



Report of the Vice-President (University Affairs) to Legislative Council September 11th, 2014

Mental Health

- Cross-Campus Mental Health Awareness Week
 - groups collaborating include:
 - McGill Psychology Students Association (**new**)
 - Peer Support Network
 - McGill Mental Health & Counselling Services
 - Healthy McGill
 - Unleash the Noise
 - Indigenous Women & Two-Spirit Harm Reduction Coalition
 - Students in Mind
 - SACOMSS
 - Mad Pride (Concordia)
 - First Peoples House (Therapy Dogs)
 - proposed events include:
 - student research event (**new**)
 - panel on psychosis
 - professor talk in Rez
 - workshop on harm reduction
 - drop-in therapy dogs
 - social media self-care challenge
 - student art installation and wine & cheese
 - student-developed video series on lived experience of mental health
 - promotion of existing recurring services (PSN, SACOMSS, Labyrinth, MK...)
 - spoken word event
 - workshop on building a support network
 - yoga sessions
- Last Mental Health Week Working Group meeting: September 19th
 - event schedule is beginning to be finalized; logistical planning is on track
 - a Save the Date graphic was created by the SSMU graphic designer and posted on the SSMU Facebook page and other listservs
 - Student Services will be hiring a Mental Health Coordinator for Mac Campus due to Mac's desire to be involved in the Week & further mental health initiatives



- Last Mental Health Committee meeting: September 16th (awaiting confirmation)
 - group-based committee membership is finalized!
 - currently seeking 2 members at large
 - meetings will be bi-weekly
- SSMU Mental Health Five-Year Plan tasks for 2014-15:
 - hire Mental Health Coordinator (complete)
 - develop collaborative Mental Health website (expected completion: November 2014)
 - meeting again with Student Services later this month to discuss SSMU input re: ability to collect and analyze feedback from students
 - develop collaborative Mental Health listserv (expected completion: November 2014)
 - survey students regarding campus Mental Health services & publish data (expected completion: April 2014)
 - introduce SSMU Mental Health Fee to establish SSMU Mental Health Fund on the Winter 2015 Referendum ballot (expected completion: March 2014)

Equity

Equity Committee

- Both Equity Commissioners are now hired; completing a condensed transition with new Commissioner
- Equity Committee interviews are this week! Committee will be selected by the 26th
- Equity Commissioner has begun outreach to Equity Commissioners of various faculty associations to discuss collaboration and share ideas on Equity-events relationships (to be discussed with other VP Social/Events/Internal representatives throughout the year)
 - held a meeting with all campus Equity Commissioners on September 18th

Consent Campaign

- Equity Commissioner Sidnell-Greene will be bottom-lining the organization of a panel on consent similar to the Dean of Students Forum on Consent in 2013-14; Equity Committee members will also be offered the opportunity to collaborate in planning
- themes of Campaign include expanding the idea of consent beyond the context of consensual sex to include consent in everyday interactions

Libraries

Library Improvement Fund Committee

- have been discussing plans for the Committee with Library Improvement Fund Coordinator (LIFC) throughout the month
- committee applications were received throughout last week; committee is now chosen
- first full committee meeting: Wednesday, September 24th



- Update regarding the replacement of Tim Hortons and other vendors with Premiere Moison:
 - arranged meeting with Director of Student Housing and Hospitality Services (SHHS) and student representatives (SSMU VP Finance & Operations, AUS VP Academic, Arts Senator Greenspon) on September 16th
 - primary concerns brought to the meeting:
 - financial accessibility for students must be a priority in these decisions
 - extensive student consultation beyond the committee level is essential regarding the use of spaces used almost exclusively by students
 - SSMU would have been happy collaborate on consultation if we had known the decision was forthcoming
 - response indicated that the Premiere Moisson lease is 10 years or longer, so changing vendors appears unlikely
 - response acknowledged that sales alone were not a total indication of student satisfaction
 - SHHS did not express interest in holding additional consultations, so surveying/other post-decision consultations may be up to SSMU on this matter
 - had interview with the Tribune on September 19th to follow up

Senate

- first Senate meeting was on the 17th
- follow-ups to to student-submitted questions:
 - I) Question Regarding Potential Impacts of the 2014-15 Quebec Budget (Jacob Greenspon (Arts Senator), Chloe Rourke (Arts and Science Senator), David Benrimoh (Medicine Senator), Nabeel Godil (Management Senator))
 - must follow up with DPSLL re: conflicting messages on budget situation (cuts v. loss of 'additional investments')
 - II) Question Regarding Consent and Safer Space Initiatives (Kareem Ibrahim (Arts Senator), myself)
 - following up with Dean of Students re: significance of additions to Athletics Guide (as a substitute for training; i.e. how many read it, is reading it mandatory etc.)
 - Senator suggested consent training for team captains; will follow up
 - III) Question Regarding Follow-up to the Joint Board-Senate Meeting on Mental Health (Chloe Rourke (Arts and Science Senator), myself)
- All questions & their written responses can be found here: <http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/senate-2014-2015/senate-meeting-documents/september-17-2014>
- note: most I have heard students speak in Senate ever!



Senate Caucus

- Committee Training session held for the 12th with Senator and non-Senator committee reps; Senate Caucus strategy training held on evening of the 12th following VP Academic-Senate Meet & Greet
- second Senate Caucus was held on Monday the 15th
 - The DPSLL (Olliver Dyens) & Principal Fortier attended
 - many questions from Senators re: mental health, provincial position re: international student fee deregulation (not adequately responded to)
 - Andre Costopoulos attended the September 21st session of Caucus
 - discussed academic assessment rights, mental health & university policy, and the response to the Question re: consent and safer spaces

Senate Committees

- was charged in August with filling the Dean Selection Advisory Committees for Management, Libraries, Science, Agricultural and Environmental Science, and Graduate and Post-Graduate Studies
 - all committees completed except for Agricultural and Environmental Science (one applicant) and now Science (due to Science Senator resignation)
- met with the Provost Selection Advisory Committee on the 18th
 - still on track for December announcement
- Principal's Prize in Excellence in Teaching complete!
- first Academic Policy Committee meeting held on September 18th
 - students raised concerns regarding elimination of 'interaction with student groups' as a criteria for departmental cyclical reviews; department will propose a clearer wording for next meeting
 - revisions to graduate/post-graduate supervision requirements for professors (making supervision an 'expected duty') are on track for presentation to Senate within the next two months

Academic Research & Policy Projects

Sexual Assault Policy

- met with Working Group on Friday, September 12th to go through Dean of Students/ SARC revisions
- ARC meeting today to go through points so she can translate into a response policy
- will schedule meeting with D of S once complete
- will be presenting consent definition to SACOMSS general meeting next week



Indigenizing the Academy Policy

- currently completing a media response to the University's response to the Hiawatha Belt Flag and Hochelaga Rock initiatives for publication next week
- First Subcommittee on Equity for First Peoples Thursday, Sept.24th (will provide oral update)

Holding the Academy Accountable (Indigenous Awareness Week Panel)

- complete! Working with ARC on follow-up report to be submitted to MISC re: accountability structures for Indigenous Studies program

Faculty Academic Relations

- held VP Academic-Senator Meet & Greet met at 5:30pm in Gerts on Friday, September 12th
- asked for feedback from VP Academics re: Research Ethics case studies (DPSLL/SSMU conference) on the 18th to present at the conference planning meeting on the 23rd
 - collected and submitted input on Sept.19th from AUS, BASiC, and EUS
- will be consulting with and collaborating with MART on the following topics:
 - academic priorities in the face of budget cuts
 - input for McGill-SSMU conference on research ethics
 - priorities and consultation preferences for Library Master Plan

Respectfully submitted,
Claire Stewart-Kanigan, Vice-President (University Affairs)