



Office of President

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REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT TO COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 15TH 2016

SUMMARY/NOTES:

SQ = Status Quo

Welcome to first Council everyone! Apologies to any of you that might still be dealing with access issues, as we are fairly low on resources this year each of our permanent staff are taking on a fair bit more responsibility so things may slow down a little in some areas. This week in particular has been a lot of advocacy related work and planning, with emphasis put on discussions about Mental Health 101 with key administrators, and Board of Governors Reform with McGill's Secretariat. Some Policy work was done on the Conflict of Interest Policy and Menstrual Hygiene Products Policy, but Council Retreat and prep for first Council ate up a lot of my time in the past few weeks so a lot of this week has been spent catching up on administrative tasks.

INTERNAL GOVERNANCE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD)

Application Process

SQ - I wrote and developed an application form for the 2016-2017 BoD. It is currently out for review and will be posted in early October/last week of September (date TBD).

General

Board will be meeting every second Tuesday starting next week (September 20th) in the Lev Bukhman room (though next weeks will be in Madeleine Parent). Committee allocations will be taking place next week and there will be an Ad-Hoc Committee struck tasked with reviewing Judicial Boards Internal Procedures.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Rotating Council



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SQ - All is good for Rotating Council, I'm just waiting to confirm a few more spaces!

Committees

In preparation for Council I've been working on Terms of Reference for the two Ad-Hoc Committees on Provincial Representation and Equitable Governance Reform. As well, the Committee Terms of Reference, and Standing Rules have been updated.

Committee recruitment happened at activities night so all is good on that front. We just need to do some more general outreach to those who requested to be on certain Committees. As well, I've been working with our HR department to centralize Committee Recruitment online (see the change from the Jobs section of our website to Jobs / Committees – top right of the home page).

Equitable Governance Reform

Leslie Anne, the Alternative & Equitable Governance Researcher, has been working hard to produce a report that is both informative and applicable. We decided to split the report up into two sections since each was so expansive, so as of now the part on Internal Equitable Governance Reform has been completed and brought to Council, but a second report will additionally be coming in October on Board of Governors best practices. This second report will be used to inform advocacy on restructuring McGill's Board of Governors.

Council Retreat

Council Retreat was last weekend! Personally, I put a lot of energy into making that happen and writing the Councillor Welcome Package so seeing it come to fruition made for an exciting experience. Hoping all that attending felt it was useful, applicable, and fun!

GA

SQ – Working with our Communications and Publications Manager to get a GA Motion writing template up on the website.

PRESIDENTS' ROUNDTABLE

The Presidents' Secretary General (Etienne) sent out a Doodle Poll to set up a time for Presidents' Round Table. We are aiming to have our first meeting in 2 weeks.



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POLICY PROJECTS

Ethical Expenditures Policy

SQ – Delayed due to workload currently on the Office of the Vice-President (Finance) and President.

Menstrual Hygiene Products Policy'

Elaine and I met with Health McGill to get general feedback as well as talk about any assistance that can be provided with distribution. A complete draft of the Policy is complete at this point but much more consultation should and will be done.

Conflict of Interest Policy

This Policy was rewritten by a few different Directors over the Summer and has been sent to legal recently. I have been informed that comments should be made and sent back to us by Monday and will be going to the Board of Directors for approval soon after.

Accountable Leadership Policy

As you folks would know at this point from the reading the Motion Regarding the Future of the Accountability Policy this Policy was largely moved the Committee Terms of Reference as the majority of the Policy was guidelines on how the Committee would function.

Equitable Hiring Practices Policy/Amendments to the HR Policy

Erin, Niall, our HR Advisor and I are currently reviewing directly applicable research done internally on the topic and consulting external documents for more general information. We have a meeting time booked next Tuesday to plan out a timeline.

Amendments to the Accessibility Policy

SQ - See below for updates on the progress of the Accessibility Checklist being developed by the Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity, Subcommittee on Persons with Disabilities. Once this is done a more in depth conversation can start as to how this Checklist can becoming more SSMU applicable.

REPRESENTATION & ADVOCACY

SENATE

[Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity Subcommittee on Persons with Disabilities](#)

SQ - The [Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity Subcommittee on Persons with Disabilities](#) has been active over the summer and we recently completed the Accessible Events Checklist that we've been working on. We are currently in the process of figuring out how it can be implemented and formatting it to be more accessible itself.



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Senate Committee on Physical Development (CPD)

SQ – The Committee hasn't yet met for the year, though it did meet a few times over the summer to wrap up some unfinished business and do some brief introduction to some of the new members of the Committee.

Enrollment and Student Affairs Advisory Committee (ESAAC), Subcommittee on Student Affairs Policy (SSAP)

This year I'll be sitting on the Subcommittee on Student Affairs Policy, a subcommittee of the ESAAC mandated to identify policies and procedures that differ across faculties and to assess the rationale for and effects of those differences, to initiate and monitor harmonization efforts regarding Faculty student affairs policies and procedures, to coordinate communications to Faculty Student Affairs Offices regarding Subcommittee decisions, and to evaluate achievement of common policies across faculties. Though a meeting schedule hasn't yet been sent out to Committee members, on the agenda at some point that I'll be bringing up is the possibility of linking Mental Health Trainings to McGill's requirements for tenure.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS (BOG)

Board Reform

As mentioned before, Leslie Anne (Alt. & Equitable Gov. Researcher) is in the process of compiling the second half of the report that came to Council this week, which will include recommendations on Structural BOG Reform. The report should be out in October and we'll be meeting weekly to talk about it.

I've also been in communications with McGill's new Secretariat (Edyta), discussing smaller changes that could happen in the short-run in order to ensure more consultation in the recruitment and appointment processes for Members at Large (on BoG and its Committee's).

Pre-Board Meetings ('BoG Caucus')

As the year is coming up fairly quickly [McGill Association of University Teacher \(MAUT\)](#), the Post Graduate Students' Society (PGSS) and I have been putting in work to lock down a monthly meeting date that works for everyone for **BoG Caucus** – a Pre-BoG Meeting that will be used to increase knowledge sharing and collective capacity for decision making at the Board level amongst elected members. We will probably be meeting every first Tuesday of the month.

Presentations and Executive Shadowing



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Erin and I will be making a presentation at the first Board of Governors meeting detailing what exactly we do for campus life here at McGill, executive workload, and future plans. There currently seems to be a misunderstanding as to how crucial the SSMU is to student and admin programming so this will hopefully begin to bridge that divide.

As well, my office is running an executive shadowing program throughout the next few months and a number of Board Members have signed up to spend a day with an executive. This will hopefully build upon solving the problem listed above.

CAMPUS RELATIONS

Deputy Provost, Student Life & Learning

Erin and I met with the DPSLL (Ollivier Dyens) to talk about some of the issues that occurred over the summer with flooding in our basement. As of now we're still unsure as to how much the office of the DPSLL will cover (cost of removing damaged items, and general repair). We also gave some feedback on our dissatisfaction with the training that was given during the new faculty orientation (Mental Health 101). Ollivier was really receptive to the feedback and generally helpful in directing us towards next steps so we're looking forward to expanding Mental Health 101 into the requirements for tenure.

As well, we've been in fairly frequent contact with the Office of the DPSLL on an initiative/campaign that is being planned around "celebrating diversity on campus." There were a number of concerns about duplication of labor that is already done, and comments on the overall tone of the event, so we'll have to wait and see what comes of that. Erin and I have developed a list to be circulated with initiatives that might already do the same thing (and could use extra funding).

McGill Alumni Association (MAA)

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McGill Association for Continuing Education Students (MACES)

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Macdonald Campus Students' Society (MCSS)

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McGill Office of Sustainability (MOOS)

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Post-Graduate Students' Society (PGSS)

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Student Housing & Hospitality Services (SHHS)



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Social Equity & Diversity Education Office (SEDE)

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Campus Life & Engagement (CL&E)

I have a meeting with Aleks from CL&E on Friday set up to talk about planning the Student Executives at McGill Learning, Engaging, Sharing & Strategizing (SEAMLESS) conference. Other than that, it was a pleasure working with everyone from this office during frosh! I'm super grateful for all the space they gave us in their generally programming (Discover McGill, Campus Tour, ENGAGE McGill, etc.)

MEDIA

Campus Paper

The execs will be doing monthly checkin's with the newspapers on campus this year! We've set up times with the Daily but are waiting on confirmation from two of the others. We also did a release for our Public Goals for the Year to the press for them to use when covering any of the Execs.

Communications (SSMU Video, Organigrams, and Monthly Calendars)

If anyone wants to see the video that was developed for frosh and general knowledge on how SSMU works / how to get involved, feel free to check it out [here!](#) Also if you want to see the organigrams on how SSMU's Government works and what Executives do feel free to check out [here](#) and [here!](#) Finally, if you want to see the events and governance calendar for September you can click [here!](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Advisory Council on Sustainability

This is a new Council that will be housed under the portfolio of McGill's Vice-Principle (Admin & Finance). I'll be sitting on it this year but no information on the agenda, Committee Terms of Reference, or meeting times have been released yet.

LEADERSHIP & SUPPORT

PERMANENT & STUDENT STAFF

Zach and I are currently working on some visual tools to match up with the portfolios – Executive and specific (Mental Health, Governance, etc.), as well as some smaller projects (e.g. cover photos for events). John (our head of IT or "Systems Administrator") has been working hard around the clock to make sure



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that you all are set up on Vibe and Groupwise (sorry to those who have gotten it late or not at all yet – everyone in the Office is working at almost triple capacity given the budget and staff cuts so my apologies about any delays that may arise out of this. Things should smooth out when we’re on a more regular schedule after this week!

As of now, due to some unfortunate circumstances, my Office is functioning as the Recording Secretary and taking on some staff responsibilities, but I’m feeling great and am excited for the year ahead!

EXECUTIVES

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GENERAL PROJECTS

MENTAL HEALTH

Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP)

WRAP Spaces in SSMU have been booked and will be happening throughout the year now! If you want more detail on when these will be taking place feel free to contact myself, the VP Student Life, or the clinic themselves.

Mental Health 101 for Faculty

As mentioned, Mental Health 101 training happened recently and there were some concerns that were brought up about it. There was some significant change to what was once going to be a presentation by students that ended up being a conversation lead by the DPSLL. We’re currently looking into ways in which we can improve and build upon the project.

PERSONAL NOTE:

Can’t say how blessed I’m feeling to be doing a job I love so much everyday and for the year we have ahead together! Though it might be draining – especially so in a year like this (budget cuts + staff cuts = very limited capacity office wide) – I’m super confident in our team and Council to take it all on!

Submitted With Excitement for 2016/17!

Ben Ger
President