



Report to Council
September 26th, 2013
Joey Shea – VP University Affairs

SSMU Research

Equity Research:

- Equity Complaints Process
- Equity Structure
- Equity Funding

- The Equity Commissioners and I met with all of the researchers individually on Friday. They have been given a timeframe for the projects, with the first deadline coming on Friday September 27th

- Another meeting is scheduled for tomorrow. It is a collective meeting with all of the researchers so that they can share resources and ideas.

International Students

- SQ

McGill's Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Policy

- This research has been coming along quite well. I am meeting with the researcher before Council so I will have to give a more in depth, verbal update.

Review of the Composition of Senate

- The Committee of Senate which prompted this research has only met once, therefore both the research and the committee are on a longer timeframe.

IDEAS



- Sam and I presented at Senate Caucus and got great feedback from the Senators
 - One suggestion has lead us to thinking that this institute/program/hub could be a way to protect students from exploitive unpaid internships
- We also met with QI
 - We found QI to be the natural home for the project
 - Kassandra and Isabelle (the McGill QI staff) were very excited about the project, they have been having similar conversations about the need for a program like this at McGill
 - We are going back to the drawing board to restructure within the QI framework

Corporate Campus

- SQ

Equity

- SQ

SSMU Committees

Ad-Hoc Mental Health

- Receiving nominations from the various mental health groups; I invited them to nominate one of their members internally
- Once we have all of the members, we will schedule for the rest of the year and set up a timeline
- Verbal update

Awards of Distinction

- SQ

Equity Committee

- Shaina and Justin have been holding interviews for the positions
- Once all of the positions have been filled, we will find a meeting time that works for everyone

Library Improvement Fund

- Kira has been doing call-outs for the committee



University Affairs Committee

- Verbal update due to meeting with ARC before Council

Other

- GA Motion against the Charter
 - Worked with Claire and a few Councilors to draft a motion and get signatures
 - We received well over one hundred signatures! Good job to everyone who was involved!

McGill

Meeting with the Deputy Provost of Student Life and Learning

- Katie and I had a meeting with Ollivier and Robin on Monday
- Among the discussion topics were:
 - National Survey of Student Engagement Survey (NSSE)
 - This is a survey that is conducted every three years; comparing McGill with its peer institutions
 - Ollivier is hoping to get a large student turnout in order to effectively assess the issues at McGill
 - Mental Health
 - We spoke to him about the SSMU's Mental Health initiatives, and how ways we can collaborate with the University
 - The topic for the Joint-Senate Board meeting is Mental Health
 - We also discussed the Mental Health fee that was rescinded
 - Study Space
 - We also discussed the issue of study space for students; given the reduced extended hours of the libraries and the already full capacity that is experienced during peak times, this most definitely will be an issue for students this year
 - He was quite receptive, he is working on finding spaces in the university that are usually left locked during these times. This is a short term solution for this term



and this year, but he has promised that this will be something he will focus on in the future

- Teaching and Equity Training for Faculty
 - Given the report of the Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Policy at Senate last week, we discussed ways to incentivize faculty to take trainings for both teaching and learning and Equity
 - He will be speaking with the Deans about this issue, but students need to demand it as well!

Senate

- First Senate last week! Suzanne Fortier had many things to say in her opening Remarks, including some comments on the Charter of Values. I responded with a question about the action the University plans to take to protect its students; I felt she gave an honest answer
 - Also on the Agenda was the following:
 - Report on Campaign McGill
 - Annual Report Concerning the Investigation of Research Misconduct
 - Annual Report on Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law
 - Please have a look at all the Senate docs here: <http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/senate-2013-2014/senate-meeting-documents-2013-2014/september-18-2013>

Senators

- Caucus on Mondays: Senators appear to be getting well adjusted to their roles. We went over the Senate docs last week, and had updates on all our committees and projects this week.
 - Science Senator nominations are in; we will be having interviews ASAP
 - Suzanne Fortier will be at Caucus this Monday. We are very excited to show her how this committee is run and to have a conversation about her vision for McGill

Senators Corner

- We took pictures at Senate last week, they will be up on the website by Friday!



- I am very excited to have this up and running: it will help the Senators and myself report better to our constituents and to get feedback on the projects we are working on.

Committees

- The Sec-Gen and I are still working to fill the vacant spots on the various committees and subcommittees of Senate
 - *Senate Steering*
 - SQ
 - *Senate Nominating*
 - SQ
 - *Academic Policy Committee (APC)*
 - SQ
 - Had to miss this last week because of the Library Presentation
 - I am currently summarizing and presenting a cyclical review
 - Met with Carole from the Libraries on Monday
 - We are reviewing Translation and Communication Program under the School of Continuing Studies
 - The review is confidential for the time being so I am unable to report in-depth about this. Apologies!
 - *Principals Prize*
 - They finally set the date for this. Still going through dossiers, there are hundreds of pages of reading for this one Committee
 - The meeting is next Tuesday.
 - *Friends of the Library*
 - SQ

Libraries

- The town-hall entitled, “Where have all the books gone?” was last week.



- It was held on September 19th from 4pm to 6pm in Lev Bukhman; Colleen Cook, the Dean of Libraries presented and was available for questions
- Attendance was low, but good questions were asked and the presentation was informative

Events

- Met with Wallace and Tania about extra study space during exams
 - I am working on a schedule to see when the ballroom can be best put to use
- McGill's Vision: Indigenous Studies Program
 - This is the even with Allan Vicaire to plan an event during Indigenous Awareness Week (Sept 25th 11 am to 12 pm)
 - Haley Dinel and myself presented the document SSMU made last year about a future Indigenous Studies Program
- Asbestos Conference
 - This event will be happening on Oct 6th
 - I will be moderating the afternoon discussions with the speaker Prof Eigelman
 - The last planning committee was last Tuesday
 - Met with Dr. Franco Eduardo on Friday to have some more background information

Respectfully submitted,

Joey Shea