



Report of the Vice-President (University Affairs) to Legislative Council November 20th, 2014

Mental Health

Mental Health Portfolio Updates:

- The first annual cross-campus Mental Health Awareness Week was completed!
 - over 20 events were hosted with partners across campus
 - special thanks to all of our students facilitators, RezLife, Student Services, and Healthy McGill!
- Met with Counselling Services on Nov. 17th to discuss student priorities for Counselling Wellness Website + Counselling Services itself
 - will be having follow-up meetings regarding creating accessible channels for student feedback

Mental Health Committee

- Committee will be launching a Facebook Page and listserv soon
 - seeking to make listserv opt-out (strong majority supported opt-out v. opt-in on Facebook poll; will reach more students); currently looking into legal constraints re: recent anti-spam laws
- Committee is also working to develop 'how to' guides for accessing support and accommodation for mental health challenges at McGill

Equity

Equity Portfolio Updates:

- 4Floors Equity Report is complete! See Vibe upload.

Equity Committee

- Working group to review the Equity Policy has been formed and has met twice
 - plan for consultation re: punitive measures and accessibility will be forthcoming
- In process of creating new Equity website with resources and more accessible guide to the Policy
- Also redesigning Equity logo

Libraries

Libraries Portfolio Update:

- received ample feedback from councillors in response to blurb re: 24 hour access and priorities circulated prior to last council—thank you!



Library Improvement Fund Committee

- decision was made to fund Winter 2015 24-hour library access; lobbying will continue for 24-hour access to be considered an operating expense
- compilation of feedback from whiteboard/tabling efforts in early November nearly complete
 - some early findings re: priorities include: opening the Redpath doors, more comfy chairs, and better heating
- online survey re: Library priorities will be circulated this week for LIF priorities + Library Master Plan priorities (i.e. more group space, more quiet space...)

Library Master Plan

- Library Master Plan Feasibility Study Town Hall (Nov.11th) was well-attended
 - biggest student concerns came from Music students re: possible plan to convert Redpath Hall into a reading room (currently a performance space)
- next Communications Working Group meeting will be December 9th
- LIFC consultations will also be used to inform the student priorities at Communications Working Group and Steering Committee

Senate

Senate Portfolio Updates:

- statement from student senators re: Joint Board Senate Meeting published on SSMU website on Nov.19th

Senate Caucus

- Question re: McGill's Approach to Community Engagement (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/question_regarding_mcgills_approach_to_community_engagement_revised.pdf) & Question re: Budget Reductions Announced at Open Forum (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/question_regarding_budget_reductions_announced_at_open_forum_on_mcgills_financial_situation.pdf) were successfully submitted; will report on response orally
- Caucus Working Group Updates:
 - Academic Assessment Rights:
 - developing comprehensive academic rights website + Know Your Rights Week plan
 - research & revision suggestions for Assessment Policy are ongoing
 - Mental Health:
 - Caucus-led Forum on Mental Health Accommodation held during Mental Health Week was successful; information gathered will be used in final report on student experiences on accessing support and accommodation at McGill
 - survey re: Mental Health Accommodation completed; will be circulated this week



Senate Committees

- SQ; progress on withdrawal policy postponed by committee review

Academic Research & Policy Projects

Portfolio Updates:

- GA Motion re: Support of a Campus Free from Harmful Military Technology was ratified
 - my stance re: weapons development on the Working Group to Review the Regulation on the Conduct of Research is consequently more strongly defined

Sexual Assault Policy

- Policy draft is public! Read here: <http://sexualassaultpolicyatmcgill.com/draft%20SAP%20final.pdf>
- Information session on Nov.13th was very well attended (50-60 people)
- See press coverage here:
 - <http://mcgilltribune.com/news/open-forum-invited-student-feedback-drafted-sexual-assault-policy/>
 - <http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2014/11/working-group-presents-full-sexual-assault-policy-draft/>
 - <http://bullandbearmcgill.com/solidarity-with-survivors/>
- Plan moving forward:
 - present Policy to faculty associations (in progress)
 - present Policy to unions (in progress)
 - present Policy to key Senate committees (in progress)
 - consolidate feedback from groups + general feedback into policy revisions
 - develop and maintain publicity strategy
- **Anyone can contribute feedback or ask questions via the 'Contact Us' tab on the website**

Indigenizing the Academy Policy

- SQ; focus groups will be held on the Traditional Territory Acknowledgement Policy early next semester

Faculty Academic Relations

- SQ; final MART meeting of the semester will focus on Academic Assessment Rights

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