



Students' Society of McGill University
Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Office of the Vice-President (External Affairs)
Bureau du Vice-président (affaires externes)

Report to Legislative Council

November 21, 2013

Community relations:

Community Ambassadors

-Ambassadors are working. First big project is community potluck this Saturday (the 23rd) at 6PM at Galleries du Parc. Come one, come all! Check out the Facebook event here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/196583533860749/?ref=25>

TaCEQ:

-Laurent Proulx legal case:

-The rest of the TaCEQ associations have agreed to foot some of the remaining legal costs. The plan for any future costs that are incurred is to have them paid for by external funding.

-Research on SSMU's past external memberships is still not done yet, but should be finished by year's end. We have a really cool timeline of SSMU's external affiliations of the past 50 years, that shows and explains, for example, why SSMU joined and quit the FEUQ three times. We're also in touch with the most recent SSMU VP Externals and will be asking them their opinions based on their experiences.

-Big news out of REMDUS: due to internal lag, their referendum that will decide if they leave TaCEQ **has been postponed**, to Jan. 21st-23rd 2014. This delays our timeline slightly, but gives us more time to reflect on our future.

Inter-Union Council

-Labour Week wrap-up: Despite lots of promotion, people feel that the attendance did not match the aspirations and efforts of the organizers, so the IUC is in a period of reflection on the matter. Aside from that, the workshops were by and large fab.

Committees

Community Engagement:

-Had to postpone last week's meeting due to conflicting schedules. Councillors Lowery, Sachal, Liu, and Ibrahim – let's huddle and figure this out before you depart.



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Municipal Affairs

-Electoral recounts are done. Mayor Coderre has chosen his new executive committee, ushering in a new era of non-partisanship by not having anyone from Official Opposition Projet Montréal on the exec committee...

Campaigns

Bill 60 aka. Charter of secularism/values/craziness

-The ad-hoc committee finally met last night! We had a great discussion and fantastic ideas were thrown around. They included:

-Identify allies outside McGill community, especially other student associations against the Charter, and work with them. Possibly go into regions of Quebec to build partnerships and strengthen opposition to charter.

-Panel event of prominent speakers, possibly a debate with one of the prominent pro-Charterites (Bernard Drainville anyone?). Due to Senate's endorsement of a motion against the Charter

-Social media/Online interactive space for people to express how the Charter would affect them and how they feel about it – could be a Tumblr, Facebook page, or many things.

-Organize a rally. Specifically a teach-in/speech-a-thon at a public square in Montreal off-campus (eg. Phillips Square).

-Incorporating students and community members of faith to show their own experiences and show how they enrich the community as opposed to threaten a distorted view of secularism.

Varia

-Still working on issue of student housing. Met today with another group that wants to promote a P2P student housing website.

-Interested in further delving into free-trade agreements issue: very big and so many consequences, so it's something we should at least inform people about. SSMU did a lot of campaigning on the FTAA and GATS 10 years ago.

-Looking into the idea of having an inter-Montreal university student associations' forum on issues of common interest. Still working on proposal, which will then be sent to representatives at other unis.

Submitted in the primmest English,

Samuel Harris, VP External