



Report of the Vice-President (University Affairs) to Legislative Council January 29th, 2015

► Mental Health

Mental Health Portfolio Updates:

- first Mental Health Committee meeting held last week; outlined goals for semester
- met with Director of Student Services, Director of Mental Health, PGSS & MCSS re: collaborative website and possible compromises; Mental Health Committee & Coordinator will decide path of action within next two weeks

Mental Health Projects to Complete in Winter 2015:

- develop **'how to' guides** for accessing support and accommodation for mental health challenges at McGill
- **revise the Mental Health Five-Year Plan** to better fit current scenario and formally integrate a more intersectional approach to Mental Health
- complete report on Student Experiences survey from Fall 2014
- build up readership and maintain Mental Health Facebook page & listservs
- decide path for and launch **Mental Health & Wellness website** (collaborative vs. independent; Mental Health Five-Year Plan goal)
- build and circulate **survey on Mental Health campus culture**

► Equity

Equity Portfolio Updates:

- met with Equitable Hiring Researchers and Equity Commissioners on Jan.28th
 - developing timeline and goals
 - current stage: survey McGill & SSMU hiring practices; next: peer institution/student union survey
- Equity Conference theme decided: Equity & Law
- will be working with SEDE on educational strategy re: closed events
- met with Equity Policy review working group on Jan.26th
 - nearly finished general revisions; targeted outreach for complaints process beginning

Equity Projects to Complete in Winter 2015:

- oversee increase in student submissions to **SSMU Equity Conference**
- complete **Equitable Hiring** research project
 - make recommendation to SSMU for revising hiring procedures
 - make recommendation to McGill for revising hiring processes
- complete revision of **Equity Policy**, including critical examination of remedies procedures
- launch **Equity website** with simplified guide to the Policy



► Libraries

Libraries Portfolio Update:

- first LIFC meeting will be held tomorrow
- began reviewing Library Improvement Fund bylaws last week to integrate consultation & outline committee responsibilities/project submission process

Library Projects to Complete in Winter 2015:

- increase faculty association and **student applications** to Library Improvement Fund
- promote **student attendance** at McGill focus groups for Library Master Plan via faculty associations

► Senate

Senate Portfolio Updates:

- From January Senate:
 - question re: International Student Tuition:
 - McGill supports deregulation of *all* international tuition
 - has allegedly been McGill's stance for 6 years so they are unwilling to 'reconsult'
 - question re: student-run campus business:
 - no special consideration in business relationship between student-run business vs. external business
 - no academic consideration; purely business relationship
- Withdrawal Policy passed with amendment to review in three years!

Senate Projects to Complete in Winter 2015:

- launch comprehensive **academic rights website**
 - will be having discussion re: academic issues at this council

► Academic Research & Policy Projects

Portfolio Updates:

- continuing work on SSMU weapons technology policy
- facilitated one of the three SAP orientation sessions; very successful
 - will be bottom-lining the Policy Revision Working Group
- Senator Greenspon and I completed a draft of a cover letter for the revised Fall Reading Week survey; sent to Kathleen Massey in ES for fact checks then will send to ESAAC
 - developed proposed revisions to survey; will be submitting to ES for feedback this week



Academic Research & Policy Portfolio Projects to Complete in Winter 2015:

- hire student to research **Academic Experience Surveys** at peer institutions and design SSMU Student Survey
- **new:** create at least **two more student research projects**
 - possibilities: Indigenous accountability structures in university governance, universal design, McGill alternative histories project
- complete SSMU **weapons technology policy**
- oversee successful operation of student **Sexual Assault Policy** working groups and bring Sexual Assault Policy to Senate
- bring **McGill Traditional Territory Acknowledgement Policy** to Senate
- run new **Fall Reading Break Survey** in collaboration with Enrolment Services

► **Faculty Academic Relations**

- reached out to Faculty Academics re: Bookstore 'sounding board'
 - 3/6 spots filled thus far; any interest?
- scheduling February MART meeting:
 - topics: Sexual Assault Policy, Academic Rights, Academic Experience Survey, Budget feedback

► **Other**

- Hot Button Issue Conference: February 25th
 - concerned at total striking of military research from the agenda (was initial 'hot button issue' that conference sought to respond to); followed up with Office of the Deputy Provost; proposing additional case study by tomorrow
- met with student re: campaign for women's hours in gym to accommodate religious needs
 - suggested to compile research on peer institution practices, then consider seeking student association support
- attended meeting with Teaching & Learning Services re: ECAR/McGill IT Services and how to increase response rates
 - suggested that titling surveys 'IT Services' only may not communicate to students that they are seeking feedback on Minerva, MyCourses, MyMcGill, wifi etc.

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