



## Report of the President to Legislative Council

February 21, 2013

### Student Democracy and Constituencies

*Judicial Board* – The Tribune is writing a feature about the J-Board, so we'll see what that looks like! Otherwise, everything is chugging along according to plan here.

*Council* – We have our First Year Forum tonight! Invitations were sent out through FUN connections. We are being hosted in the Carrefour Sherbrooke Residence Ballroom, and I'm excited to see what that will be like! Two councillors are no longer with us: Omar Shamji and Meredith Driesberg, as they had missed far too many meetings. MUS is required to find a replacement by their constitution, so they have begun that process.

*Presidents' Roundtable* – After a scheduling nightmare, we have completed our February Presidents' Roundtables. We had some pretty substantial discussions, and I am excited that we are continuing to break down the barriers between faculties and really collaborate on things beyond events (though even collaboration is great, too!).

*Elections SSMU* – At long last, the login feature is finished and ready to go. Starting late next week (just in time for GA ratifications), students will be able to access their ballots in two ways: "email blast" (the new style) and traditional login (the old way). I really think the combination of the two will show marked improvement in voter turnout.

*General Assembly* – Preparations are in full swing. Press passes, bathroom passes, and staff passes have all been designed and printed. Posters for motion submission have been up for a week and a bit now all over the SSMU building and in core buildings on campus. "Regular" posters will go up today/tomorrow next to the motion submissions posters. There will be a GA ad in the Tribune in both English and French the day before the GA itself. There will be four awesome workshops offered (by execs!) before the GA itself. Motions have been sent to the translator, and I am still waiting to hear back re content for the website in French. All of the faculties are sending out GA blurbs in upcoming listservs. The last agenda item for the GA will be a super awesome "space" component. I have been in contact with NCS, and they will be upgrading the routers in the Ballroom before the GA to ensure that we have higher bandwidth for the meeting so that we don't run into the same problems with the live stream as last time. Justin is in the process of making "rule" cards and posters; they should be ready for Tuesday. The website has been updated to reflect all of the changes for this semester. We are also really encouraging people to bring laptops, tablets, or smartphones so that they can engage in a special version of the live stream tailored at people physically at the GA. This will be a way use technology to improve the kind of conversation at the GA; the layout will be made so that people can discuss in chats and via polls to have secondary conversations during debate period. It's not meant to distract but instead to augment conversation with a second layer (think discussion via chat and debate at the mic). First year groups will also be sending out GA information on their Facebook groups. Finally, I have created a three-pronged promotion strategy for councillors, and if they do it, we will have a really successful GA!



*Governance Document Review Process* – Status quo. Meeting next Thursday (ugh such a bad day to pick!).

*Orientation Week/Frosh* – I am composing technical interview for next week for the two candidates for the Orientation Week Website Developer.

*Winter Projects* – I think I might do a one day Winter Carnival thing, but there is just so much going on... Ice rink is going super well, and it is getting a lot of formal and informal use, so I think it is fair to say that it is getting the job done. As such, we will move forward with plans for a permanent installation next year.

*Handbook* – Status quo.

*SPACE* – Allison and I have been hard at work creating the SPACE CAMPAIGN. It is really going to be amazing. I think it will help create an excellent vision of how we want to see our building evolve, and it should also provide a good reference point for future renovations and space allocations. There will be 6 weeks of consultations, starting next week. Get SO excited! As of this weekend, you will be able to check out everything on <http://ssmu.ca/space>. There are two ways to get involved: online and in person. On the website, you will be to follow the campaign, fill out floor plans, do surveys every week, and write your thoughts in a forum. In person, you can draw on large printed floor plans, fill out room-specific surveys and floor plans, post sticky notes all over the building, and partake in targeted meetings.

*Daycare* – Status quo.

### McGill Governance & Relations

*Lease* – The third negotiation meeting takes place tomorrow.

*Board of Governors* – The Afternoon Social was really good! The members of the Board really liked it, and I personally teared up during the presentations because it is exactly why I love McGill soooooo much (I wish I had thought to video record it...). The second portion could have had better guidance, but many students made the point that I am wicked biased in my thoughts about the second part because I have the privilege of hearing those conversation all the time, and for many people they found it intriguing to hear a different level of those conversations (despite the format and many of them “not having solutions”). This is 100% a do-over next year.

*Senate* – I had an excellent meeting about a potential “Alcohol Philosophy” document that the Advisory Committee on Alcohol Policy will hopefully bring to Senate in the next two months. I think it really outlines *why* we have drinking on campus, and it highlights a lot of the core principles that I think make McGill a really key trend setter in harm reduction. I thought that this past senate was one of the best so far this year; we had actual conversation and about topics, and I think we passed a good resolution re budget cuts.

*Alumni Association/Campus Community Committee* – Status quo.



## Sustainability

*Environment Committee* – UGH the Green Groups Forum yesterday was SO good. I really truly loved the format, and it was an interesting way to get lots of people up to speak about their project. The discussion tables were also great, and I enjoyed the space/SRC table quite a bit.

*ECOLE* – Moving forward quite well! I will have a full set of their reports in the next week. We are hiring coordinators ASAP so that they can transition. Search for a property still under way.

*E-Waste Bin* – E-Wasted the E-Waste Bin has finally arrived! Dave is working on an e-waste campaign to start soon!

*Vision 2020* – Allison and I went to a really awesome Steering Committee meeting. I am really happy to see it progressing into something “real”. I think they need to do a huge amount of consultation in this phase, but so far the direction is awesome.

*Sustainability Caucus* – Status quo.

*Sustainable Project Fund* – Updates during the meetings.

## Human Resources & Executive

*Social Committee* – SSMU’s internal Social Committee is making SSMU an even better place to work! We will be introducing “SSMU Zen” in the office, available to all permanent and student staff. It will be a platform for maintaining a healthy lifestyle in the workplace, and it will be composed of a healthy lunch program, masso-therapy sessions, office yoga, office workouts, and a few other health initiatives. This is an extension of the Social Committee and the Health and Safety Committee.

*HR Policy and Bylaws* – We will resume working on these next week!

*Tribune Ad Sales Agent* – As part of the final transition away from our ties with the Tribune, we will be assisting with the creation and hiring of the Tribune Ad Sales Agent permanent position.

*Recruitment for 2013-2014* – Recruitment for student staff for 2013-2014 will start very soon! Keep an eye out for the postings; there are hundreds of great jobs available!

Peace, love, and happiness,

Josh Redel

*President, 2012-2013*