



Report to Council

November 21st, 2013

Joey Shea – VP University Affairs

For Discussion: Equity Conference Coordinator

SSMU

Research

Equity Research

- Equity Complaints Process
- Equity Structure
- Equity Funding
- The research is coming along well; There is another group meeting this Friday

McGill's Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Policy

- Coming along well.

Social Justice Days Coordinator

- Interviews were held with QPIRG and we have hired a coord!

IDEAS

- SQ

Equity

- In conjunction with SSMU HR, I organized mandatory Equity training for all SSMU student and permanent staff. This was last week; it went really well.
- I have been meeting with SACOMSS and the UGE to discuss how we can use the attention from the football scandal to start a wider discussion about McGill's policies relating to sexual harassment and how they can be improved
 - The UGE is planning a rally!
 - Hopefully everyone saw the MRO sent out today!



- *Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Discrimination Policy Project/Website*
 - Job was posted, it was closed last Friday and interviews scheduled for next week
- *Equity Committee*
 - I couldn't go because of the Joint Board-Senate meeting and because of the QPIRG board meeting
- Appropriate Costumes Campaign:
 - Equity Committee will be presenting at Council!

SSMU Committees

QPIRG Board

- I have been to two board meetings thus far; they are really great. I am trying to work on making it easier for QPIRG to plan joint events with the SSMU

Ad-Hoc Mental Health

- Third meeting last Friday: Policy is starting to take shape. We have an outline and timeline set and have divided up the sections. Tomorrow, we are bringing the sections that we worked on in the past week back to the group to discuss. We are hoping to bring it to Council by the end of January, beginning of February!

Awards of Distinction

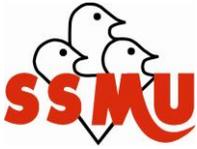
- SQ

Equity Committee

- SQ

Library Improvement Fund

- The LIF met right before the GA so I had to leave early. If anyone has any project ideas for the fund please contact Kira the Library Improvement Fund Coordinator at lifc@ssmu.mcgill.ca We have a lot of money to allocate this year.



University Affairs Committee

- Really slow on this, my apologies

HR

- Probation reviews.

McGill

Senate

- Joint Board-Senate Meeting on Mental Health: This happened last Tuesday. There was a keynote speaker, Lynn McVey, from the Douglas Institute and her “researcher.” The planning committee was informed that she would be bringing a “researcher” but it turned out to be a lobbyist from Ottawa... it was really weird and really inappropriate. Ms. McVey was good, however. After the speakers, there were break-out groups; a combination of Board members, Senators and students at each table were given a vignette (story) of a student or staff member of faculty member who was undergoing mental health issues. We discussed the vignette and then targeted questions were asked of the group, such as: what does a mentally healthy community look like? How can we improve our policy at McGill? Overall, the breakout groups were awesome and came up with really good suggestions that were reported back to the group. Feedback I have heard generally: what, if any, are going to be the tangible outcomes of this committee? Why was there not an emphasis on the effects of marginalization and oppression of minority groups and the effects of this on their mental health? I have spoken with the Deputy Provost and we will be reconvening the planning committee to debrief and to look at how we can move forward and actually implement tangible changes.
- I drafted two questions for November Senate, but they were bumped to December because the Agenda was really long.
- Senate yesterday: The Principal addressed the football incident in her remarks, she deferred some of her time to the Deputy Provost (Ollivier Dyens) and the Dean of Students (Andre Costopolous) where they explained that a statement was to be released tomorrow (ie today). Hopefully everyone read their McGill emails and saw the



concrete actions McGill is taking in response to this incident. I don't think that the University would have taken these steps without all of the pressure from students so good job guys!!!

- There were two questions from faculty about the new scheduling parameters, they were not really pleased with these parameters. I was on the working group that developed them over the summer so if anyone has any questions (or wants to know generally what they are) feel free to ask! Personally, I think they are necessary to help central scheduling plan out course times and help students graduate on time.
- There were two questions from Sen. Cameron Butler and Sen. Claire Stewart-Kanigan about Equity Employment practices and Equity culture at the university.
- There was an open discussion about the Quebec Charter of Values. Sen. Haley Dinel made an excellent statement condemning the Charter, along with the Dean of Religious Studies. Senate voted in favor of a motion which condemned the Charter and gave the Principal the mandate to actively lobby against it. It was agreed that anything less than outright rejection and active protest is unacceptable, considering McGills stated principles.
- The Committee on Physical Development reported to Senate. Sen. Stewart-Kanigan asked who made the decision to implement the bike gates, response; "University Services made that decision." I asked what was being done to implement principles of universal design during construction projects, response; "we implement these things when we can." Both terrible and unsatisfactory answers.
- Nominating Committee reported to Senate. There was a controversial/divisive vote regarding adding a Dean to the Senate Steering Committee. I voted against this because I felt it diluted the student voice on the committee and would shift the balance of power further in favor of upper administrators. The changes, however, passed. There was also the creation of three new committees: The Committee to Review the Enhancement of Senate Meetings, Committee to Review the Charter of Student Rights and the Committee to Review the Livestreaming of Senate Meetings.
- Key Performance Indicators, the Committee on Student Discipline, the Academic Policy Committee and the Honorary Degrees Committee also reported to Senate.

Senators



- Caucus Monday:
 - The Provost was at Caucus last week, we had a good discussion about the role of students in the university, text books, among other things
 - We prepped for Senate at Caucus this Monday
 - Equity training has been scheduled for this upcoming Monday for all Senators.

Senators Corner

- Senators have begun to submit blog posts!

Committees

- *Senate Steering*
 - Last Tuesday: We set the agenda for Senate
- *Senate Nominating*
 - *This morning. Student reps were put on the newly created committees.*
- *Academic Policy Committee (APC)*
 - *Long conversation about nomenclature*
- *Joint Board-Senate Planning Committee*
 - *The meeting happened last Tuesday night; went really well. (See above)*
- *Workgroup on Mental Health*
 - *Monday; we are making good progress. And we discussed the reports from the JSB meeting last night*
- *Friends of the Library*
 - *SQ*
- *QI Workgroup*
 - There were some room booking issues last week

Admin Meetings



- Meeting with the Deputy Provost, Ollivier Dyens, yesterday morning:
 - Football incident: Hopefully y'all saw the MRO today. Thoughts on this response?
 - Study Space during exams: They will be using the surplus from the SS budget to cover the costs of opening up more rooms during exams and for increased security. Kate Sheridan, Arts and Science Senator, had noted the increase of laptop thefts recently, so this was mentioned to Ollivier. We also requested that food places be open 24hrs in the week leading up to exams and not just the start of exam week.
 - Lease: We are very close
 - Follow-up from the Joint Board-Senate meeting; as discussed above.
 - International Students in Exec Positions: I mentioned the motion being brought to Council today, he was really supportive and was willing to do anything necessary.
 - Finally, we talked about the Deputy Provosts online presence and how it can be improved

Libraries

- SQ

Events

- SQ

Varia

- Meeting with Tariq and Saad to draft a motion about International students in Exec positions for next council
- Meeting with PARC to draft a motion about researcher/prof relationship

Respectfully submitted,

Joey Shea