



# SENATE CAUCUS WEEKLY REPORT PERIOD OF FEBRUARY 8-21, 2016

**Alex Kpeglo-Hennessy**

**Arts Senator**

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## 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>
- Next meeting is February 18th

## Advisory Committee on the Charter for Student Rights

- SQ

## Ad-Hoc Committee to Review the Charter on Student Rights

- SQ

## Advisory Committee on the Possible Reappointment of the Dean of Students

- Next meeting is February 16th
- Reviewed the confidential submissions from the McGill Community
- Next step is meeting with the Dean in person

## Committee on Student Services

- Next meeting is February 16th
- Attended a pre-committee lunch to discuss upcoming issues

## Know Your Rights Working Group

- SQ

## 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



# Students' Society of McGill University

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- We completed the outline for the open discussion and reviewed more data
- Lots of media coverage of this topic in the Daily and the Tribune
- Organizing a CKUT interview on the topic
- The Panel on Diversity in Academia was very successful! Had a great roundtable discussion with professors and students
- Recorded a radio interview with Kai O'Doherty from CKUT. Check out the All Things McGill show airing this Monday to hear!

## BASiC

- Interested in moving towards incorporation and away from being housed under AUS/SUS

**Erin Sobot**

**Arts Senator**

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## Health & Dental Review Committee

- Drafted survey to gauge student priorities:  
<https://ssmu.wufoo.com/forms/mowsap21madicb/>
- Identified concerns with international student plan through McGill; would like to establish greater student input and explore possibility of new broker to negotiate modifications
- Next meeting Sunday, February 21st

## Smoking Policy Working Group

- Held Town Hall consultation on Tuesday, February 9th
- Informative discussion, however still lacking input from smokers themselves
- Will present at Winter GA (February 22nd) and organize more focus group sessions

## Royal Victoria Hospital Site

- Met with Institute for the Public Life of Arts & Ideas (IPLAI) about proposal on February 10th
- Meeting with interested students to review documents on Wednesday, February 24th
- Next Task Force meeting on Friday, February 26th

## AUS HR Committee

- Met with CaPS on Wednesday, February 10th to discuss hiring best practices
- Met on Thursday, February 11th to identify key takeaways for hiring guide and solidify online hiring framework
- Next meeting on Friday, February 26th



## AUS Legislative Council

- Approved Arts Undergraduate Improvement Fund allocations, revised Computer Science constitution, Financial Bylaw amendments, Winter referendum and departmental election dates
- Next meeting Wednesday, February 24th

## Pre-CSS Lunch

- Discussed concerns with budget transparency, Wellness Strategy and how to address these

## SSMU Legislative Council

- Approved referendum questions on Club Fund Fee, Equity fee, TVM fee and AVEQ affiliation
- Created separate Ancillary Fee Referendum Period to distinguish between SSMU and University fee levies; will be following up on concerns with FIO regulations and our authority to reject fees
- Amended referendum question deadline and adopted GA standing rules
- Next meeting Thursday, February 25th

## Fall Reading Break Working Group

- Met to review proposal, policy changes and draft calendar models
- Decided to move ahead but with more data from Enrolment Services; we hope to approve a revised 2017/18 calendar at the April Senate meeting!

## Medical Note Working Group

- Met to review current proposal and hash out responses to administrative and faculty concerns
- Developed strong arguments for policy changes and a preferred model to propose

## Employment Equity Working Group

- Discussed media strategy vis-a-vis research report and Senate open discussion
- Will be contacting local and national media to pitch a story!

## Committee on Student Services

- Discussed concerns with budget process & transparency, Innovation Fund administrative support, and Wellness Strategy developments
- Next meeting Thursday, March 24th

## Senate

- Question on Course Outlines received lacklustre [response](#); will be following up with DPSLL about technical improvements to the eCalendar and opening this conversation with departments



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- Raised ideas for institutionalization, enforcement and resource allocation around Employment Equity; general silence from professors and administrative staff on this issue is concerning
- Asked about breakdown of expected enrolment-driven revenues and inclusion of ancillary fee information in the budget book
- Next meeting Wednesday, March 23rd

### Academic Policy Committee

- Approved new exchange partnerships with universities in Europe and elsewhere and improvements to various graduate student and supervision policies
- Discussed proposed revisions to the *Regulation on the Conduct of Research* and their apparent two-month “consultation” period; awaiting written responses to several questions
- Next meeting Thursday, March 17th

### University Affairs Committee

- Discussed MoA research, negotiables and bargaining strategy to-date
- Decided on general format of research publications and web “hub”
- Delegated tasks for migration and finalization of the University Affairs website

Full report can be found here: <http://ausmcgill.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Arts-Senator-Report-February-10th.pdf>

### **Allen Chen**

#### **Dentistry Senator**

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(No report submitted)

### **Parvesh Chainani**

#### **Education Senator**

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Nothing to report.

### **Joshua Thon**

#### **Engineering Senator**

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Attended Smoke Free Campus Policy Town Hall, needs moving forward were identified. Student Assessment policy meeting was on Monday, the group is working on distilling the key principles



underlying the existing McGill assessment policy in an effort to identify which of our previously established principles are lacking from the existing policy. Met with the Director of the Engineering Student Centre to discuss the medical note policy currently being developed by ESAAC.

## Benjamin Brunot

### Law Senator

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(No report submitted)

## Deven Sanon

### Management Senator

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(No report submitted)

## David Benrimoh

### Medicine Senator

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Attended Senate caucus. Tabled and helped run smoke free campus Town Hall. Commented on mental health strategy. Attended Faculty Association meeting.

Report to constituents:

Senate was interesting this month. Here are some highlights:

1. Employment Equity: McGill is still not performing well in the area of recruitment of diverse staff and in pay equity between men and women. There will be further conversations, including perhaps setting targets (not quotas) for more diverse hiring.
2. Budget: McGill has sold over 160 million\$ in bonds to be used in IT and building maintenance. Also, we won't be jacking out-of-province fees up 25% after all. And the federal government says it will invest in universities and research, but Justin is playing hard-to-get with details.
3. The Ombudsperson reported, and the number of cases are decreasing. Students should be aware that the ombudsperson exists to help guide students through conflict resolution and academic disputes. Have a look at their website:  
<https://www.mcgill.ca/ombudsperson/office-ombudsperson>
4. The Smoke-Free campus project is going well, with external media (CJAD, Gazette) getting interested. It will be discussed (not voted on) at the SSMU GA on Monday, Feb 22nd, at the SSMU Building (<https://www.facebook.com/events/1968762583349678/>) More info and a plebiscite question coming soon!



## Julie Choi

### Music Senator

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(No report submitted)

## Kathleen Chu

### Nursing Senator

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Meeting with BScN program director, U2 clinical placement course coordinator and other faculty to discuss:

- Developing accessible framework for conflict resolution in clinical placement for students, clinical instructor, clinical preceptors, and faculty.
- What would it look like?
  - A graphic to help outline steps that may be taken to resolve conflict and address concerns with clinical instructors, including information on conflict resolution, and steps to take before contacting site or course coordinators
- Where would it go?
  - In the student handbook, in clinical course syllabus, and in clinical orientation's. It would be provided to both students, clinical instructors, clinical preceptors and faculty.

February 19th Friday: Clinical Placement Support groups started up this week, thank you to those that came out and shared their experiences!

Last Friday: Faculty meeting

## Marina Smailes

### Science Senator

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(No report submitted)

## Josefina Zalba

### MacDonald Campus Students' Society (MCSS) Senator

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(No report submitted)



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Senators Kareem Ibrahim (SSMU President, [president@ssmu.mcgill.ca](mailto:president@ssmu.mcgill.ca)) and Chloe Rourke (SSMU VP University Affairs, [ua@ssmu.mcgill.ca](mailto: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/>.