



SENATE CAUCUS REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2-26, 2016

RENE IWO (SSMU UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS SECRETARY GENERAL)

uasecgen@ssmu.mcgill.ca

Senate Caucus

- During the SSMU Senators and Councillors Retreat on September 9-11, the Senators received training regarding the roles and responsibilities of a Senator, as well as useful skills and knowledges that will help them in the position.

- We have had two Senate Caucus meetings so far:

Monday, September 11:

- Dealt with a lot of housekeeping (Senators' email access, committee schedules, filesharing, and social media).
- After introductions, each Senator shared a little bit about their goals and personal projects for the year. This will be followed-up by a one-on-one meeting with Erin within the following two weeks.

Monday, September 19:

- A few PGSS Senators also attended this meeting.
- Discussed the [new draft of the Sexual Violence Policy](#) which was released on September 18. Different faculties have different responses to it, all of which will be funneled into the feedback form or sent via email to the Office of the Associate Provost of Policies, Procedures, and Equity.
- Discussed the Senate documents that were sent out in preparation of the meeting that Wednesday, September 21.

- To read the minutes of each Senate Caucus meeting, please email me at uasecgen@ssmu.mcgill.ca.

University Committee Allocations

- After 2 public callouts for undergraduate students to sit on more than 55 University-level committees, we allocated more than 70 students to 116 spots for undergraduate student representatives in these committees. The full list will soon be available on the upcoming SSMU University Affairs Website.
- Developed a training for all the undergraduate representatives to prepare them to advocate for students' interests as best as they can. We held 3 training sessions (led by Erin), on September 15, 20, and 23.



Office of Vice-President (University Affairs)

Tel: (514) 398-6797 | ua@ssmu.mcgill.ca

3600 McTavish St., Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

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Communications

- Together with Erin, we sent out the [first ever University Affairs Listserv](#) to more than 300 people (students and staff) in the University community who signed up or are involved in student governance and university affairs.
- Over the summer, Erin worked on creating a website for the SSMU University Affairs portfolio. This will become our main channel of information dissemination.

CASARINA HOCEVAR (ARTS SENATOR)

artssenator1@ssmu.mcgill.ca

Indigenous Affairs Work Group (IAWG):

- Met on Wednesday, September 14 (first meeting of the year)
- Launch of the Task Force
- Indigenous Awareness Week
- Elders program at McGill
- “Journey McGill Parcours” launch
- First time First People’s House has full occupancy
- Next meeting is on November 1, 12:30-2 pm.

Scholarship and Student Aid Office Advisory Board (SSAO AB):

Nothing to report.

Enrolment and Student Affairs Advisory Group (ESAAC):

- Met on Tuesday, September 6 (first meeting of the year)
- Mac Campus medical note project
- Music Wellness Initiative
- Next meeting is on October 4, 10 - 12.30 pm.

Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS):

- Last met on Wednesday, September 21.
- Will and I gave a report of Senate business (and first Senate meeting of the year)
- Received questions regarding the transition from clickers to McGill polling system
- Heard reports from AUS Exec, Frosh and Equity, AGELEF, AHCSSA, ASA, BASic, and Arts Reps (Full reports can be found on AUS Agenda/Minutes.)
- Next meeting is on October 2, 6 pm.



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WILLIAM CLEVELAND (ARTS SENATOR)

artssenator2@ssmu.mcgill.ca

SSMU Legislative Council (as Senate Caucus Representative)

- Met on September 15
 - Subcommittee on Equitable Governance struck in response to a report by the same name.
 - I was appointed to this subcommittee; and am very excited to liaise with student groups across campus to increase access to student governance for more marginalized groups.
- Mostly start of the year stuff, with exec reports from the summer
 - Check out the minutes (which will soon be available [here](#)) if you would like to learn more about what the SSMU execs have been up to this summer.

That is all!

CHARLES KEITA (ARTS SENATOR)

artssenator3@ssmu.mcgill.ca

Equity Subcommittee on Racialized and Ethnic Persons (SCREP)

- Met on September 9.
- Nothing to be reported, mostly a “welcome back” meeting

Committee on Enrolment and Student Affairs (CESA)

- Met on September 20.
- Discussed and approved scholarships for Cont. Ed. students, the majority of whom are part time students.
 - Previous scholarship template was only opened to full time students thus this is a move in the right direction seeing as Cont. Ed. students are usually of an older demographic and are not able to commit all their time to school because of bills.
 - For day time students, the full time student requirement is kept as to not reward capable students who purposely take reduced course loads.
- Briefly went over the idea of a fall reading break but unfortunately it was tabled for next meeting following guidance from APC (Academic Policy Committee).

Roundtable Discussion on Supporting Undergraduate Innovation and Entrepreneurship

- Went to the event on September 20.
- Addressed concerns of intellectual property when using school spaces.



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- Addressed the lack of a central hub for entrepreneurship on campus. MUS students have the Dobson Center while the EUS has many different hubs, but the lack of a central hub de-legitimizes entrepreneurship on campus.
- Addressed lack of space for entrepreneurial activities on campus.

GUY ETTLIN (ARTS & SCIENCE SENATOR)

artsscisenator@ssmu.mcgill.ca

Subcommittee on Undergraduate Student Advising (SUSA)

A proposal was approved at Enrolment and Student Affairs Advisory Committee (ESAAC) to allow a first deferred exam request without supporting documentation. The faculties who have opted to join this pilot are:

- Arts
- Science
- Engineering
- Education
- Law
- Management
- Agricultural and Environmental Science

Other committees have not yet met, nothing to report.

AMANDA MONTAQUE (EDUCATION SENATOR)

education senator@ssmu.mcgill.ca

Undergraduate Skills Program Advisory Board

I went to the Undergraduate Skills Program Advisory Board meeting concerning the new Steering Committee initiative Sept 23, 2016.

The Steering Committee's main function is to provide undergraduate level student access to professional development programs that will improve practical skill acquisition.

- Skills could include basic skills on how to navigate the university system in U0 to how to pitch research ideas and projects to a large audience.
- Information about workshops, classes, and mentoring opportunities will ideally be synthesized on several forms of communication/online media technologies
- First meeting will be on October 5.

The Steering Committee will be overseeing all activity from the following four groups:



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- Curriculum Development Committee: Learning goals, workshop content, most importantly-streaming (beginning of the program will be very wide then funnel according to students' interests)
- Communications Committee: Communication Strategy
- Assessment Committee: Program Assessment, Tracking Methods, etc.
- IT Committee: Web, Dashboard, e-Portfolio etc.

The three main steps to the program:

1. Knowledge Acquisition
2. Reflection
3. Knowledge Creation

(All according to Steering documentation.)

I am looking to participate on the Curriculum Development, Communications, and IT Committees.

ALEXANDER DOW (ENGINEERING SENATOR)

engineering senator@ssmu.mcgill.ca

Academic Policy Committee (APC)

Was nominated at Senate on September 21. First meeting was September 22, everything went normally (see Joshua Chin's report).

University Teaching Labs Working Group (UTLWG)

Nothing to report. First meeting was rescheduled from September 30 to October 11.

University Health and Safety Committee (UHSC)

Nothing to report. First meeting on track for October 3.

Sustainable Labs Working Group (SLWG)

Nothing to report, see Sean Taylor's report. Second meeting on track for October 20.

Principal's Prize for Teaching Excellence Adjudication Committee

Committee met on September 6, unfortunately matters are Confidential until the September 22 meeting of the Academic Policy Committee (APC).

Student Society Programming Network (SSPN)

Things are forging ahead as scheduled, 4Floors is being planned (I am the Logistics Coordinator) in addition to other events which shall be published shortly.



SHANNON SNOW (LAW SENATOR)

lawsenator@ssmu.mcgill.ca

Senate

At September's senate meeting, I asked two questions:

1. Asking details on training for harassment assessors. During the past year, new training standards have been implemented for harassment assessors. Such standards did not exist prior to. Angela Campbell detailed the training orally. It seems quite extensive. Interestingly, students are not permitted to be harassment assessors (reason unknown). Only faculty, admin and support staff can hold these roles.
2. Following up on a question asked by a senator from PGSS, I emphasized the importance of having a territory acknowledgment that is approved by indigenous stakeholders on campus. The major issue: the current "statement" adopted by the Provost's office (note the term acknowledgment is not used) uses the simple past tense rather than the present perfect tense.

Equity Subcommittee on First Peoples

Nothing official to report.

Mental Health Service Advisory Board (MHS AB)

Board has not yet met.

Advisory Council on the Charter of Students' Rights

Council has not yet met.

Other projects

Have consulted with employees of the Sustainability Projects Fund and environmental groups from the Faculty of Law to improve recycling on the law campus. Right now the availability of recycling containers is pretty lousy (proper organizing not taking place, thus resulting in recycling being garbaged). SPF noted that campus-wide projects are more likely to be accepted. I encourage any other senators with issues of sustainability in their constituent buildings to get in touch.

ALEXANDRE PERRON (MANAGEMENT SENATOR)

managementsenator@ssmu.mcgill.ca

Senate: Nothing to report that you probably don't know.

Committee on Enrolment and Student Affairs (CESA): No news yet.



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Advisory Committee for the Selection of VP Finance & Administration:

- Shortlisted candidates.
- Mid-October meeting cancelled because nothing to talk about.
- Interview questions are drafted and will be polished before interview.

JOSHUA CHIN (MEDICINE SENATOR)

medicinesenator@ssmu.mcgill.ca

Detailed report [here](#).

Advisory Committee for the Selection of a Vice-Principal (Research & Innovation)

- SQ. Currently in the process of shortlisting candidates.
- Next meeting on October 17, 2016.

Academic Policy Committee (APC)

- APC meeting on September 22, 2016.
 - Graduate Diploma in Surgical Innovation (new program) for Senate approval.
 - Cyclical unit review of Departments of Performance (Music), Pharmacology and Therapeutics (Medicine), Obstetrics and Gynecology (Medicine), and Pediatrics (Medicine).
 - Suggestion for future cyclical unit reviews to look back at prior program or unit reviews to identify unresolved issues.
- Next meeting on October 13, 2016.

SSMU Legislative Council (as Senate Caucus Representative)

- Legislative Council meeting on September 15, 2016.
 - Introductory meeting. SSMU committee allocations.
 - Proposed amendment to standing rules to include reporting mechanisms on LC motions repealed or amended by the SSMU Board of Directors.
 - Appointment to the SSMU Finance Committee. No planned meeting to date.
- Next meeting on September 29, 2016.

MITCHEL RUSSO (MUSIC SENATOR)

musicsenator@ssmu.mcgill.ca

Subcommittee on Undergraduate Student Advising (SUSA):



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- The proposal to allow first time final exam requests without supporting documentation was approved by ESAAC and is being implemented beginning this current fall semester
- Only the following faculties have opted to join in on the pilot program: Arts, Science, Engineering, Education, Law, Management, Agricultural & Environmental Sciences.
- Statistics from each respective faculty will be kept and reported back to ESAAC in May of 2017.

Subcommittee on Teaching and Learning

No developments, first meeting of the academic year has yet to occur.

Subcommittee on Queer People

Our first meeting was on Tuesday, September 20 in Leacock 738 (which was later moved to the 8th floor Classics Lounge due to the noise from the outside constructions).

- *We are looking for someone to chair the Subcommittee for the Winter 2017 Term as Dr. Lynn Kozak will be going on sabbatical during this term:*
 - Preferable we'd like someone from the joint board committee since they'd be already in the loop with some of the tasks we're working on.
 - The ideal candidate would be someone who could attend both the SQP meetings as well as the Joint Board Committee meetings. Any interested faculty or staff should get into contact with Dr. Kozak.
- *Preferred Names for Students, Staff and Faculties across the IT systems:*
 - Angela Campbell is on board with this initiative even though many IT resources have expressed their constraints for implementing this. There are many McGill platforms (i.e. banner, MyCourses, minerva, etc.) which aren't interconnected to each other which provides difficulty for getting this across all the McGill IT technologies
 - Anyone who's experiences issues with preferred names should speak up! Get in contact with the Dean of Students or bring it to our subcommittee's attention.
- *Sexual Assault Policy Draft:*
 - Committee review of the most current release of the McGill Sexual Assault Policy Draft where we express concerns, comments and questions about some of the terminology defined or not clearly defined. As well as some choice of words that we found not appropriate. Dr. Kozak is looking for more comments on what we've read in addition to what we've voiced at the meeting before the end of the week. These comments will be brought up at the next Joint Board Committee meeting.
- *Return to the Rainbow:*
 - The annual event will take place in Thompson House on October 28, we invite all to come out and attend the event.
 - We're looking into funding options, we've usually received a portion of funding from Queer McGill but this year that funding has been cut and so we're exploring other options for funding this event.



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- *Planning Queer Issues on Campus:*
 - Planning our open forum sometime in October preferably before the Return to the Rainbow event but after Consent week.
- *Trans Health:*
 - The concern regarding the only Doctor at the McGill Health Clinic who prescribed hormones is no longer at McGill.
 - Referral letters from McGill Counselling Services regarding students who are interested in gender reassignment surgery. Seeking referrals from doctors can get costly for a student. If something was implemented through Counseling services to help provide the necessary documentation without the high costs seen at an external doctor's office.
 - Students are working with Dr. Kozak in the coming weeks to prepare a proposal letter regarding these above issues.

SEAN TAYLOR (SCIENCE SENATOR)

sciencesenator1@ssmu.mcgill.ca

Enrolment and Student Affairs Advisory Committee (ESAAC)

- Meeting was held Sept 6
- Looking to centralize medical note system at Macdonald Campus
- Also addressing late withdrawal policy
- Next meeting on Oct 4

Teaching and Learning Spaces Working Group (TLSWG)

- Meeting was held on Sept 23
- Discussed Predesigns, designs, and projects implemented
- Due dates: IT Maintenance (Oct 11), FY18 Predesign Priorities (Nov 8), and Furniture/equipment replacement requests (Nov 8)
- Also are looking at longer term projects to renovate Leacock 132 and McIntyre 3rd and 4th Floors
- Also looking forward to the Royal Victoria Hall potential plans
- Next meeting is Oct 20

Sustainable Labs Working Group (SLWG)

- Meeting was held on Sept 8
- Implementing sustainable points on the lab inspection form
- Also will look to continue work on the plan to train student staff in labs on sustainable practices in labs
- Next meeting is Oct 20



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Senate

- Senate was held Sept 21
- Received answer to question on at cost resources for students
- Look to solve concerns with a science class that is currently affected by this

Science Undergraduate Society (SUS)

- Attended General Council meeting on Sept 14
- Passed Committee terms of reference
- Looking to make rounds of departmental council meetings once a semester

ERIN SOBAT (SSMU VP UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS)

ua@ssmu.mcgill.ca

BEN VAN DER GER (SSMU PRESIDENT)

president@ssmu.mcgill.ca

As SSMU Executives, Erin Sobat and Ben van der Ger report to the SSMU Legislative Council every two weeks. Their reports can be found among the other Council Meeting documents at [this link](#).

The current newest report was published on September 15, 2016.

For Erin's report, please click [here](#). For Ben's report, please click [here](#).