



**Report of the Vice President (University Affairs) to
the Legislative Council of the Students' Society of McGill University
Meeting of February 4th, 2010**

For Information/Discussion:

H1N1

- A. Attached is the final briefing document on H1N1 from the Pandemic Contingency Planning Group. Enjoys the stats!

SSMU Affairs

- B. "The McGill We Want": www.ssmu.mcgill.ca/mcgillwewant
a. "Taking Over the Classroom": February 9th, 6pm. Leacock 219.
- C. Student Equity Committee: We have a full committee! See report.
- D. Social Justice Days: February 8th-17th: Get excited about our awesome events!
a. <http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/socialjusticedays>
- E. Library Improvement Fund Committee: Met this Wednesday. Have started tabling very preliminarily in the Library. Will report to next Council.
- F. UAC: Accepting nominations...
- G. General Assembly: The VP External and I have moved the Self-funding tuition model motion for the GA next week with a few updates in its background.

University Affairs

- H. Senate: February 10th meeting. SO SOON!
a. Question to be asked: Public Affairs reporting to Senate.
b. Items of interest coming forward to Senate: Research Policy, Student Life and Learning Report Card, and Student Services Strategic Plan.
c. Senate Caucus: 2 meetings to report on.
i. February 2nd: Discussion on Senate and future strategy, will report on any further orally.
d. Live Reporting During Senate: The Daily expressed interest in this in their Editorial last week ("The Revolution will not be Tweeted"). I have encouraged them to submit a request to the SecGen if they would like to receive Senate permission to live-communicate Senate meetings and have advised them on this. Caucus and I are definitely interested in supporting this initiative and raising this issue at Senate if necessary.
- I. University Committees: Will be looking into apps from interested students this week and next. Also working with the DPSLL Office to discuss the creation of an exhaustive list of Student seats on UCs. Also in the works... plans for creating a more cohesive "Caucus" of undergraduate student reps on UCs across campus. Hooray for cohesion!
- J. Provost Budget Meeting: PGSS, the President and I met with the Provost and Professor Mendelson to see a presentation on the budget. This was very informative and a good opportunity to discuss more in depth the challenges facing McGill in balancing its budget... I truly do not envy him his job. Lack of investment in



education is a downward sloping freight train of an issue and in Quebec McGill is consistently getting the short end of the stick. However, I do disagree with him on some points relating to how best to manage this lack of funding with relation to tuition and the repercussions that this had on the accessibility of education (so... nothing new). We will most likely be discussing the budget further at our next meeting with him later this semester. I look forward to having more of these very helpful more personal discussions with him and Professor Mendelson.

- K. Nominating Committee: Approval of Statutory Selection Committees. Some discussion about the best way to construct these committees. Business as usual.
- L. Mental Health Service Advisory: I attended Mental Health Service Advisory Board on the 22nd. This is a very interesting unit with a complex triage system and a lot of students that they see every day. Mental Health Services has extended their hours to 7:00 am to 5:30 pm and has made every attempt to negotiate differential services for Grad students and Undergrads. I am interested in their new project to develop a "Student Rights and Expectations" document to guide their service of students.
- M. Health Services: VP Olle and I met with Jana Luker last week to discuss concrete changes we can make in Health Services to better students' experience. It looks like the pressure we are putting on them will hopefully pay off and result in an investment in more hires and a few other administrative changes. We will be working with Senator Marshall and the administrators in Health Services to further discuss what these changes will look like. I would also like to see a project that was brought to our attention pushed along faster- Online check-in for drop-in appointments.
- N. Opt-Outs: The system in place is obviously not fully accomplishing what the University hoped in theory. Students are blanket opting-out. This is of course a right every student has. However, there is a definite concern that the format in which online opt-outs are presented to students does not give them all the necessary information so that they can make an informed decision and/or does not put them through an actual process of decision-making. VP Olle and I will be looking into avenues for addressing these concerns with Professor Mendelson and his office.
- O. Student Life and Learning Report Card: www.mcgill.ca/studentlife/
- P. ESAAC: Meeting on February 3rd. Will report orally.
- Q. 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

- R. Sustainable Projects Fund: The event last week was a success! PGSS Council discussed the Referendum question on their February 4th Council meeting. They have decided to suggest a \$7.50 flat fee per semester because of the different way that grad students take credits. Will report the progress on this orally.

For Approval: none

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



Students' Society of McGill University
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Respectfully Submitted,

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VP University Affairs 09-10