



**Report of the Vice-President (University Affairs) to Legislative Council
February 26th, 2015**

Mental Health

- Mental Health Coordinator attended Bell Grant meeting
- 'How to' guide working group now meeting outside Committee time
- First opt-in 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

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; outreach to specific groups to identify best practices in restorative justice-modelled conflict resolution meeting response challenges
- Equitable Hiring Research Project update held on Feb.25th
 - o Case studies of McGill department equitable hiring processes ongoing
 - o Survey of McGill, SSMU & social justice orgs practices complete
 - o Next steps: case study completion, theoretical background, recommendations
- Alternative History of McGill Researcher position approved! Hiring ongoing.
- Equity Conference callouts live! Dates: 1-4pm on March 23rd & 24th
- Submitted SSMU Policy on Family Care for this Council
- The Book of Negroes event with author Lawrence Hill event is TODAY!

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
- **new:** bring **Consent Education and Survivor Support Policy** to SSMU



Libraries

- Library Improvement Fund Committee receiving many promising student submissions!
 - 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/>
- Revised Library Improvement Fund by-laws completed and submitted to By-Law Review Commissioners
- Met with several students during my office hours re: a meditation/chill-out/possible prayer space in McLennan
 - o Students are circulating a student petition & collecting letters of support from McGill and student groups

Library Projects to Complete in Winter 2015:

- increase **faculty association and student applications** to Library Improvement Fund
- ~~new~~ revise **Library Improvement Fund by-laws**
- promote student attendance at McGill focus groups for **Library Master Plan**

Senate

- February Question re: University-wide Approach to Student Mental Health follow-up:
 - o Sought to confirm relationship of person hired to Mental Health Working Group recommendations to faculties and governance bodies (academic policies etc.), but now the hiring of this person has been put into question
- Many Senator candidates came to Feb.16 Caucus when invited!
 - o Have met with several Senator candidates independently as well
- Senator Greenspon and I met to draft timeline for completing revised Fall Reading Week Survey for march circulation following updating Enrolment Services revisions on mapping trade-off possibilities
 - o Goal: circulate in early 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

- Sent 2x legal opinions on Traditional Territory Acknowledgment to Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity (JBSCE) and revised Policy; attended
 - o Goal: present complete Policy & Summary to JBSCE on February 26th >> Met! Pushing for goal of April Senate For-Information (seems probable)
 - o Met 3x to work on Executive Summary for community & Board members
- Sexual Assault Policy (SAP) Working Group has been extremely active
 - o SAP Policy Working Group has met twice and is revising the structure to a more accessible rights-based framework
 - o Dean of Student bringing updated Policy to Dean's Working Group next Wednesday
 - o Still aiming for Senate submission this academic year
- SAP Working Group presented at Board-Student Forum to a favourable reception and an invitation to meet with MUNASA (last union! scheduled for March 11th)
- Indigenizing the Academy job position approved and posted!
- Accepted invitation by Demilitarize McGill & the Philosophy Students' Association to teach-in on Feb.25th stemming from student questions on Working Group to Review the Regulation on the Conduct of Research
- Meeting with VP Clubs & Services this week re: Student Experience Survey questions

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

- *revised*: contribute academic/mental health/equity-related questions to **SSMU Student Survey** (moved to bottom-lining by **VP Clubs & Services** portfolio)
- ~~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
- *new*: complete **Indigenizing the Academy** student researcher project by May

Other

- Hot Button Issues Forum was held this Wednesday; relatively successful
- Final Bookstore priorities/plan report is being sent to consulting firm this week

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