



Council Midterm Report
January 9th, 2014
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Research

Mental Health Policy

The Ad-Hoc Committee for Mental Health was convened out of a motion brought to the first Council of last year. Since then, the committee has met weekly to brainstorm, develop and write the SSMU's first Mental Health Policy. I am very pleased with the work of this committee and am happy to announce that the policy is almost complete and will be brought to Council by the end of January.

Equity Research

There have been three equity research projects underway since September. The projects are as follows: Equity Complaints Process, Equity Structure, Equity Funding. These projects will help SSMU Equity to assess the Equity Policy and possibly bring about revisions. A rough draft is completed and we are reviewing it with the researchers at the end of next week.

McGill's Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Policy

This November at Senate, McGill's Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Policy was revised. This project was meant to assess McGill's policy internally and compare it to other universities. The research was then tailored to our needs when much attention was focused on this issue.

International students

A few years ago a research project about the needs of international students was conducted by the SSMU; this project was not totally completed. We decided that it was time to update this research, with specific reference to the motion that was passed at Council at the end of last semester. We are currently in the process of hiring this position.

IDEAS



This is a project I worked on with Sam Gregory throughout the summer and September entitled the “Institute for the Development of Entrepreneurship and Advancing Society.” We met with many units across the university such as AUS, SUS, EUS, MUS, CaPs, and Student Services to share and find support for this project. Although progress was slow in the latter of last semester due to time constraints, Sam and I are beginning work again, with a meeting with the Deputy Provost next Friday.

Equity

Sexual Harassment Policy changes and website

In response to the media attention surrounding sexual assault at McGill, I worked with the UGE and SACOMSS to organize a discussion with various groups about policy changes we would like to see regarding sexual harassment. We are currently compiling a document to present to McGill. I also hired a researcher to develop a portion of the SSMU website to provide accessible info about McGill’s policy and available resources to survivors.

Costumes campaign for 4Floors

In collaboration with the Equity Commissioners and the VP Internal, we organized an appropriate costumes campaign for 4Floors. I am proud of the work that we did but there is obviously always room for improvement. It is exciting to see how this pilot project will develop within the next few years.

Mandatory Equity training for SSMU Staff and Senate Caucus

In conjunction with SSMU HR, I organized mandatory Equity training for all SSMU student and permanent staff. The Equity Commissioners also gave a training session to Senate Caucus. Although, admittedly this should have been done at the beginning of the semester.

Libraries

The Library Improvement Fund

The LIFC decided to allocate \$110 000 towards student employment. There is still a significant amount of the fund left that we will be allocating this semester.



Library Town-Hall

In September, I organized a town-hall entitled, “Where have all the books gone?” with Colleen Cook, the Dean of Libraries. Attendance was low, but good questions were asked and the presentation was informative

Senate

Many interesting topics came up at Senate last semester, including: the Quebec Charter of Values, Equity, Revisions to make Senate more open. For more info, see the Senate page!

I have asked three questions thus far at Senate: one regarding deregulated tuition fees for international students; one about a surplus which has accumulated in Student Services; and finally, the last was about the Lecture Recording System which was sent to the Academic Policy Committee

Committees

Committees I sit on:

Senate, Senate Steering, Senate Nominating, Academic Policy Committee, Committee on Enrolment and Student Affairs, Workgroup on Mental Health, Joint Board-Senate Planning Committee, Friends of the Library, QI Workgroup, Vision 2020 Steering, Cycling working group, Planning committee for the Forum on Consent, Principal's Prize for Teaching

Admin

One of my main campaign promises was to properly introduce the new Principal and the new Deputy Provost to student life at McGill. To accomplish this, I organized a three hour meeting at the SSMU. They met the SSMU Executive, student staff and permanent staff. We then toured Activities Night and visited a few club offices, including: BSN, ISN, Queer McGill, the Tribune, the Daily, and SACOMSS. It was a great opportunity for students to meet the new administrators and for the administrators to



see all the way students utilize the space in this building. In addition to this first event, I organize many more throughout the semester, such as “Lunch with the Deputy Provost” in conjunction with the DP Office, and invitations to Senate Caucus.