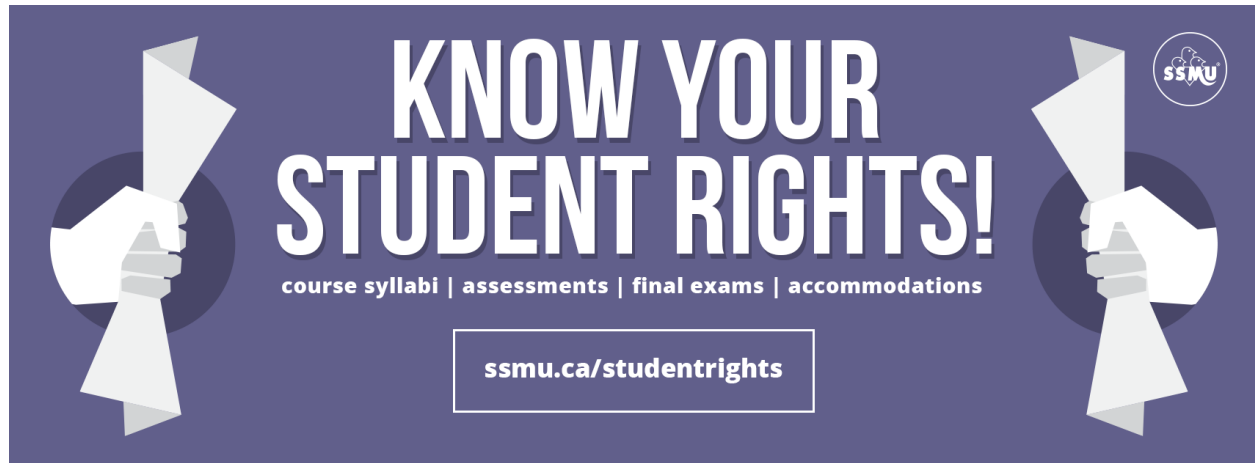




REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT (UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS)

JANUARY 12, 2017



Happy New Year! Make sure you know your academic rights as a student this term. Check out www.ssmu.ca/studentrights and our [Facebook campaign](#) to learn more!

UNIVERSITY & ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

SENATE & UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Senate

- Next Senate meeting on Wednesday, January 18th:
 - Submitted question regarding university governance best practices
 - Agenda includes reports of Ombudsperson, Research & Innovation, Open Forums on CAMSR Report on Divestment, and Board of Governors
 - Also planning February question on student diversity in enrolment & retention
- [Student Senator Info Session](#) on Monday, January 23rd from 5:30-6:30pm in Lev Bukhman
 - Senator nominations will open over the next 2 months (Elections are now being coordinated by the relevant Faculty association; read your listservs!)

University Committees

- Enrolment & Student Affairs Advisory Committee (ESAAC) is meeting this Tuesday, January 10th to discuss faculty mental health training, exam regulations, wellness services integration & more
- Academic Policy Committee (APC) is meeting next Thursday, January 19th

Student Life & Learning

- Meeting regarding Fall Break proposal this Wednesday, January 11th
- Experiential Learning Network is meeting this Wednesday, January 11th
- Next Undergraduate Skills Program Steering Committee on Tuesday, January 17th
- McGill Commitment Steering Committee meeting next Thursday, January 19th
- Memorandum of Agreement negotiations continuing this term due to McGill delays



Student Services

- [Continued issues](#) with transition to stepped care, service integration, HR & communications
- Next Committee on Student Services (CSS) meeting this Wednesday, January 11th
- Will meet with new Senior Director of Student Services, Martine Gauthier, in next week or two

Libraries

- Library Improvement Fund Committee met on December 6th to make Fall allocations; check-in meeting with Library Improvement Fund Commissioner this Tuesday, January 10th
- Planning to meet with Library administration regarding student staff allocations, budget data & SEDE proposals (Black History Month & family care initiatives)
- Working with MORSL and MSA on Innovation Fund proposal for meditation & prayer space
- Presentation from Open Access Researcher planned for Legislative Council on February 9th

ASSOCIATION RELATIONS

Faculty & Department Associations

- Currently scheduling McGill Academic Roundtable (MART) meeting for week of January 23rd

Unions & Professional Associations

- AMUSE collective agreement ratification GA this Monday, January 9th
- McGill Communities Council (MCC) meeting this Tuesday, January 10th to discuss joint letter on Board of Governors reform

Provincial Representation

- Attending AVEQ Members' Assembly this weekend (January 14-15) in Chicoutimi
- Provincial government is undertaking "consultations" for new legislation to address sexual violence on university campuses

University & Academic Affairs Goals – Winter 2017

- Host student senator information session
- Pass policy on academic amnesty for General Assemblies
- Develop policy against ancillary & overhead fee increases
- Memorandum of Agreement signed
- Bring reform proposal to Board of Governors
- Make final Library Improvement Fund allocations
- Submit question at every Senate meeting

ADVOCACY & RESEARCH

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

McGill Policy against Sexual Violence

- Sexual Violence Protocol Working Group met on December 13th to discuss new policy
- Met with Associate Provost, Harm Reduction Coordinator, Dean of Students and PGSS Equity Commissioner on December 20th to discuss implementation priorities
- Currently providing feedback on terms of reference for new policy advisory committee (implementation plan) & campus study panel (review of existing policies e.g. Code of Conduct)



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

- Met on Wednesday, December 14th to discuss academic rights revisions & Charter structure
- Next meeting on Thursday, January 19th to discuss procedural rights

Unpaid Internships Policy

- Received [response](#) to December Senate question regarding Faculty internships programs
- Meeting with AUS VP Academic this Friday, January 13th regarding elimination of course fees & introduction of academic credit for internship terms/co-ops
- Still developing text of *SSMU Policy against Unpaid Internships* to bring to Legislative Council

Intellectual Property Policy

- Met with Senior Innovation Strategy Advisor and Co-President of Universities Allied for Essential Medicines (UAEM) on December 14th regarding Intellectual Property Policy revisions
- The revised policy is now available for feedback [here](#) until the end of the month
- Humanitarian licensing principles should be included when revisions go to Senate for approval

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Alternative Campus Histories

- University Affairs Committee will be working on integrating content into UA website

First Generation Students

- Met with researcher on December 12th to discuss needed revisions; check-in meeting next week
- Meeting with Scholarships and Student Aid Office (SSAO) and Enrolment Services this month to discuss potential initiatives (combined with students from care research)

Students from Care

- Currently revising research report for public release & distribution to administration by next week
- Meeting with Scholarships and Student Aid Office (SSAO) and Enrolment Services this month to discuss potential initiatives (combined with first generation students research)

Harmful Military Technology

- Conducted candidate interviews week of December 11th & hired researcher last week
- Meeting this Thursday, January 12th to discuss project workplan & timeline

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Charter of Student Rights Submission

- Met with Academic Research Commissioner to review draft on Friday, January 6th
- Currently finalizing testimonies & recommendations for submission this month

Know Your Rights

- Launched updated [Student Rights website](#) & [Facebook event](#) for Add-Drop period
- Trained approximately 20 volunteers on January 5-6 for tabling in 10 buildings across campus
- Printed new posters, handbills, and buttons for distribution to Faculty associations
- University Affairs Committee will continue making website edits & improvements throughout term (e.g. accommodations section, flowcharts, etc.)



Advocacy & Research Goals – Winter 2017

- Host Add-Drop “Know Your Rights” campaign
- Submit charter case on academic accommodations
- Release foster care students research report
- Release first generation students research report
- Release alternative histories timeline on UA website
- Launch sexual violence policy committee & campus study
- Unpaid Internships Policy approved at Legislative Council
- Fall Reading Break approved at Senate (for 2018-2019)
- Charter of Student Rights revisions approved at Senate
- Launch online advocacy resources on UA website

EQUITY

SSMU EQUITY

Equity Policy

- Meeting with Equity Commissioners & Equity Committee within next week to finalize revisions
- Planning to bring revised policy to January 26th Legislative Council for first reading

Equity Committee

- Currently scheduling first Winter term meeting for next week; created new seat Black Students’ Network VP Academic & advocacy!
- Main events for this term include discussions on mixed race experiences, racialized dating, Black History month collaboration & annual speaker event (details TBA)

Accessibility & Universal Design (UD) Advocacy

- Met with project manager for *Promenade Urbain* project on December 15th to discuss concerns
- Will be distributing resources on universal access to student reps on capital funding committees
- Currently collecting accessibility resources for UA website (campus groups, guides, funding, etc)
- Following up with OSD regarding delayed launch of new Universal Design for Learning toolkit

Racialized Student Support Resources

- Wellness Recovery Action Planning groups for POC students are happening regularly this term
- Sustainability Projects Fund application for dedicated POC Community Projects Manager was approved; will be fleshing out SSMU collaborations this term (e.g. student mentorship network)

INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Indigenous Solidarity Policy

- Co-supervising Indigenous Affairs portfolio with President; met with Commissioner on January 9th
- First Indigenous Affairs Committee meeting currently being scheduled for next week
- Currently assisting with university advocacy priorities (e.g. course content mandate); Indigenous Solidarity Policy implementation & revisions; Indigenous Affairs guide for student groups; Indigeneity & Allyship Week planning; and University Centre Indigenous Art project



Equity Goals – Winter 2017

- Equity Policy revisions approved at Legislative Council
- Implement UD standards in capital funding committees
- Launch Accessibility webpage on UA website
- Indigenous Solidarity Policy revisions approved
- Circulate Indigenous Affairs guide to student groups
- Launch University Centre Indigenous art project
- Organize successful Indigeneity & Allyship Week
- Initiate Indigenous course content advocacy
- Develop framework for McGill diversity enrolment plan

SSMU-WIDE

GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Board of Directors

- Met on Sunday, December 11th to discuss Judicial Board reference & General Assembly
- Currently scheduling next meeting for sometime this month

Governance Documents

- Democratic Governance Review Committee meeting this Friday, January 13th
- Currently consulting on framework for SSMU *Equitable Hiring Policy*; will be meeting with President & new HR Advisor to discuss upcoming student staff hiring period

Executive Transition

- Developed outlines for University Affairs exit report, mandate letter & transition schedule

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

University Affairs Website & Communications

- Tabling at Winter Activities Night to promote senator role & student advocacy opportunities
- Releasing University Affairs listserv #5 later this week
- Working with UA Secretary General on website improvements (e.g. advocacy resources)

SSMU-Wide Goals – Winter 2017

- Formalize SSMU Equitable Hiring Policy
- Launch University Affairs staff hiring
- Send monthly University Affairs listservs
- Prepare transition documents & schedule
- Develop long-term student staffing plan

Cheers,

Erin Sobat

Vice-President (University Affairs)