



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

Tel: (514) 398-6797 | [ua@ssmu.mcgill.ca](mailto:ua@ssmu.mcgill.ca)

3600 McTavish St., Suite 1200, Montréal, QC H3A 0G3

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](http://www.amusemcgill.org).

## UNIVERSITY & ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

### SENATE & UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

#### Senate

- Senate met on Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>: 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 10<sup>th</sup> on “McGill’s Sustainability Initiatives”
- Next Senate meeting on Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>:
  - 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 20<sup>th</sup>; discussed resource allocations, experiential learning definitions & financial accessibility of field study courses
- Participated in review committee for central Human Resources, October 24<sup>th</sup>–26<sup>th</sup>; currently compiling report with recommendations for submission
- Academic Policy Committee (APC) meeting on Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> cancelled
- Enrolment & Student Affairs Advisory Committee (ESAAC) on November 1<sup>st</sup> cancelled; next meeting on December 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss Faculty mental health initiatives & accommodation policies
- Sitting on review committee for McGill Enrolment Services, November 9<sup>th</sup>–11<sup>th</sup>:
  - Students are invited to give feedback about Enrolment Services on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup> between 9:15-10:00AM or 3:50-4:30pm (MS55, Service Point)



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

Tel: (514) 398-6797 | [ua@ssmu.mcgill.ca](mailto:ua@ssmu.mcgill.ca)  
3600 McTavish St., Suite 1200, Montréal, QC H3A 0G3  
*Located on unceded, Kanien'kehó:ka traditional territory*

**Student Life & Learning**

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

**Student Services**

- Met with new Interim Senior Director, Cara Piperni, on Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> regarding wellness initiatives progress, communications & consultation
- Learned of changes to Student Services medical note policies on October 28<sup>th</sup>; immediately followed up with Senior Director, Dean of Students, peer support groups & student press
- Next Committee on Student Services (CSS) meeting on Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>; 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup>; 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 18<sup>th</sup>; discussed AMUSE bargaining, cyclical review feedback & draft *Policy Against Sexual Violence* recommendations
- Met with MAUT representatives on Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> regarding *Policy Against Sexual Violence*
- Next McGill Communities Council this Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>; discussing AMUSE strike, draft *Policy Against Sexual Violence*, Board of Governors reform, 360-degree reviews & more

<p><b>University &amp; Academic Affairs Goals – Fall 2016</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fill all seats on university committees</li><li>• Goal setting meetings with every senator</li><li>• Host 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Student Academic Summit</li><li>• Submit union feedback for Human Resources review</li><li>• Submit student feedback for Enrolment Services review</li><li>• Memorandum of Agreement signed</li><li>• Make first round of Library Improvement Fund allocations</li><li>• Submit question at every Senate meeting</li></ul>
--



## ADVOCACY & RESEARCH

### POLICY DEVELOPMENT

#### McGill Policy Against Sexual Violence

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

#### 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 27<sup>th</sup> to begin revising “fundamental rights” section

#### Unpaid Internships Policy

- Presented background context to Legislative Council on Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>
- In response to proposed Senate question, Provost is reviewing current internship postings to ensure legal compliance; results will be shared at November 23<sup>rd</sup> Senate meeting
- Aiming to bring forward draft policy for student consultation at November 17<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup>

### 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 9<sup>th</sup>–11<sup>th</sup>)

#### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> to review revised structure; plan to submit revisions for November 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Council meeting (first reading)

#### Equity Committee

- Met on Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>
- 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 25<sup>th</sup> to discuss General Assembly [Titleholders motion](#) & public statement
- Indigenous Education Task Force hosting Open Forum consultation on Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>
- 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup>–23<sup>rd</sup>
- 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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)*