



SENATE CAUCUS REPORT

SEPTEMBER 26-OCTOBER 10, 2016

RENE IWO (SSMU UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS SECRETARY GENERAL)

uasecgen@ssmu.mcgill.ca

Senate Caucus

The Senators attended their first Senate meeting on Wednesday, September 21.

Main points from Monday, September 26 Caucus Meeting:

- Discussed the implications of the Fall Reading Break to exam scheduling and the start date of the Fall term.
- Debriefed on the Senators' first Senate meeting.
- Discussed questions that will be submitted for the next Senate meeting.
 - Unpaid internships
 - Bookstore issues
- Provided updates on the Sexual Violence Policy, and announcing dates for the focus groups.

Main points from Monday, October 3 Caucus Meeting:

- Discussed students' textbook experiences, both related to the new Bookstore and its issues, as well as to the research that Casarina is doing for the Library (see Casarina's report below).
- Discussed the Q&A with Angela Campbell (Associate Provost – Policies, Procedures, and Equity) about the Sexual Violence Policy.
- Discussed the University-Wide Wellness Strategy:
 - The Strategy Draft were deemed unsatisfactory for the Senators, as it seems to lack specificity and concrete strategic actionable points.

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

Communications

- We sent out the [second University Affairs \(UA\) 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.

CASARINA HOCEVAR (ARTS SENATOR)

artssenator1@ssmu.mcgill.ca



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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Enrolment & Student Affairs Advisory Committee (ESAAC):

- Met on October 4th. Discussed the business of its subcommittees annual reports (Student Affairs Policy, Undergraduate Student Advising, and Academic Integrity). Opened the floor to possible topics to discuss throughout the year including, deferred exams, disciplinary code, add/drop period, GPA, amongst other things.

Indigenous Affairs Working Group (IAWG) and Scholarships and Student Aid Office (SSAO) Advisory Board have nothing to report.

AUS Council:

- Met on Oct. 5th. Executive reports were heard, among Arts Reps, ours (Arts Senators), and of the following student associations: CLASHA, CSA, CSAUS, CSUS, DESA. The agenda with all reports can be found here: <https://ausmcgill.com/2016/10/agenda-october-5th-2016/>.
- We approved the instatement of the Liberal Arts Program Student Association, as well as by-election period for AUS.
- Mental Health at AUS is hosting its first annual Mental Health Resource Expo to share what groups on campus have mental health resources available. Information can be found here: https://www.facebook.com/events/1110758432353842/?notif_t=plan_user_invited¬if_id=1475790263623232
- Lastly, we also received a lot of questions regarding the policy of deferring first exam without a medical note.

Miscellaneous:

- I have commenced gathering student feedback on textbooks costs and course material accessibility at McGill, through a short survey found here: <https://goo.gl/forms/6k4SFYfJ5Jeo30jk1>
- I am hoping to have as many students as possible to fill it out and provide feedback. This will be used in a report for SSMU later this academic year.

WILLIAM CLEVELAND (ARTS SENATOR)

artssenator2@ssmu.mcgill.ca

AUS:

Casarina put everything that was important!

Committee on Student Services (CSS):

- Met for the first time.
- Discussed the new Health/Mental health wellness plan for the university for most of the time.



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- More specific information to come but talk to Erin or I if you have other questions.

University Affairs Committee (UAC):

- Met for the first time.
- Working on Know your Rights campaign for January, Faculty/Department Assessment Policy Inventory, Student Academic Summit, University Affairs website, and the Accessible Academic Accommodation Project.

CHARLES KEITA (ARTS SENATOR)

artssenator3@ssmu.mcgill.ca

Nothing to report.

GUY ETTLIN (ARTS & SCIENCE SENATOR)

artsscisenator@ssmu.mcgill.ca

Subcommittee on Courses and Teaching Programs (SCTP):

- 4 proposals:
- Arts - Minor in Hispanic Studies (minor corrections to the outline necessary, all else approved)
- Education - Graduate Certificate International Leadership in Education and Administrative Development (I-LEAD)
 - Similar programs exist for people working in Quebec.
 - This targets international high rank executives and professionals needing some extra training in education for their position.
 - Approved with flexibility given to arrangements made for a potential capstone course held on campus on top of the overall online program.
- Cont. Studies - Professional Development Certificate in Parliamentary Management - approved.
- Agr&Envr Science - Minor in Agribusiness Entrepreneurship - expanding the program to other Departments - approved.

AMANDA MONTAQUE (EDUCATION SENATOR)

educationsenator@ssmu.mcgill.ca

Committee on Student Services (CSS):

Met earlier last week. This was an introductory and general information meeting.

Course Evaluation Advisory Group (CEAG):



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I have a luncheon scheduled on October 18:

- Discussion of course evaluation system, in particular hateful/ disparaging comments based on identity
- This will be with the Joint Board Committee on Equity as well
- This will also be a general information meeting

ALEXANDER DOW (ENGINEERING SENATOR)

engineering senator@ssmu.mcgill.ca

APC (Academic Policy Committee):

Nothing to report for October 9. Next meeting October 12.

UTLWG (University Teaching Labs Working Group):

Meeting October 11:

- Large Building Issues
 - Stewart Biology Building: Building is being prepared for renovations in the North Wing beginning in 2018. This will cause Biology and Psychology to be moved by late 2018, including the undergraduate Biology laboratories. As well this grant would cover all asbestos removal and does not cover the West and South wings of the building.
 - Royal Victoria Hospital: McGill will not be able to get occupy RVH until roughly ~2028; there would be a need for Stewart Biology laboratories to have a more permanent location, this has been proposed by the working groups on RVH to bring large amounts of students into the building. Whether this makes it into the final report is unknown to the UTLWG.
- Other Arising Items of Business:
 - Discussion about the disbursement to Faculties since FY2012-present was presented. The largest users of the UTLWG funds are Engineering, Education, Science, and Medicine, while the smallest users are Arts, Management, and Law.
 - Forthcoming proposals for the FY2018 are due by December 1st, 2017.
 - UTLWG funds both renovations and equipment; student senator representative (Alexander Dow) will be ensuring things aren't double funded or wasteful spending will be happening (such as the case with Engineering Equipment Fund "EFC").
 - Current projects from FY2016 and 17 in the Education Building, Strathcona Dentistry Building, and the Organic Chemistry Laboratory have been delayed in the design phase due to ballooning costs from their original pre-design plans.

UHSC (University Health and Safety Committee):

Meeting October 3:



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- **New Coordinator: Josée Sansoucy**
 - He is replacing Shannon and Wayne from the committee last year.
- **University Lab Safety Committee**
 - Dean of Science has selected someone to sit on ULSC finally.
 - With regards to SOP, new hands-on training session planned for those handling shipments of dry ice (advocated for by unions); McGill looking at online training due to budget restrictions.
- **Regulatory Agency interventions**
 - Canadian Food Inspection Agency is taking excessive amounts of time in giving clearance to research projects. The group U15 has drafted and released a denouncement of the slow policies of the CFIA for research approvals.
- **Smoking Policy**
 - SSMU is projected to be a main forwarder of the policy.
- **Engineering Laboratories**
 - No updates were given on issues caused by fibre glass machine working.
- **No Fragrance Workspaces**
 - Due to complaints within the Leacock building, there are proposals to examine making McGill a Fragrance Free Campus. This would require extensive research to determine its feasibility, (examining private corporate policies and other university initiatives). Current remedy in place is visible posters to alert users of sensitive floors about the fragrance allergy.
- **Bronfman Evacuation Issues**
 - Because of construction on Rue Sherbrooke, City of Montréal Fire Prevention office has been in dialogue with McGill Security personnel with regards to a full-scale evacuation of the building

SLWG (Sustainable Lab Working Group):

Nothing to report. Second meeting on track for October 20.

SSMU - SSPN (Student Society Programming Network):

- Working as the Logistics Coordinator, the budget is on track towards a surplus.
- 4Floors Headliner will be announced tomorrow.
- Looking for promotional opportunities! Please contact us or invite to the Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1230132317037730/>

SHANNON SNOW (LAW SENATOR)

lawsenator@ssmu.mcgill.ca

Nothing to report.



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ALEXANDRE PERRON (MANAGEMENT SENATOR)

managementsenator@ssmu.mcgill.ca

No report submitted.

JOSHUA CHIN (MEDICINE SENATOR)

medicinesenator@ssmu.mcgill.ca

Detailed Report [HERE](#).

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

- No new business. Currently in the process of shortlisting candidates.
- Next meeting on Oct 17, 2016.

Academic Policy Committee (APC):

- Next meeting on Oct 13, 2016.

SSMU Legislative Council (as Senate Caucus Representative)

- Legislative Council meeting on Sept 29, 2016.
- Discussion on 2016-2017 budget, including the Student-Run Cafeteria (SRC).
- Next meeting on Oct 13, 2016. Deadline for Notices of Motion for Fall Referendum.

MITCHEL RUSSO (MUSIC SENATOR)

musicsenator@ssmu.mcgill.ca

Subcommittee on Undergraduate Student Advising (SUSA):

- Nothing at this point to report.
- Next Meeting is Tuesday, October 11.

Subcommittee on Teaching and Learning (STL):

- Clickers move to the cloud:
 - There have been very positive results with moving clickers to the cloud-based platform. Over 130 instructors and 12,000 (non-unique) students have registered with this new platform.
 - Any physical clickers may be returned to the Campus Life & Engagement office (Brown Building, Room 3100).
- Leacock and the Construction:



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- A discussion ensued regarding the construction behind the Leacock Building (expected to end May 2017) which has hindered many classes taking place in Leacock due to the jackhammering taking place.
- As a result, enrollment services have relocated most courses taking place in Leacock 26, 219, 123 and 232.
- Midterms have also been relocated and a construction moratorium during finals has been signed with the city.
- An option to move these classes to an online solution was proposed but when reached out to professors affected none have chosen to try it.
- Online Education for Graduate Students:
 - It has been confirmed that a contract to deliver online education for Graduate Programs has been signed.
 - Programs will be within the Faculties of Medicine, Education and Law.
 - When accepted, students will be considered McGill Students and hold all the rights and responsibilities as those of on-campus students.

Subcommittee on Queer People (SQP):

- Nothing new to report.
- Next meeting is Tuesday October 18.

Music Undergraduate Student Association (MUSA):

- A vote on Two Referendums questions occurred on Monday October 3rd. Each question was pertaining to the Marvin Duchow Music Library and both were successfully passed.
 - The first question was for the continuation of the Special Library Fund to help continue the current operating hours of the Music Library.
 - The second question, was for the continuation of the Music Student Computer Room Fund.
- The Association is also currently exploring options of moving their voting method from paper and pen to a secure online method.

SEAN TAYLOR (SCIENCE SENATOR)

sciencesenator1@ssmu.mcgill.ca

Enrolment and Student Affairs Advisory Committee (ESAAC):

- Meeting held October 4.
- Selected topics of discussion for the subcommittees on advising, student policy, and academic integrity, which will include looking at the deferred exam schedule, delay in evening exams, revisions to the disciplinary code in regards to academic integrity, and more.



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Teaching and Learning Spaces Working Group (TLSWG):

- Have put out survey to collect requests from students for room renovations and furniture repairs.
- Next meeting is October 20.

Sustainable Labs Working Group (SLWG):

SQ. Next meeting is October 20.

SUS:

Passed committee terms of reference and will be going over the budget proposal at the next meeting.

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 reports 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 29, 2016.

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