



Office of the Vice-President (University Affairs)

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Located on unceded, Kanien'kehó:ka traditional territory

REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT (UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS)

NOVEMBER 3, 2016

Le Syndicat des employé-e-s occasionnel-le-s
de l'Université McGill



The Association of McGill
University Support Employees



INTRODUCTION

The Association of McGill University Support Employees is on strike until this Wednesday! This means that a full work stoppage is in effect for all AMUSE members by law. Casual and temporary McGill employees can determine their union status by checking their pay stubs. Learn more at www.amusemcgill.org.

UNIVERSITY & ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

SENATE & UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Senate

- Senate met on Wednesday, October 19th: discussed draft *Policy Against Sexual Violence*, bookstore relocation, reports of Working Group on Systemic Discrimination, Physical Development, University Advancement & more
- Senate Caucus guests included Chris Buddle (Dean of Students), Angela Campbell (Associate Provost of Policies, Procedures & Equity), Christopher Manfredi (Provost)
- Joint Board-Senate Meeting next Thursday, November 10th on “McGill’s Sustainability Initiatives”
- Next Senate meeting on Wednesday, November 23rd:
 - Submitted requests regarding campus accessibility during construction & university regulation of unpaid internships
 - Discussing future of PhD studies & possibly approving *Policy Against Sexual Violence*

University Committees

- McGill Commitment Steering Committee met on Thursday, October 20th; discussed resource allocations, experiential learning definitions & financial accessibility of field study courses
- Participated in review committee for central Human Resources, October 24th–26th; currently compiling report with recommendations for submission
- Academic Policy Committee (APC) meeting on Thursday, October 27th cancelled
- Enrolment & Student Affairs Advisory Committee (ESAAC) on November 1st cancelled; next meeting on December 6th to discuss Faculty mental health initiatives & accommodation policies
- Sitting on review committee for McGill Enrolment Services, November 9th–11th:
 - Students are invited to give feedback about Enrolment Services on Thursday, November 10th between 9:15-10:00AM or 3:50-4:30pm (MS55, Service Point)



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Student Life & Learning

- Meeting with Deputy Provost (Student Life & Learning) this Monday, October 31st to discuss building projects, wellness initiatives & Memorandum of Agreement negotiations

Student Services

- Met with new Interim Senior Director, Cara Piperni, on Thursday, October 27th regarding wellness initiatives progress, communications & consultation
- Learned of changes to Student Services medical note policies on October 28th; immediately followed up with Senior Director, Dean of Students, peer support groups & student press
- Next Committee on Student Services (CSS) meeting on Wednesday, November 9th; receiving presentations from working group chairs regarding cyclical review recommendations
- Next Academic Matters Working Group meeting TBD; converting to SLL program committee

Libraries

- Library Improvement Fund Committee coordinated whiteboard & tabling consultations over past two weeks; meeting next Wednesday, November 9th to review results
- Working to have LIF Commissioner position & ancillary financed from Library Improvement Fund

ASSOCIATION RELATIONS

Faculty & Department Associations

- McGill Academic Roundtable (MART) met on Thursday, October 27th; discussed Faculty association updates, course syllabus pilot project, Enrolment Services review, undergraduate skills program, Know Your Rights campaign collaborations & Faculty assessment policy inventory
- Emailed student representatives with information regarding 2016-2017 [cyclical unit reviews](#)

Unions & Professional Associations

- Inter-Union Council met on Tuesday, October 18th; discussed AMUSE bargaining, cyclical review feedback & draft *Policy Against Sexual Violence* recommendations
- Met with MAUT representatives on Friday, October 28th regarding *Policy Against Sexual Violence*
- Next McGill Communities Council this Tuesday, November 1st; discussing AMUSE strike, draft *Policy Against Sexual Violence*, Board of Governors reform, 360-degree reviews & more

University & Academic Affairs Goals – Fall 2016

- Fill all seats on university committees
- Goal setting meetings with every senator
- Host 2nd annual Student Academic Summit
- Submit union feedback for Human Resources review
- Submit student feedback for Enrolment Services review
- Memorandum of Agreement signed
- Make first round of Library Improvement Fund allocations
- Submit question at every Senate meeting



ADVOCACY & RESEARCH

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

McGill Policy Against Sexual Violence

- Discussed draft [Policy Against Sexual Violence](#) at October 19th Senate meeting, including [initial proposed revisions](#) & [SSMU-PGSS consultation report](#)
- Recommendation meetings with Dean of Students (October 17th), Provost & Associate Provost (October 24th), unions & associations (October 28th), external consultants (November 3rd & 4th)
- Attending Partners Meeting for [major SSHRC research project](#) addressing sexual violence on university campuses (November 4th–5th)

McGill Ad-Hoc Committee to Review the Charter of Student Rights

- SQ – Priorities include stronger language on accommodations, disability & intersectionality; ensuring consistency with other policies; improving students' awareness of their rights
- Met on Thursday, October 27th to begin revising “fundamental rights” section

Unpaid Internships Policy

- Presented background context to Legislative Council on Thursday, October 20th
- In response to proposed Senate question, Provost is reviewing current internship postings to ensure legal compliance; results will be shared at November 23rd Senate meeting
- Aiming to bring forward draft policy for student consultation at November 17th Council meeting

McGill Smoking Policy

- Working group drafting smoke-free campus policy based on SSMU [Smoking on Campus Policy](#); Town Hall consultation held on Tuesday, October 25th

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Alternative Campus Histories

- SQ – Integrating timeline content & visuals into new University Affairs website

First Generation Student Support

- Reviewing researcher's draft report; hope to release publicly by end of month!

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Charter Case

- Currently following up with respondents & finalizing case structure (still accepting submissions [here](#), particularly from outside of Arts & Science)
- Also compiling relevant comments for unit review of Enrolment Services (November 9th–11th)

Know Your Rights

- University Affairs Committee (UAC) currently revising [Student Rights website](#) with clearer language, details on other policies & more Faculty-specific resources
- Planning January outreach campaign, including promotional materials, volunteer recruitment, training sessions & collaboration with Faculty associations
- Evaluating feasibility of Faculty- and department assessment policy inventory



Advocacy & Research Goals – Fall 2016

- Re-launch Student Rights website
- Host Add Drop “Know Your Rights” campaign
- Release First Generation Students Research Report
- Launch Alternative Histories Timeline
- Submit charter case on academic accommodations
- Sexual Violence Policy approved at Senate
- Unpaid Internships Policy approved at Legislative Council
- Fall Reading Break approved at Senate

EQUITY

SSMU EQUITY

Equity Policy Revisions

- Meeting with Equity Commissioners this Thursday, November 3rd to review revised structure; plan to submit revisions for November 17th Legislative Council meeting (first reading)

Equity Committee

- Met on Wednesday, October 26th to discuss POC-only Wellness Recovery Action Plan groups & November events; tentatively organizing voluntourism & Judaism/anti-oppression discussions
- Other initiatives include Minerva equity tutorial; feedback on Equity Policy revisions; consultation on SSMU initiatives (governance reform, equitable hiring policy, etc.)

Equity Advocacy Network

- SQ – Evaluating feasibility for November meeting of campus equity groups (opportunity to discuss potential support needs & shared advocacy priorities)

Accessibility & Universal Design (UD) Advocacy

- Meeting with student reps on relevant committees this Tuesday, November 1st
- Planning to meet with Simone (Equity Commissioner) regarding SSMU Accessibility Policy

Racialized Student Support Resources

- McGill Mental Health Education Coordinators consulting on closed POC WRAP groups
- May organize meeting to discuss formal racialized student mentorship program

INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Indigenous Solidarity Policy

- Met with Indigenous Affairs Commissioner, VP External & President on October 25th to discuss General Assembly [Titleholders motion](#) & public statement
- Indigenous Education Task Force hosting Open Forum consultation on Tuesday, November 22nd
- Providing comments on finalized University Centre art project proposal
- May meet with Indigenous Affairs Commissioner regarding university advocacy priorities



- Equity Goals – Fall 2016**
- Equity Policy revisions approved at Legislative Council
 - ~~Identify “Equity Advocacy Network” groups~~
 - Host roundtable meeting of campus equity groups
 - ~~Host Consent Week panel on power dynamics~~
 - Implement UD standards in capital funding committees
 - Establish POC-only WRAP group(s)
 - Develop improved McGill territory acknowledgment

SSMU-WIDE

GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Governance Documents

- Met with President on October 27th to review needed Conflict of Interest Policy changes
- Need to consider revisions to Internal Regulations to better regulate Board of Directors
- Will be developing formal framework & consultation plan for SSMU Equitable Hiring Policy

Provincial Representation

- Attended AVEQ Mobilization Camp between October 21st–23rd
- Acting as SSMU contact & resource for [Québec Contres les Violences Sexuelles](#) campaign

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

University Affairs Website & Social Media

- SQ – Cross-posting regular blog updates, articles, surveys & reports
- Will be developing web improvements over remainder of term (e.g. advocacy resources page)

Student Experience Survey

- Met with President & Secretary General on Monday, October 17th to discuss structure
- Tentatively planned for late November or January

- SSMU-Wide Goals – Fall 2016**
- Conflict of Interest Policy revisions approved
 - ~~Accountability Policy & Committee revisions approved~~
 - ~~Launch new University Affairs Listserv~~
 - 500 like count on SSMU University Affairs Facebook page
 - 500 like count on SSMU Equity Facebook page
 - ~~Launch new University Affairs website~~
 - Conduct new Student Experience Survey

Cheers,

Erin Sobat

Vice-President (University Affairs)