



SENATE CAUCUS WEEKLY REPORT WEEK OF JANUARY 11-17, 2016

Alex Kpeglo-Hennessy

Arts Senator

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Senate

Committee on Student Grievances

- SQ

JBSCE Subcommittee on Queer Equity

- Attended the meeting on January 13th.
- The committee is continuing to discuss and advocate for more effective implementation of the relevant policy.
- The committee is interested.

Advisory Committee on the Charter for Student Rights

- SQ

Subcommittee of the APC on Teaching and Learning

- Missed the last meeting due to a course conflict.
- I submitted the feedback I collected last semester to the director of Teaching & Learning Services over the break.
- If you're interested in seeing it, please let me know!

Ad-Hoc Committee to Review the Charter on Student Rights

- SQ

Advisory Committee on the Possible Reappointment of the Dean of Students

- Attended the first meeting and it was very productive! Next steps are for me to try to gather more student feedback for the process!
- February 16th.

Committee on Student Services

- Meeting on January 12th has been cancelled was rescheduled during one of my courses.

Know Your Rights Working Group

- SQ





Ad-Hoc Working Group on Employment Equity

- Meeting several administrators on January 18th.

Miscellaneous

- Asked the Chair of the Department of Political Science to consider using the default period for course evaluations.
- Helping to organize a speaker panel on employment equity (**Facebook event coming soon!!**)
- Senate Caucus tabled at activities night.
- I have draft versions of two senate questions written let me know if you're interested!
 - Course Outlines
 - Final Exam Regulations
 - Erin submitted some edits and I plan to go over them and submit at least one question for the February meeting!

Erin Sobat

Arts Senator

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Enrolment and Student Affairs Advisory Committee (ESAAC) – January 12th

- Spoke in favour of proposal to revise McGill Policy on Supporting Documentation.
- Meeting soon to move forward with the Fall Reading Break proposal following faculty consultation.

BASiC Assembly – January 12th

- Updated on ArtsSci priorities document & other projects.
- Discussed smoking harm reduction proposal.

Senate – January 13th

- Submitted [Question Regarding Divestment From Fossil Fuels.](#)

AUS Legislative Council

- Discussed pre-election screening criteria for VP Finance candidates.

Academic Policy Committee (APC) – January 14th

- Absent, however agenda primarily consisted of new/revised program approvals.

University Affairs Committee (UAC) – January 14th

- Reviewed & shortlisted some fantastic research proposals!
- Will be asking for comprehensive proposals & interviewing shortlisted candidates.



SSMU Legislative Council

- Approved special referendum for SSMU restructuring & base fee increase questions.
- Discussed smoking harm reduction proposal.

Full report can be found [here](#).

Allen Chen

Dentistry Senator

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(No report submitted)

Parvesh Chainani

Education Senator

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Subcommittee on Teaching and Learning Services (STL)

- There were several changes made by Dr. Winer in the criteria and requirements for the Principal's Prize for Excellence in Teaching.
- Plan on increasing the number of online courses so that they are accessible to students from various parts of the world.
- Mr. Adam Finkelstein conveyed the lack of finance available for re-structuring classrooms to make it more conducive for student-centered learning. He also commented on the successful work done by their department in making several classrooms in the university more inviting for student participation, e.g. by arranging the desks, chairs, whiteboard, etc. in a manner that allows students to interact with the prof and with one another.

Joshua Thon

Engineering Senator

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Enrolment and Student Affairs Advisory Committee (ESAAC)

- Supported proposal to revise McGill Policy on Medical notes for student absences.
- In the process of setting a meeting time to discuss the proposed fall reading week plan with faculty members.



ESAAC Sub-Committee on Student Assessment

- Meeting was postponed to January 26th by the chair due to delayed research on best practices at peer institutions.

Engineering Undergraduate Society Council

- New Council Facebook page to facilitate communication.
- OAP made a \$90000 profit; helping to fund EUS services.
- Meeting planned to discuss council improvement/streamlining for time.

Senate

- Asked follow-up question about what opportunities McGill has to implement harm reduction strategies in residences and what importance the university places on harm reduction. Deputy Provost Dyens replied saying it is very important for McGill but its implementation is changing.

Benjamin Brunot

Law Senator

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Received a complaint about lack of access to STD testing on campus, and the particular situation of out-of-province students to access health services off-campus.

- Received requests to push for napping rooms at the Faculty of Law, and on campus in general.

Deven Sanon

Management Senator

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(No report submitted)

David Benrimoh

Medicine Senator

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Aside from asking several technical questions about the revisions to the Policy on the Investigation of Research Misconduct at this week's senate, I engaged in the following activities:



Students' Society of McGill University

3600 McTavish Street, Suite 1200, Montreal, Quebec H3A 0G3

- Advocating for consideration of student needs during the selection of the new Secretary General.
- Attending SSMU Legislative Council as Senate Representative to present the current results of the 'Smoking @ McGill' survey, which shows strong support for education and cessation campaign, the institution of smoking shelters, enforcement of current smoking rules, and moving towards a smoke free campus. Council has indicated its informal support of all measures except the smoke-free policy, and has requested a plebiscite question to address the question of moving towards a smoke-free campus. The question has been drafted and will be submitted ahead of the question deadline. In other news, the smoking working group that includes myself, Senator Thon, Senator Smailes, and Senator Sobat, Councillor Truc, as well as several members at large, will meet with several administration stakeholders to discuss the way forward. The survey results can be found here:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1DOOnA3uk6ZVyK7d7TC2sibUQgJqc6SbsMpG9QfS1D1l/viewanalytics?usp=form_confirm
- I have been working in my roles in the Medical Faculty to bring together health professional students at McGill and throughout Quebec through a new initiative I co-founded, the Health Professional Student's Roundtable, where students will discuss health policy directions and take stances on them.
- I am working with VP Rourke to revive the Policy and Advocacy Resource Committee (PARC), a group I helped found several years ago that aims at supporting and empowering students to make systemic change on campus (and possibly off campus, depending on the direction we decide to take). We had a very successful tabling experience at Winter Activities Night and hope to hire a new PARC Coordinator soon- stay tuned for the job posting!
- Finally, I am working on creating an Advocacy and Leadership Curriculum for Medical Students, which may be of interest to students outside of the medical school. If you are interested in teaching advocacy to your students, please email me and I will share the curriculum with you.

*Dixi, et salvavi animam meam
I have spoken, and thus saved my soul*

David Benrimoh, Medicine Senator
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Julie Choi
Music Senator

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Met with **Evan Vassallo (Library Improvement Fund Coordinator)** to discuss the issue of the Marvin Duchow Music Library hours starting this upcoming Fall.

- This was to address a previous proposal to close the Music Library at 7 PM from Monday to Friday and not open at all on Saturdays and Sundays starting September 2016.
- Evan sent me the LIF Proposal form due in March, and MUSA plans to fill it out ASAP (probably after having our first meeting of this term which is on January 21st).

Met with **Cynthia Levie (Head Librarian of Marvin Duchow Library)** and she agreed to look over the proposal form before submission and suggested a few other ways to keep the library hours for next year if this submission is not successful.

Tabled with fellow senators at SSMU Activities night on Jan 13th.

Attended January Senate meeting on Jan 13th.

Kathleen Chu

Nursing Senator

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NPMP (Nursing Peer Mentorship Program) working group

- Emily from McGill Counselling Service is doing 2 workshops with NPMP.
 - Detecting red flags: Jan 29th
 - Stress management: Feb 5th
- Meet to pilot Informal, fun, social French language workshops
 - Objectives, how many, format
 - Working on presentation and recruitment for workshops next week.

NUS General Council Meeting

- New office with student space!!!! :)

Meeting with McKenzie

- Peer support and clinical support dealing w/ conflict with instructors and end of life care situation or difficult and sensitive clinical situations.
- Working on meeting with Elaine (course coordinator), mostly geared to U2 students at the moment.
- Survey to see interest and feedback from last semester.
- What does Medicine do?

Meeting with NUS President

- "What to expect when the unexpected happens" workshop
 - When you fail a course



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- When you are put on clinical alert

Faculty Meeting → Strategic Planning for Ingram School of Nursing

- Student survey by Alain?
- Once a month faculty Curriculum Review for this semester.

Marina Smailes

Science Senator

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Tabled at Activities Night to promote Senate Caucus and the Smoking Policy survey.

Attended SUS General Council.

- Mentioned smoking policy survey.
- Updated students on Senate happenings.
- Encouraged students to think about running for positions in the upcoming year.

Further discussion and feedback on the Smoking Policy Working Group.

- Talked with Prof. Brian Robinson about potential faculty-student collaboration on Arts and Sci initiatives.

Cecilia MacArthur

Academic Research Commissioner

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University Affairs Committee

The University Affairs Committee met this week to discuss applicants for the University Affairs Research Competition, which seeks to provide undergraduate students with an opportunity to conduct paid, advocacy-based research on the student issue of their choice. The Committee received twelve applications, three of which were selected for the shortlist. Applicants will be interviewed in the coming weeks. The Committee additionally discussed how to engage with applicants that were not selected, deciding to refer unsuccessful applicants to relevant campus groups, SSMU executives and staff, or other grants. Committee members expressed that they were pleased with the applications, and hoped that the level of interest would incentivize SSMU to pursue more applied-student research opportunities in the future.

The Committee additionally briefly discussed the Memorandum of Agreement negotiations with the McGill.

Academic Policy Committee



APC approved the Bachelors of Engineering; Bioengineering Degree Program, the Bachelor's of Music; Minor in Music Entrepreneurship, the Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies/Faculty of Medicine Ph.D. in Family Medicine and Primary Care, the name and program change of the Major, Minor, Honours and Joint Honours Concentrations in Women's Studies and/or Sexual Diversity Studies to the Major, Minor, Honours and Joint Honours Concentrations to Gender, Sexuality, Feminist, and Social Justice Studies, the Faculty of Religious Studies S.T.M. (Sacred Theology Master) degree, and the Grading Scheme for Professional Development Certificates in the School of Continuing Studies.

Research

I completed research for Arts Senator Erin Sobat on Student Service Fees. I am continuing research on agreements between student unions and universities across Canada, as well as on executive structures of student unions across Canada, all for VP UA Chloe Rourke.

Finally, I am in the process of finalizing an Employment Equity Report with SSMU researchers, which will be presented Thursday, January 21st at a panel on employment equity.

Senators Kareem Ibrahim (SSMU President, president@ssmu.mcgill.ca) and Chloe Rourke (SSMU VP University Affairs, ua@ssmu.mcgill.ca) reports biweekly to the SSMU Council. Their reports can be found at this link: <http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/representation/ssmu-legislative-council/council-documents-2015-2016/>.