



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)

JANUARY 26, 2017



Interested in running for a 2017-2018 SSMU Executive position? Come out to our [info session](#) on Monday, January 30th from 5:00-6:30pm in the Lev Bukhman Room! And, make sure to sign up for our [A Day in the Life](#) shadowing program to see what we really do on a regular basis. ☺

UNIVERSITY & ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

SENATE & UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Senate

- Senate met on Wednesday, January 18th:
 - Received [response](#) to question regarding university governance best practices
 - Discussed reports of Ombudsperson, Research & Innovation, Open Forums on CAMSR Report on Divestment, and Board of Governors
 - Failed to bring forward motion recommending the Board review its governance practices
- Next Senate meeting on Wednesday, February 15th:
 - Planning for open discussion on the Provost's Strategic Plan
 - Agenda includes revisions to *Regulation on the Conduct of Research*, revisions to the *Policy on Intellectual Property*, and annual report on Student Life and Learning (SLL)
- Scheduled Senate Caucus guests for Winter term including Dean of Students, Director of Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD), and Director of Teaching & Learning Services (TLS)
- [Student Senator Info Session](#) this 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) met on Tuesday, January 10th to discuss faculty mental health training, exam regulations, wellness services integration & more
- Academic Policy Committee (APC) met on January 19th to approve minor program changes



Student Life & Learning

- Met regarding Fall Break proposal on Wednesday, January 11th to discuss calendar options
- Met with Deputy Provost on January 16th to discuss term priorities (mental health literacy, bike facility, MoA, Student Services, Wellness Strategy, Fall Break, General Assembly amnesty, etc.)
- Undergraduate Skills Program Steering Committee met on January 17th to discuss streams
- McGill Commitment Steering Committee met on Thursday, January 19th; SLL has received \$5.6 million in government funding for internships, advising, teaching technologies & more
- Awaiting revised draft of new Memorandum of Agreement from McGill

Student Services

- [More coverage](#) of issues with transition service integration, HR, communications & consultation
- Committee on Student Services (CSS) met on Wednesday, January 11th to discuss past Innovation Fund projects and Campus Life & Engagement (CL&E) feedback
- Meeting with new Senior Director of Student Services, Martine Gauthier, this Monday, January 23rd
- Callout launched for new [Wellness Hub Stakeholder Group](#): users of Counselling, Mental Health, Health Clinic, and/or OSD can apply to participate in monthly feedback meetings

Libraries

- Met with Library Improvement Fund Commissioner on Tuesday, January 10th to plan out term; LIF Committee meeting this Wednesday, January 25th to discuss consultation & proposal timelines
- Meeting with SEDE Family Resources Coordinator this Monday, January 23rd regarding proposals
- Planning to meet with Library administration regarding student staff allocations & budget data
- 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

- Next McGill Academic Roundtable (MART) meeting this Monday, January 23rd; discussing “Know Your Rights” campaign debrief & Winter term support needs

Unions & Professional Associations

- McGill Communities Council (MCC) met on Tuesday, January 10th to discuss joint letter on Board of Governors reform; currently working with President to re-draft for MAUT & MCC approval

Provincial Representation

- Attended AVEQ Members’ Assembly in Chicoutimi January 14-15; provided feedback for government consultations on university sexual violence legislation
- Looking into panel to promote new research report on international student health insurance

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
- Strike Board of Governors reform committee
- Make final Library Improvement Fund allocations
- Submit question at every Senate meeting



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ADVOCACY & RESEARCH

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

McGill Policy against Sexual Violence

- Submitted feedback on terms of reference for new policy advisory committee (implementation plan) & campus study panel (review of existing policies e.g. Code of Conduct)
- Provided feedback for AVEQ submission to government consultations on new legislation
- Met with SACOMSS External Coordinator on January 19th to discuss priorities for term

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

- Met on Thursday, January 19th to review progress to-date & finalize fundamental, academic & procedural rights sections
- Hoping to circulate for community consultation by February & bring to Senate for Spring approval

Unpaid Internships Policy

- Met with AUS VP Academic on Friday, January 13th to discuss elimination of course fees & introduction of academic credit for internship terms/co-ops
- Had to reschedule meeting with VP External to write *SSMU Policy against Unpaid Internships*

Intellectual Property Policy

- Office of Innovation & Partnerships is collecting feedback on Intellectual Property Policy revisions [here](#) until end of January; will be following up regarding humanitarian licensing principles

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Alternative Campus Histories

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

First Generation Students

- Circulated draft report to key administrators; will be released publicly this week!
- Met with Scholarships and Student Aid Office (SSAO) on Wednesday, January 18th & meeting with Enrolment Services on Monday, January 23rd to discuss potential initiatives (combined with students from care research)

Students from Care

- Circulated draft report to key administrators; currently revising for public release by next week
- Met with Scholarships and Student Aid Office (SSAO) on Wednesday, January 18th & meeting with Enrolment Services on Monday, January 23rd to discuss potential initiatives (combined with first generation students research)

Harmful Military Technology

- Met with researcher on Thursday, January 12th to discuss project workplan & timeline

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Charter of Student Rights Submission

- Meeting with Academic Research Commissioner to review & submit this Tuesday, January 24th
- Also working with Dean of Students directly on improvements to accommodation policies



Know Your Rights

- Trained approximately 20 volunteers, printed new promotional materials & tabled in 10 buildings across campus for Winter Add-Drop campaign (January 4-17)
- 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

- Delays in finalizing revisions due to scheduling issues; will be meeting with Equity Commissioners & Equity Committee soon to finalize revisions

Equity Committee

- Split committee into two working groups due to scheduling issues; first meetings this Wednesday, January 25th & Friday, January 27th
- Main Winter term events include discussions on women in student leadership; mixed race experiences; racialized dating; annual speaker event (TBA) & more!

Accessibility & Universal Design (UD) Advocacy

- SQ: Will be distributing resources on universal access to students on capital funding committees; also collecting accessibility resources for UA website (related groups, funding sources, etc)
- Director of OSD attending Senate Caucus on February 6th to discuss Universal Design for Learning

Racialized Student Support Resources

- SQ: Wellness Recovery Action Planning (WRAP) groups for POC students are happening regularly
- Awaiting update on hiring of dedicated POC Community Projects Manager (will be fleshing out SSMU collaborations, e.g. student mentorship network)

INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Indigenous Solidarity Policy

- Indigenous Affairs Committee met on Friday, January 20th to discuss event series



- Currently assisting with advocacy priorities (e.g. course content mandate); Indigenous Solidarity Policy revisions; & University Centre Indigenous Art project

<p>Equity Goals – Winter 2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Launch University Centre Indigenous art project • Initiate Indigenous course content advocacy • Develop framework for McGill diversity enrolment plan
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SSMU-WIDE

GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Board of Directors

- SQ: Currently scheduling next meeting for later this month

Governance Documents

- Providing feedback on Democratic Governance Review Committee deliberations
- Meeting with President & new HR Manager on January 30th to discuss equitable hiring plans

Executive Transition

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

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

University Affairs Communications

- Tabled at Winter Activities Night to promote senator role & student advocacy opportunities
- Released University Affairs listserv on January 30th; average 50% open rate
- Working with UA Secretary General on website improvements (e.g. advocacy resources)
- Participating in [Executive Info Session](#) & [A Day in the Life](#) shadowing program!

<p>SSMU-Wide Goals – Winter 2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formalize SSMU <i>Equitable Hiring Policy</i> • Launch University Affairs staff hiring • Send monthly University Affairs listservs • Prepare transition documents & training schedule • Develop long-term student staffing plan

Cheers,

Erin Sobat

Vice-President (University Affairs)