



Students' Society of McGill University
Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Office of the Vice-President (External Affairs)
Bureau du Vice-président (affaires externes)

VP External's Report to Legislative Council

October 15th, 2015

Personal

#ImagineOctober20th!! I'm somewhat stressing/somewhat hopeful for the future of Canada <3. Please, if you value our friendship, DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

Office hours: Monday and Wednesday mornings from 9:30 am till 11:00 am, or by appointment. Come visit me! We can talk about mobilizing McGill students for the revolution or maybe just 4 floors, whatever you would like ☺

External Affairs

[AVEQ \(Association for the Voice of Education in Quebec/ L' Association pour la Voix Étudiante au Québec\)](#)

- Created a contract for the AVEQ general coordinator so that this person could start working
- Skype meeting with campus representatives about the desired graphics that we want AVEQ to have and the messaging we want to use when talking to our students – good Anglophone representation at this meeting, which was nice because we definitely have different messaging needs!
- Planning the next working group meeting which SSMU will be hosting on October 24th-25th – hopefully I'll be more fully able to present this project to you folks after this week!

[UEQ \(Union Étudiant du Québec/ Student Union of Quebec\)](#)

- Last meeting was September 30th, decided a logo and the access to information policy. Nothing is specifically indicated about translation in this policy, but I've been assured that the standing regulations will ensure that all documents are always available in both English and French

Other External Affairs updates

- External affairs committee – coming soon! Met with the chair and identified projects, he is now trying to coordinate scheduling with the committee
- Upcoming projects
 - Anti-austerity communication to students
 - Updating the accessible education policy
 - Communication campaign for provincial student associations

Community Affairs

Milton Parc Community

- Lovely walking tour with the Milton Parc Citizens committee during Community Engagement Day
- Met with Hélène from the MPCC to debrief about Frosh (finally!) and talk about our upcoming projects
- Some notes about Frosh
 - Issues with leaders being unable to control their group
 - Certain pre party locations being consistently too loud



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- Generally still positive about the reduction in chanting and the work that street teams did – thanks so much to everyone who helped out!
- Upcoming projects
 - Working on rewriting messages for the C.A.R.E. agreement
 - Greener streets campaign! We'll be assessing where garbage is a problem in the streets and how we can fix this to make our neighborhood even more beautiful <3
 - Awareness campaign! We'll be making a website with fun information (did you know that over 70% of residents in Milton-parc are not students? Did you know that the Milton parc community is a really nice neighborhood with a rich history and doesn't take too kindly to being called "the McGill Ghetto?")
 - Holiday potluck! Héléne was super happy about how the potluck in the summer went so we're happy to continue ☺

Community Engagement

- Community Engagement committee is meeting on October 22nd – see you folks there! Should be really fun, there seems to be a lot of interest in doing the community engagement database so I'm super excited to be getting that project/dream off the ground!
- Talked about anti-austerity stuff at Community Engagement Day!

Campaigns

General

- Cool upcoming projects in the portfolio, including reaching out to different groups to make sure our messaging is accountable, helping to bridge connections between different campaigns, and possibly doing some research on the history of activism at McGill!
- New job! I'm hiring an external communications coordinator to help me talk about all of the fun things I get to do as part of my role.

Anti-Austerity

- Something magical happened this week. The ASSÉ randomly stopped by the SSMU offices and dropped off 200 *translated* copies of their anti-austerity journal (title: One movement, 10 billion solutions!). The next day, coalition ÉCO gave us a bunch of fliers related to austerity and climate justice. So basically I'm loaded with beautiful materials and McGill Against Austerity is going to be doing a bunch of tabling and canvassing to hand stuff out!
- Speaking of McGill Against Austerity, there are some really dedicated folks who got together after anti-austerity week trying to do mobilization around anti-austerity stuff, it should be really cool and I can't wait to see what this group comes up with. If you have any suggestions for messaging around the anti-austerity campaign or ideas for how to engage more students on these issues, **please** come talk to me!



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Federal Elections

- Been super busy the last two weeks! We had the vote mob, the federal election debate with CKUT, infinite tabling sessions and voting on campus. So far, the level of engagement I've seen has been super inspiring and I think that the messaging we've been doing is working really well. Thanks for all of your help!
- Upcoming panel discussion with CKUT on democracy and the role of voting, should be really interesting! Tuesday, October 13th in the Clubs lounge, or live broadcast on CKUT!

Coalition ÉCO

- Board meeting this week to talk about the upcoming demonstration, the Leap Manifesto, the COY, and a burgeoning new student organization building up across campuses that focuses on environmental issues.
- Demonstration this weekend! So happy to have got the chance to go and organize a McGill contingent. A refugee solidarity march was just after, and it was also lovely.
- COY planning in ongoing, mostly helping with room booking and logistics

Divest McGill

- We got another meeting with CAMSR!!! This is scheduled for **October 22nd**. We will get to present for 45 minutes as to why we think fossil fuels cause social injury – stay tuned!
- Held an action outside of the Board of Governors meeting this week and saw a very sizable turnout. The BoG definitely knows that we are still here and we still care a whole lot about climate justice!

Climate Justice

- Worked a bunch on the climate change policy; met with EUS and the mining engineering undergraduates and compiled all the feedback I have received. Thanks SO much to everyone who's taken the time to sit down with me about this, I honestly am so grateful.

Mobilization

Anti-Austerity in Quebec

- The Front Commun (represents public sector employees) had a major march on October 4th, over 150,000 people in the streets!!
- The Front Commun has announced rotating strikes throughout October and November, with synchronized strikes possibly being scheduled for early December. Basically, there is huge worker mobilization happening all across Québec right now and so many opportunities for student worker solidarity

Union Affairs

McGill Fight for Fifteen Coalition

- Met up with AMUSE last week to talk about SSMU's participation in the campaign – I will be bringing a motion to council hopefully sometime this semester but I would be really open to informal conversations for the meantime.



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QPIRG

- Note: Both Culture Shock and Social Justice days were moved to my portfolio this summer do to the similar mandates for social/environmental justice and popular education! Super psyched to work on these events with QPIRG 😊
- Conducted a bunch of interviews for the Culture Shock coordinator
- First popular education committee meeting happened, starting to plan out programming for Culture Shock which will be happening in early November

Events

- Two first meeting with SSPN to go over plans for 4 floors this year – chose theme and have started to plan different types of programming!
- Met with permanent staff and Kimber to go over the protocol for security, building, coat check, etc. The permanent staff have done this event a million times and are a huge help.
- Went over the budget with Zach, will start ticket sales ASAP
- Working with SSMU equity to ensure that this event is planned with the upmost equity considerations
 - My Culture is not a Costume series on cultural appropriation
 - Looking into incorporating more dialogue around consent
- Also planning sober events with SSPN, looking to have a pumpkin carving contest super soon! People seem really eager to get this going, which is great 😊

Commission des Affaires Francophone

- Checked in briefly this week but had trouble scheduling a meeting – this will be done asap! Looking forward to working with these folks and supporting them in the best way that a non-francophone can.

Misc

- Been trying to support my incredible colleagues, be they execs, student staff, or office staff. It's been a crazy couple of weeks but people have shown real dedication to the SSMU and I'm so proud of them for doing so 😊

With love and solidarity,

Emily Boytinck