



# REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**FEBRUARY 23, 2017**

## Overview

The University Affairs Committee meets approximately weekly to develop research and advocacy projects supervised by the VP University Affairs. The committee has been responsible for overseeing the semesterly “Know Your Rights” outreach campaign as well as providing input and edits for the Student Rights and University Affairs websites, among other projects.

## Membership

Robyn Lee, Member-at-Large  
Olivia Shi, Member-at-Large  
Sydney Lang, Member-at-Large  
Caitlin Mehrota, Science Representative  
Kia Kouyomijan, Arts Representative  
William Cleveland, Arts Senator  
Aishwarya Singh, Academic Research Commissioner (Chair)  
Erin Sobat, Vice-President (University Affairs)

## Current Projects

### Student Rights Website

This is an online resource that contains information on students’ academic rights according to McGill regulation as well as avenues for addressing violations. The committee has gone through the website collectively and individually and directly made improvements. These include but are not limited to: ensuring all the links are functional, including more information about accommodation, designing a new flow chart for accommodation, and reorganizing content to make the site easier to comprehend. This semester the committee plans to add information about academic standing, disciplinary procedures, and more. The website can be found here: [www.ssmu.ca/studentrights](http://www.ssmu.ca/studentrights)

### Know Your Rights Campaign

The Know Your Rights project aims to spread awareness about the student rights website and academic policies more broadly. The January Add-Drop campaign built off of the September outreach efforts through posterage, social media, and direct student engagement (e.g. tabling). Committee members were involved in planning, strategizing, recruiting and training other volunteers for the campaign.



**Office of the Vice-President (University Affairs)**

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*Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabeg traditional territories*

This semester the committee put in a request for two more posters which contain information about students’ right to know about their academic standing at any point during the course and to be given a written explanation of their grade by their instructor. In collaboration with the PGSS, the committee helped develop two new posters on rights surrounding student research—these were mostly pertinent to grad students and as such posted in Thompson House. This year’s campaign also saw the introduction of Know Your Rights buttons and handbills so that students could leave with something that would remind them of the campaign and its goals. Ultimately, despite a shorter add-drop period, this semester’s Know Your Rights campaign had a more expansive scope and fostered greater engagement from the student body.

### Charter Case

The UAC has assisted the Academic Research Commissioner in developing a case for the McGill Advisory Council on the Charter of Student Rights. Our submission to the council examines the way in which the regulations around in-course academic accommodation violate both the Charter of Student Rights as well as the Policy on the Rights of Students with Disabilities. It also puts forth a set of recommendations to make academic accommodation more accessible and equitable, including but not limited to policy revisions, disability and mental health training for instructors, and greater centralization of student services.

### University Affairs Website

The new UA website was officially launched last term as a centralized resource for information on student representation, research, and advocacy at McGill. While most of the content has been filled out, the UAC has been providing input and edits on several remaining sections. This includes the advocacy “research” and “tools” sections, which will provide students-at-large with resources for getting involved and making use of SSMU and McGill channels to address current issues, as well as various equity and accessibility resources on campus.

### Alternative Histories Timeline

The next major project of the UAC is the development of the Alternative Histories Timeline. This project was started a couple of years ago and aims to document a history of McGill that centers marginalized voices and perspectives. Much of the research for the timeline and the general outline of the timeline itself has been completed. The committee will work to incorporate all this research onto a timeline framework on the University Affairs website, to revise the structure of the timeline, and to add additional information where necessary. Look forward to the result!

Respectfully Submitted,

**Aishwarya Singh**

*Academic Research Commissioner*