



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

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

Midterm Report

January 9, 2014

Three main aspects of portfolio:

- A) External Affairs (mainly TaCEQ)
- B) Political Campaigns
- C) Community Relations/Engagement

TaCEQ & External Affairs

-TaCEQ has been one of the biggest challenges and disappointments of my first term. It has, however, also had its successes, and has taught me (and hopefully SSMU) a lot of important lessons. Some of the successes include:

-Financial issues of TaCEQ – such as accounting, budgeting, and paying our taxes, have improved mightily.

-Legitimacy in the eyes of the government, and in particular the *Ministère* de l'Enseignement *supérieur*, de la Recherche, de la *Science* et de la technologie (MESRST) has also vastly improved. We are in constant communication with them about new matters, and they have invited us to their events.

Challenges/failures have included:

-The cancellation of the reform congress. This was supposed to address many of the qualitative issues in TaCEQ and allow members from all four member associations to express how TaCEQ could better reflect their aspirations and better represent them. Its cancellation created a very poor start to the year.

-The fallout from the cancelled congress led to the referendum by REMDUS to leave TaCEQ, throwing into question SSMU's future membership in it, and its existence as a whole.

-TaCEQ was unable to take a unified position against the Charter of Values...based on how we feel about this, it is a disappointment.

-The finances around the Laurent Proulx legal challenge created a difficult situation and furthered tensions between associations.

-Other external affairs:

-Possible collaboration with UTILE, student housing advocacy group, has a lot of potential...I will have propositions to bring in regards to how we can work with them in the future.

-Communications with other groups in regards to opposition to Charter of Values—>Political Campaigns!



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Political Campaigns

-Anti-Charter of Values campaign: took longer than I would have liked to get off the ground and create the ad-hoc committee, but we now have a strong and diverse committee, which has paved the way for success in the winter term.

-Working with other relevant actors, such as other student associations, groups like Quebec Inclusif and McGill Inclusif, and the McGill administration.

-Challenge is now to translate these collaborations with the above groups to get things down for our students: events, rallies, etc.

Divest McGill: has worked on issues of climate justice that are larger than the specific question of divestment.

-Currently working on a response to CAMSR's rejection of the Divest petition.

Community Relations

-Street Teams initiative was quite successful during frosh, and will happen again for St. Patrick's Day and in future years. It seems to be having a positive effect on the people we approached. Our relationship with police is also good, as we met them before and after frosh for a preparation and a debrief.

-Relationship with Milton-Parc Citizens' Committee and our main contact, Hélène Brisson, continues to be strong. Working together on issues, such as the future of green space in the neighbourhood, the future of the Royal Victoria and Hotel Dieu hospitals, and others, are other areas that could strengthen relations.

-Community ambassadors program has been a mixed bag – it started much later than it should have due to HR issues on McGill's side, but it should remain a permanent programme, and will be a hugely important resource in improving relations and raising awareness.

-Major challenge going ahead is continuing to push for student awareness in Milton-Parc, and getting more students and residents together at events, such as Community Engagement Day clean-up/BBQ (in future years) and potlucks.