



Ad-Hoc Space Committee Report to Legislative Council

December 3, 2015

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Kimber Bialik, Vice-President (Clubs and Services)
- Zacheriah Houston, Vice-President (Finance and Operations) [advisory]
- Parvesh Chainani, Education Senator [until November 19, 2015]
- Billy Kawasaki, Member-at-Large
- DJ Kim, Member-at-Large
- Reeve Kako, Member-at-Large
- Kyu Dong Kim, Member-at-Large

COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE:

The Ad-Hoc Space Committee met on November 4, 2015 and November 18, 2015.

	November 4	November 18
Kimber Bialik	✓	✓
Zacheriah Houston	-	-
Parvesh Chainani	x	x
DJ Kim	✓	✓
Billy Kawasaki	✓	✓
Reeve Kako	✓	✓
Kyu Dong Kim	✓	✓

GOALS:

The mandate of the Ad-Hoc Space Committee is to consider the current use of space in the William Shatner University Centre and to make recommendations for the development of a new long term vision for the building.

The Committee will be working on the development of a consultative campaign on current and potential future uses of space in the University Centre, assess the needs of SSMU members for the SSMU building, and conduct research into space and resources in student union buildings at peer institutions to make suggestions to students on potential changes to the building.

ISSUES IDENTIFIED: The Ad-Hoc Space Committee identified a number of issues that should be considered in the development of a long-term plan for the SSMU Building:

- Location: The placement of the SSMU Building on the West side of campus can result in less foot traffic, and implementation of the Promenade Urbaine will also divide the West side of McTavish from the



rest of campus, creating further isolation from the rest of campus and necessitating more active promotion of the spaces available in the building.

- **Student Hub:** McGill lacks a central hub for all students – the SSMU building should play this role, but a relatively small amount of general lounge space and a lack of promotion of the building as a space to hang out on campus results in the building not meeting its full potential for serving as the central student hub on campus.
- **Visibility:** The Committee will place a focus on making spaces in the building more visible to ensure that they are readily accessible to all students entering the building. This can be achieved through signage, promotion, or rearrangement of space.
- **Association:** The Committee noted that many students see the SSMU building solely as the home of student groups, and while they attend events in the building through these student groups, few students who are not involved in student groups spend time in the building. While student groups are and should remain central to the SSMU building, the vision of the building can be revised to include a greater focus on the provision of space for individual students (lounge space, study space) as opposed to focusing primarily on clubs and services.

CONSULTATION: Thus far, consultation on how students would like to see the SSMU Building evolve has been conducted through the Space Fee Proposal Forms, where students can submit proposals for improvements to student space that can be funded by the Building Committee.

Past consultative efforts have included the 2012-2013 Space Campaign, which elicited few results in terms of the development of a long-term building vision, and the inclusion of the building in the Student Experience Survey.

The Committee identifies consultative efforts as a priority in the development of a new vision for the building and will be designing an exhaustive consultation plan to ensure that students are able to provide input into the long term goals of the SSMU building.

ACTION PLAN: The Committee plans to implement a consultative campaign during January and February to solicit the thoughts of students about the future of the SSMU building.

Plans for consultation thus far include:



- Direct Consultation: Tabling in buildings across campus, the provision of short surveys while students are in line for Activities Night, and other methods can be used to ensure that the Committee receives a variety of student input.
- Mood Boards: Mood boards within the building will allow any students to provide their feedback to the Committee on a more flexible basis as they're in the building and think of a project they would like to see implemented.
- Pop-Up Spaces: This would involve temporarily converting spaces within the building to alternative use spaces to help students visualize alternatives to the current spaces available in the building. For example, temporarily adding couches to the Green Corner would allow students to get a better idea of whether or not they would like to see that space converted into a general lounge space.
- Incentivized surveys: The use of online surveys will also ensure the accessibility of the consultation campaign to individuals who are not readily in the SSMU building and available for in person consultation.
- Website Redesign: The Committee will be working on the redevelopment of the [2012-2013 Space Campaign Website](#) to update the goals and consultative efforts in order to provide a hub for student feedback. If possible, the Committee would like to implement some sort of software on the website that will allow viewers to "design a room."
- Dissemination of comparative information: The website will also include information about the student society buildings at other universities to allow for students to compare the SSMU building to similar spaces across Canada.
- Forums: If there is interest, the Committee would be interested in hosting a town hall or forum on the future of student space in the SSMU building to act as a focus group for some of the ideas being discussed and to allow SSMU members to engage in discussions about the future of the building.

COMPLETION DATE: The Committee plans for the consultation plan to be executed during February and March of 2016, and aims to have a revised version of "A Vision for the William Shatner University Centre" produced by the last Legislative Council meeting of the Winter 2015 semester.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimber Bialik
Vice-President (Clubs and Services)