



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 Legislative Council

October 9, 2014

Personal

- Office hours! Thursdays 10-1130 am

External Affairs

- **Met with l'ASSE** this week. Lots of talk of a strike in the spring against Couillard's austerity budget and cuts to university funding. Member associations have started taking positions on this all over QC
- Met again with **the Coalition régionale étudiante de Montréal (CREM)** to discuss finalized memoire on **the reallocation of fiscal policy**
 - o Draft memoire was sent and discussed amongst group. Executive committee decided that they should read the memoire before signing on, so we are awaiting the English translation
 - o The memoire calls for three measures to be cut and reallocated to 'les depenses admises' in Quebec student loans
 - o If you have any questions or want to learn more about this, come see me
- Article 1 of the 'Motion Regarding Climate Justice at McGill' was submitted to GA. Should be a really fun GA!
- Next meeting with la (**Campagne de Revendications et d'Actions Interuniversitaires pour les Etudiants d'éducation en Stage**) **CRAIES** about **remuneration for education placements** will be happening in Quebec City (ULaval) on October 13th. If anyone is interested in coming, let me know!
 - o Tshirts are already being made for this campaign
 - o Again see me for questions!





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- Followed up on the Je vois MTL project for the **Carte étudiante universitaire universelle de Montréal**, which will be a student card that also acts as your metro pass, library card, gives you the 10% discount at provigo, and would have other functions across the city.
 - o Je vois MTL is a project started by BMO and the City of Montreal. People propose ideas to be executed by the City and different actors. Thousands of ideas are proposed, and 120 are chosen (on November 17)
 - o In the proposal, the goal is to 'increase visibility of universities in the larger community by reinforcing the student community in Montreal with a unique identification card, which students will be proud to have and that will come with concrete student discounts and advantages. The card will allow students to identify as one common community, visible by the ensemble of its population' ~rough translation~
 - o Funding is TBD, probably mostly sponsorship, if the project is accepted by the City then the City of Montreal
 - o Next meeting is happening on October 21, 2014. As discussed with executive committee, I am going to move forward with our involvement and will keep reporting back to council
 - o Questions? Come see me!
- Will probably be attending the second **Quebec Round-table on Academic Issues (TÉEAQ)**, hosted by the Association générale étudiante de l'Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue (AGEUQAT, the General Student Association of the University of Quebec in Abitibi-Témiscamingue) this weekend
 - o Topics include:
 - o Plagiarism at universities, the role of language in undergraduate programs, quality and diversity in student services, students' roles within the University (election of the president, presence on committees, quality of the relations, etc.), the role of sustainability in university programs, rights and responsibilities: strategies for informing students, conference: Mandatory institutional fees, development and issues, how should we evaluate the quality of teaching?
 - If I attend, I'll be writing up a short report and bringing it to council after the congress

Community Affairs

- Working a lot with the **Milton-Parc Citizens Committee (MPCC)**
 - o Will be meeting with them in the coming weeks to discuss Halloween
- Coordinated a community tour and cleanup with the Social Equity and Diversity Education (SEDE) Office and the MPCC to plan a community event
- **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



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Unions

Inter-Union Council

- Asked councillors to consult their faculties about endorsing the AGSEM U-Drive, motion will be brought in support from the floor at council on October 9th.

Citizens Council

- Met on October 7th
- Will be sending **out survey regarding the Principal's plans** some time mid-November, then meeting with Principal Fortier on January 6th
- Will be sending out survey regarding McGill good/bad governance next semester, March/Feb
- Faculty of Arts is seeing another 100 courses (of 20 people and under) cut, **faculty not happy**

Committees of SSMU Legislative Council

External Affairs:

- Lots people, meeting Tuesday!

Community Engagement:

- Met with my community engagement commissioner on October 3rd. She should be rallying members at large for this committee right now. We discussed workplan and projects for the year to go through workplan. She's been really busy so hasn't been advertising the Community Engagement Committee much. Need to sit down with her and give her deadlines

Francophone Affairs:

- The VP (Internal Affairs) and I decided **that I would take on chairing the Francophone Affairs Committee and oversee commissioners**. Francophone affairs and francophone representation has historically not been a priority of the Society, even though almost 50% of our constituents are from Quebec.
 - o I've started posting callouts for the Francophone Affairs commissioners on social media, listservs, etc.
 - o If you know of anyone who would be interested, let them know that we are hiring!

Committees of Senate

Landscape Master Plan Committee

- First meeting on October 1
- **Developing a Master Plan for University space**. If you're interested in giving your input on this, let me know. Some questions to think about: Do you want campus to keep its heritage style, or become more modern? What kind of things would you like to see on campus (urban furniture, adult playground)? Resurfacing/repurposing of fields?

Senate Committee on Physical Development (SCPD)

- Had first meeting October 2. Was really interesting!
 - o **Renovations on McTavish to be done November** at the earliest
 - o Lots of HVAC systems need to be changed



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- Looking at creating a database of rooms on McGill campus that people can book

Campaigns

Divest McGill

- Orientation sessions were GREAT- about 60 people showed up!
 - First general meeting since orientation had about 35 people aw ye
 - Goals/projects for this year include a working group for each:
 - Prof letter
 - Alumni Carrot fund
 - Research brief
 - Communications
 - Strategy will include incorporating a section outlining the social injury caused by the **5 worst tar sands companies** that McGill is invested in first. Eventually those arguments will be extended to the rest of the fossil fuel industry.
 - Strategy will include **submitting a report to CAMSR for their Oct meeting.**
 - Two major asks for the year: presenting to the Board of Governors, and meeting with the investments committee
 - Meeting with Stephen Strople next week
- National divestment convergence planning with CSU and the Climate Change Youth Coalition(CYCC) at SSMU this November is going well! My campaign coords are taking on a lot of the work.
 - Lots of things! This is coming up quick!
 - **Focus solidarity organizing with frontline communities**
 - Met with CYCC on October 5, Anthony from CSU on October 6, Charles on October 7
 - My campaigns coordinators are wonderful!

Bikes

- Submitting a plebiscite question for this.

HR

- Had workplan meetings with my community affairs coord, community engagement commissioner and campaigns coords. Will be approving them next week.

Respectfully submitted,

Amina Moustaqim-Barrette