



SENATE CAUCUS WEEKLY REPORT WEEK OF JANUARY 25-31, 2016

The nomination period for student senator positions is now open! Find the nomination package [here](#) (note that the automatic Dentistry and Religious Studies seats have actually been replaced with Nursing and Arts & Science). The initial nomination runs until February 8th, after which unfilled seats will be reallocated to other Faculties.

Alex Kpeglo-Hennessy

Arts Senator

artssenator1@ssmu.mcgill.ca

Senate

Committee on Student Grievances

- SQ

JBSCE Subcommittee on Queer Equity

- The committee is interested in gathering feedback on courses that could potentially fulfill a program requirement in diversity & equity
- If you want to help please fill out the form: <http://goo.gl/forms/r6oqpo35tu>

Advisory Committee on the Charter for Student Rights

- SQ

Subcommittee of the APC on Teaching and Learning

- SQ

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! I sent out Listserv submissions.
- February 16th

Committee on Student Services

- Missed the last meeting due to class conflict



Students' Society of McGill University

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Know Your Rights Working Group

- SQ

Ad-Hoc Working Group on Employment Equity

- Met with the Associate Provost (Policies, Procedures, and Equity), Secretary-General, and several Professors to discuss the design of the Open Discussion on Employment Equity in February
- Meeting again on Monday

AUS

Committee on Student Affairs

- Next meeting is on February 10th

Accountability Committee

- SQ

Faculty of Arts Committee

- Missed the last meeting due to class conflict

SSMU

Student Society Programming Network

- Co-Chaired Week 101

MISC

- Panel on Diversity in Academia was very successful! Had a great roundtable discussion with professors and students
- Asked the Chair of the Department of Political to consider using the default period for course evaluations
- 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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Arts Curriculum Committee

- Met on Monday, January 25th to review proposals from LING, HIST, COMS, SOCI, ANTH, LLCU, QCST & an ad-hoc Major



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SSMU Board of Directors

- Met on Monday, January 25th to adjust timelines for special referendum & executive nominations

Arts Undergraduate Improvement Fund Steering Committee

- Met on Monday, January 25th to screen funding proposals & provide feedback
- Met on Friday, January 29th to set agenda for full committee meeting on Tuesday, February 2nd

Committee on Student Services

- Met on Tuesday, January 26th to discuss Advisory Board reports, Innovation Fund, cyclical review follow-up, Wellness Initiative & University-Wide Wellness Strategy
- Will be following up with student input and concerns for University-Wide Wellness Strategy

SSMU Special Referendum

- Spent several hours this week tabling and talking to students about the campaign!
- Voting is open until Wednesday, February 3rd at 3pm at ssmu.simplyvoting.com :)

AUS Legislative Council

- Met on Wednesday, January 27th & approved VP Finance screening procedures/committee composition & MoA draft; sandwiches should soon be back at SNAX!
- Officially endorsed a “Yes” vote for the SSMU membership fee increase!

AUS HR Meeting

- Met on Thursday, January 28th to work on centralized web hiring framework & best practices

Employment Equity

- Assisted with editing research report, drafting press release & strategizing media promotion plan
- Successful panel on “Diversity in Academia” on Thursday; thanks to Alex for organizing!
- Preparing for Senate Open Discussion on Employment Equity (February 17th)

SSMU Legislative Council

- Met on Thursday, January 28th to hear presentations from provincial student federations
- Passed revised CARE messaging, March plebiscite question on a smoke-free campus & amended Interim Provisions for Student Senators



University Affairs Research Competition

- Interviewing shortlisted candidates this week
- Projects to span February through April

Royal Victoria Hospital Site

- Met with student submitting a proposal for increased arts & rehearsal space at the Royal Vic site
- Next Task Force meeting on Friday, February 26th

Smoking Policy Working Group

- Promoting focus groups for smokers: Thursday, February 4th (2:00-3:00pm) and Friday, February 5th (2:30-3:30pm) – RSVP at <http://goo.gl/forms/gjgrR42jqr> (there will be pizza!)
- Town Hall on Smoking Policy Proposals: Tuesday, February 9th (5:30pm) in the SSMU Madeleine Parent Room
- Additional tabling/outreach as needed, with possible presentation at Winter GA (February 22nd)

Full report can be found here: <http://ausmcgill.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Arts-Senator-Report-January-27.pdf>

Allen Chen

Dentistry Senator

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Nothing to report

Parvesh Chainani

Education Senator

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SSAP Meeting:

Following were the discussion questions that framed the premise of our conversation:

Discussed the GPA system at McGill: Is the “A” grade range (85%- 100%) too high at McGill?

Should we have an “A+” grade that will acknowledge students who get above 90% or 95%?

What about the corresponding GPA to the letter grades- any problems?

Policy on supporting documents: should we standardize notes? Should students or staff pay an additional fee to external doctors to make them fill out the McGill “standardized note” for supporting documents? etc.



No concrete solutions to any of these problems were made. If anyone has any suggestions or comments to any of the aforementioned issues, please feel free to e-mail me.

Joshua Thon

Engineering Senator

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(No report submitted)

Benjamin Brunot

Law Senator

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(No report submitted)

Deven Sanon

Management Senator

managementsenator@ssmu.mcgill.ca

(No report submitted)

David Benrimoh

Medicine Senator

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I have been in interviews for residency, and missed Senate caucus on Monday due to a faculty association meeting. However, I was able to meet with Dr. Perera from student health services to discuss smoking strategy, and attended CSS where we asked probing questions about the idea of embedded counselors and how they would be able to play a preventative role without becoming inundated with the need to provide one-on-one services.

Dixi, et salvavi animam meam

I have spoken, and thus saved my soul



Julie Choi

Music Senator

musicsenator@ssmu.mcgill.ca

MUSA meeting:

- Edited the constitution - soon to hold a GA
- Finalized detail for winter music formal

Started filling out the application form for library improvement fund (RE: Marvin Duchow Music Library hours starting next year)

Kathleen Chu

Nursing Senator

nursingsenator@ssmu.mcgill.ca

(No report submitted)

Marina Smailes

Science Senator

sciencesenator1@ssmu.mcgill.ca

Senate Committee on Physical Development:

- January meeting was cancelled, next meeting in March

Arts and Science Assembly:

- Attended meeting on Jan 26th
- presented info on Panel on Diversity in Academia, 3D printers, etc.

Teaching and Learning Spaces Working Group:

- Meeting held on Jan 27th

Sustainable Labs Working Group:

- Meeting held on Jan 25th
- Continued working on sustainable addition to lab safety audits
- will be testing and requesting feedback from key stakeholders in the next few weeks
- discussion on safety of 3D printers due to VOCs and ventilation (no regulation)
- brainstorming on quick fix to lack of asset sharing on campus labs

FERC:

- First meeting of the semester on Jan 27th



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SUS:

- next GC meeting on Feb 3rd

Josefina Zalba

MacDonald Campus Students' Society (MCSS) Senator

university-affairs.mcass@mail.mcgill.ca

Kitchen renovations & the Boathouse project were discussed.

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/>.