



**Report of the Vice-President (University Affairs) to Legislative Council
February 12th, 2015**

Mental Health

- Mental Health Coordinator & Committee agreed to collaborate with Mental Health Services website on the following conditions:
 - o the controversial survey content and responses can be revised and sensitized and the question on self-harm/suicidal ideation removed
 - o SSMU will be represented at the Bell Grant Steering Committee for all future meetings
 - o SSMU may withdraw or return its support at any point
- Discussed 'how to' guides re: accessing accommodation/services with Mental Health Services to ensure no pushback from concerns of 'abuse' would occur
- Mental Health Coordinator & Committee worked with Mental Health Services to create a feedback form to submit feedback, ideas, and concerns regarding Mental Health Services
 - o Committee successfully advocated for the addition of additional reassurances to students that their feedback would be confidential (with a list of the professionals who would be reading it) and would not affect their access to care
- Second Special Edition SSMU Mental Health & Wellness Listserv circulated
- Committee is compiling list of problem-area policies and practices that negatively affect student mental health to work with Student Senators to advocate to change in the long-term
- SSMU Mental Health Committee Facebook page is very active
 - o Most successful recent post reached over 2,400 people and had 22 shares!

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 Policy revisions ongoing; reaching out to specific groups to identify best practices in restorative justice-modelled conflict resolution
- Committee reviewed Faculty Olympics logos; no problems identified
- Equitable Hiring Research Project update held on Feb.11th (will report orally)
 - o Researchers met with SEDE to share resources and discuss collaboration with ongoing SEDE campaigns
- Equity website content is being compiled; currently compiling all Equity-related SSMU research projects of the past
- Potential new research project in development: Alternative History of McGill Timeline (to be included in Equity website)
- Equity Conference (theme: Equity & Law) planning has begun; keep your eye out for submission callouts!
- The Book of Negroes event with author Lawrence Hill event is live! Reserve tickets [here](#)

Equity Projects to Complete in Winter 2015:

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

Libraries

- Library Improvement Fund Committee met to finalize revised proposal form (moving from 'application' to 'proposal' model to encourage more student submissions & emphasize project development role of committee)
 - o Callouts for proposals are now live; deadline: Feb.27th
 - o **Please share with your Faculty Associations!** <http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/about-us/funding/library-improvement-fund/>
- Library Improvement Fund By-Law revisions are ongoing; will present with rest of VP University Affairs By-Law revisions by end of academic year
- Met with Friends of the Library; they are interested in increasing their event collaboration with campus groups to engage students, so I suggested they contact faculty/departmental associations with event ideas

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

- Submitted question re: University-wide Approach to Student Mental Health for February Senate (Feb.18th – tell your Faculty Senator candidates to attend!)
 - o Following up on previous University commitment to develop University-wide strategy re: Mental Health following from the recommendations of the Mental Health Working Group
 - o Unclear how University will ensure that Faculties and faculty members will also commit to supporting student mental health through academic policies and practices (i.e. not just increasing support on Student Services side, but addressing root causes, such as undue academic stress and insufficient academic accommodation)
- Inviting 2015-16 Senator candidates to next session of Senate Caucus (Feb.16th – 6:30pm)
- Senator Greenspon met with ESAAC and Enrolment Services re: new Fall Reading Week Survey and brief; we will be completing development of Survey with Kathleen Massey of ES for distribution in March

Senate Projects to Complete in Winter 2015:

- launch comprehensive **academic rights website**
- ask at least **one question** per Senate
- run new **Fall Reading Break Survey** in collaboration with Enrolment Services

Academic Research & Policy Projects

- Met with Traditional Territory working group of the Subcommittee on First Peoples to continue to develop Executive Summary document for presentation to the Board of Governors; in process of receiving documented legal counsel of the subject
 - o Goal: present complete Policy & Summary to Joint Board Senate Committee on Equity on February 26th
- Participated in Sexual Assault Policy visioning session on Feb.4th + facilitated follow-up difficult issues resolution meeting on Feb.10th
 - o Working Groups have been given tasks & will begin meeting
- Academic Research Commissioner and I co-drafted two new researcher positions: Academic Experience Survey Researcher (2x) and Indigenizing the Academy Researcher; both approved and open for applications

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**
- ~~- create at least two more student research projects~~
- complete **SSMU weapons technology policy**
- 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

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