



REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT TO COUNCIL

JANUARY 26TH 2017

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT (AOI'S)

Accountability & Transparency:

1. Timeliness of Reports

Council:

1. Prioritize more trainings when needed and outreach for feedback / requests for information

INTERNAL GOVERNANCE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD)

General

The Board is having some difficulties establishing a time that works for everyone to sit down to meet. Regardless, the plan is to have a meeting next week but it is still undecided when the regular weekly meetings will be.

Internal Regulations

Igor and I have been working together, along with the Democratic Governance Review Committee and the Steering Committee, on regulations (which are being presented to Council this week) for the Board. We're hoping to narrow the scope of reduce the strength of the Board in order to make it a separate body with ties to Council rather than a "higher" governance body (though technically, it remains that in some sense).

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Committees



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Ad-Hoc Equitable Governance Reform Committee: The Committee met this past Wednesday (yesterday) to discuss our timeline and what exactly will be brought to referenda. We discussed Council composition, monetary compensation, and governance structures.

Health and Dental Review Committee: We're in need of members-at-large so if anybody knows people please let me know! I wanna strike the Committee now but we need 2 more seats filled and I can't seem to find people to get on board! Our HR department is going to post the application for it soon so if you know anyone please redirect them to me and I can send them the form asap.

GA

Academic Amnesty

We had a meeting with the DPSLL in which he said the Provost was not in favor of the idea. Though this is a setback we're pursuing some bargaining channels to see if it might be still be possible.

General

Planning is underway! We were planning on having an event up last week but our CPM said they thought that might be too early. As well, our graphic design department was on vacation at the time. They are now back though and the graphics for this GA are now done!

PRESIDENTS' ROUNDTABLE

Planning to meet sometime soon!

POLICY PROJECTS

Ethical Expenditures Policy

SQ - We have a rough draft of the Policy done and I'll be bringing it as a Notice from the floor on to this Council since people will have the entire break to review it.

Menstrual Hygiene Products Policy

SQ — Done, pending approval by Council.

Conflict of Interest Policy

SQ - We've decided this would be better as a procedural practice & has sparked a larger conversation as to how our Policy and Plan book currently works. We're potentially looking at remodeling that book to look more like a *Policies, Plans and Procedures* book to better emphasis the need for more pragmatic



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internal procedures *in addition to* a lot of our conceptual and ideological mandates. This will hopefully better outline how we function to those working with us internally & to the Membership.

Equitable Hiring Practices Policy/Amendments to the HR Policy

SQ - Out for internal consultation (predominantly with Equity Commissioners). Once we're passed that stage we'll build it up more and send out for external consultation.

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. The Committee seems to be on a timeline for early next semester.

REPRESENTATION & ADVOCACY

SENATE

Senate Question Regarding the Board of Governors

Last week we submitted a Motion regarding the governance structure of the McGill Board of Governors. I was curious if it would be possible to have an external review process, similar to the cyclical reviews that units go under, for the BoG regarding its governance, but the administration was not too friendly to the idea. There was, however, much larger support than we anticipated from the faculty and staff at MAUT's pre-senate lunch, though not many spoke up at Senate. We're hoping to keep the heat on BoG reform though and see a lot of support from the community building.

Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity Subcommittee on Persons with Disabilities

The next meeting of the Working Group for the Accessible Events Checklist is happening next Monday.

Senate Committee on Physical Development (CPD)

SQ

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

After having Mental Health Literacy discussed at the last meeting we are now in the process of working with Chris to see if we can draft an Appendix to the Tenure Review Committee Terms of Reference that includes regulations around trainings being considered by the Committee.



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BOARD OF GOVERNORS (BOG)

Board Reform

[The report was released](#) before the break, you can view the accompanying [press release](#) here as well!

The executive recently approved a Letter of Appreciation to go to the Board regarding the recent adoption of the (less than perfect) question asking structure that has now been put in place. Additionally, I've been working with VP University Affairs and the McGill Communities Council on a letter to the Board from all major Association stakeholders. This has been a priority and large use of my energy over the past few months but happy to say MAUT's Council was the first to approve this letter at their Council this week. We will hopefully know more about the other Unions by next week.

My personal largest goal for the end of this year would be to see a community driven ad-hoc **Board of Governance Review Committee** struck. Though a large goal, we're committed to seeing it through and have been working tirelessly to build momentum and coordinate the campus community around it. More to come soon!

Pre-Board Meetings ('BoG Caucus')

SQ - BoG Caucus is going to be happening next week

Executive Shadowing

Executive Shadowing is now live and up on the website! It was additionally sent out in an email to all our identity specific services & clubs in order to promote the initiative. So far each executive has had quite a number of people sign up and we're all looking forward to taking some time to hang out with everyone!

CAMPUS RELATIONS

Deputy Provost, Student Life & Learning

[Centraide](#)

SQ - The Centraide campaign is something the President of SSMU usually has some involvement in, and this year Ollivier (the DPSLL) will be one of the Co-Chairs of the Committee that will be helping coordinate the campus wide-initiatives related to it. We had a meeting this week to go over some of the things we could do (raffles, competitions, etc.), and I brought it up at PRT to see if faculties would be interested in getting involved again.

[MOA](#)



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SQ - Jonathan is taking a while to get back to us on this but we've had conversation in both MOA meetings and others that have suggested we'll be removing the McGill name regulations, removing some of the restrictions on advertising on campus, and adding in some info that the Office of the DPSLL will be providing us on future years to make our lives easier (e.g. global class lists). There was a meeting that happened this morning that was mainly talking about catering and advertising, but Sacha can talk more to that in his report.

McGill Alumni Association (MAA)

SQ

McGill Association for Continuing Education Students (MACES)

SQ

Macdonald Campus Students' Society (MCSS)

SQ

McGill Office of Sustainability (MOOS)

We've been in early talks with MOOS about their referenda next year and the possibility of using the SPF to funds and make all our SSMU handbooks sustainable. We're sitting down with some more people from the office this Monday.

Post-Graduate Students' Society (PGSS)

SQ

Student Housing & Hospitality Services (SHHS)

SQ

Social Equity & Diversity Education Office (SEDE)

SQ - I sit on a SEDE Fundraising working group that has met once and is looking at strategies to assure that all their programs are well funded. There have been early conversations about ancillary fees, which I personally am on the fence about considering how many administrative services students already subsidies but if there was a commitment by the office of the Provost to dollar match a fee there might be room for a larger conversation. This however has not yet (and may never) been brought to him or his Office.

Campus Life & Engagement (CL&E)

SQ

Residences / Inter-Residence Council (IRC)

SQ



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MEDIA

Campus & City Papers

Igor and I have been working together on an article regarding the McGill Board of Governors. Though it is taking some time we're hoping to get that out by mid-February!

Communications (SSMU Video, Organigrams, and Monthly Calendars)

~~SQ~~ If anyone wants to see the video that was developed for fresh 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

SQ - The Advisory Council on Sustainability met a few weeks ago. It is still unclear as to how this body is intended to function under the Vice-Principal (Administration & Finance), Morty Yalovsky, and considering it is purely advisory (aka it has no decision making power), but it certainly has a wealth of very cool perspectives around the table. The Council however is predominantly made up of external experts on Environmental Sustainability and definitely lack some important internal perspectives (the McGill School of the Environment, Divest McGill, Macdonald Campus Students' Society & Macdonald Campus Graduate Students' Society all do not have seats on the Committee).

COLLABORATION

PERMANENT & STUDENT STAFF

Ryan, Erin and I are meeting to discuss some large structural reviews. In particular the addition of a full time Secretary General to help with a number of administrative tasks, coordinate transition, and keep long-term tabs (while working with the President each year) on our governance and mandate. The position, along with some of the other larger changes in mind, haven't been fully flushed out yet but we're exploring options on how to make the SSMU more stable and efficient.

EXECUTIVES

Indigenous Affairs:

Working on a list of resources and groups in the Quebec/Montreal area with Christian. We're hoping we can contact some to involve them in Indigeneity and Solidarity week, which is currently being planned by the Committee, Christian and myself as well.



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Joyfully Submitted,

Ben Ger
President