



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

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

VP External's Report to SSMU Legislative Council

September 25, 2014

Personal

- Hi- come visit me!
- Office hours Thursdays from 10-12 pm

External Affairs

- Now that SSMU has disaffiliated from TaCEQ, we are an **independent student union**
- Difficulties faced when not part of a student federation:
 - o Little money/people power to do research to properly lobby the government on issues
 - o A lot harder coordinating lobby efforts and campaigns
 - o Less name recognition
- Summer spent **making connections with different student unions** and working a tone with the Concordia Student Union (CSU)
- CADEUL, the union representing students at Université Laval, have plans to lobby the government in order **to get mandatory education placements compensated**. I sent information on to the president of the Education Undergraduate Society (EdUS) but never heard back. Several student unions were at the first meeting and a press release was written and sent. Next meeting will be October 13 in QC city
- A group of Montreal student unions came together at a meeting led by FAECUM (Fédération des associations étudiantes du campus de l'Université de Montréal) and Rosemont college. Group will **target fiscal policy to have expenditure reallocated to 'les dépenses admises'** in Quebec student loans. They will be sending a draft memoire to the group of unions who will provide their input for submission to the commission. Next meeting September 29th at UdeM
- This summer I have been coordinating efforts and working a lot with the VP External of the CSU. Had the idea of building a **coalition of student unions that would take a stance on Energy East and climate change**. So far the FEUQ and l'ASSE have mandates to oppose the pipelines, and now were reaching out to individual student associations to sign on to a unified declaration. Motion to council will be
 - o The coalition of student associations will tentatively be called LEBLOQ (Ligue étudiante pour bloquer les oléoducs au Québec)
 - o 3 student asso signed on so far (Dawson at GA, Concordia at council, Vieux Montreal at GA)
 - o Bringing a motion to council September 25th



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- Meeting September 25th organized by la FEUQ for Montreal student unions to discuss a **Montreal student access card**

Community Affairs

- Lots of outreach to Milton-Parc citizens this summer to give them contact information, hear major concerns, and develop projects
- Working a lot with the **Milton-Parc Citizens Committee (MPCC)**
- Frosh went really well! MPCC and citizens congratulated us on the improvements they saw.
- This summer I've been working with the Social Equity and Diversity Education (SEDE) Office and the MPCC to plan a community event
 - o It will be a **Milton-Parc tour for students followed by community lunch**
 - o Got sponsorship for lunch from McGill Food and Dining Services (MFDS)
 - o Space being provided by ECOLE
- **UTILE** is a campaign around accessible student housing that I've been in contact with over the summer. Will be bringing this to council soon

Unions

- Attended **interunion council** meetings this summer
- **Presentation by AGSEM** on U drive and their negotiations with the admin and why they matter to undergrads.

Committees of SSMU

External Affairs:

- Recruiting for External Affairs committee ends September 25th. Will be choosing a day and time and will hopefully have our first meeting next week!

Community Engagement:

- Met with my community engagement coord this week and her first task will be to find at large members for the committee.

Committees of Senate

Landscape Master Plan/Physical space Committee

- This is the committee that will be rethinking the use of space on campus. First committee meeting happening next week.

Campaigns

Divest McGill

- We had Bill McKibben and Ellen Gabriel come speak
- Then Naomi Klein



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- Both co-organised with the CSU and went really well!
- Applied to SSMU funding to send down 50 some McGill students to the Peoples' Climate March – they had a really good time!
- Looking onwards to the divestment convergence that I'm planning with CSU and the Climate Change Youth Coalition(CYCC) at SSMU this November
 - Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) is taking on divestment as a campaign and partly funding the convergence
 - Tickets are up for purchase (\$35 each) and key notes are being confirmed
 - Still looking for more funding. Campaigns coords will be helping me with this

Bikes

- The recommendations from the McGill Cycling Working Group have come in
- Did outreach over the summer to consult groups on this
- Begun the process of **student consultation on the issue of bikes on campus**. Making a working group Will bring to council soon

HR

- **Met with all my student staff**. Cool stuff coming up!

Misc

- Working with our political attaché, Julien, and our Communications director, Ryan, to add **a section for External Affairs on the SSMU website**. Content for the page is done and will be working with Ryan to have it all formatted and up ASAP.
- Working on my **budget**

Respectfully submitted,

Amina Moustaqim-Barrette