presidents Roundtable  
17<sup>th</sup> SSMU Executive Meeting with the Principal

Respectfully Submitted,

Ivan Neilson, President