



Report to SSMU Legislative Council

September 13, 2012

For those of you who weren't able to make it to the retreat and who might not be too familiar with the VP External portfolio, it has several different components. The first component is Community Relations, particularly with the Milton-Parc neighbourhood just east of campus. This came up particularly around Frosh, but will continue to be an important part of my work this coming year.

The second component is External Affairs, by which I mean mostly external political matters that impact students, at the municipal, provincial, national or international level. This means keeping track of policy changes that are happening and communicating that information to students, and then taking positions either through newly adopted mandates or by using existing resolutions, policies or the SSMU constitutions as guidelines. Another part of External Affairs is working with TaCEQ, our province-wide association. TaCEQ is recovering and rebuilding after a rather dysfunctional year last year, and I hope to work on some interesting projects with them over the year.

Finally, the last part of my position is running political campaigns on campus. Little has happened over the summer, particularly since Law 12 suspended the strike on other campuses and the student movement was on a bit of a break. Now that the election is over, with a change of government, tuition will be considerably less of an issue, so I'll be taking my time to think about what kinds of things I want to work on for the year.

Community relations:

Frosh Street Teams:

- For the third year running, we organized Frosh Street Teams, a group of volunteers to do foot patrols and table in the Milton-Parc neighbourhood and help confused or lost froshies by giving them directions, snacks and water. It was successfully run Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday nights of Orientation Week. The volunteers were all really great, and although there were a few neighbourhood creepers hanging around and making it slightly unpleasant, all in all it was a success. Hélène from the Milton-Parc Citizen's Committee also helped to organize some residents as volunteers.

Community Engagement Day

- A project under SEDE, Community Engagement Day will be on October 5 and will be a day of celebration of Community Engagement. Registration opens Thursday, and you should all check out their website <http://www.cedmcgill.com/>. It should be great! I hope all the faculties will help to promote the day!

Community Engagement Committee

- I've had a couple of great meetings with Inna, the SSMU Community Engagement Commissioner, and Madeline, the Community Affairs Coordinator, about getting this committee going. So far we have contacted a number of



different groups and are waiting to hear who all will be able to join us for a first meeting in the next few weeks.

Provincial affairs:

Election:

- As I'm sure you all know, on September 4 the first ever female premier of Quebec was elected with a minority government. Pauline Marois, in her first press conference as premier-elect, announced her intention to cancel the tuition increase using government decree, and also get rid of Law 78. The new government will also be holding a summit on education, sometime in the near-ish future. I have been in contact with PGSS and folks from CSU and GSA Concordia to talk about collaborating on this, since our universities have similar positions in the province.

Debate:

- I worked with PGSS, CSU and GSA to organize an election debate in English on August 30th, which took place at Concordia. It was fairly well attended, with representatives from all of the major parties and some of the smaller ones.

TaCEQ:

- We had a meeting on the 25th to discuss election stuff, finances, plans for the year.
- A regularization document was finally completed, and shows that because of how things were paid (much of it by CADEUL without reimbursement) over the last years without being tracked consistently, SSMU owes over \$5000 to TaCEQ. I spoke with Josée and Pauline about this and it sounds like we should discuss it with Sébastien. I will be discussing with Pauline, JP and Josée how to proceed. As well, we will also be opening up a separate line item within the SSMU budget just for TaCEQ, so it will be easier to keep track of.
- A committee will be reviewing the TaCEQ by-laws sometime in the near future. We need to name a representative from SSMU to sit on this committee. I am happy to do it, but if there is anyone here who is interested, I'm willing to pass it off. Whoever it is should be a bit of a policy nerd, with a good understanding of written French.
- Paul-Emile came to visit for Street Fest to talk to students a bit, although unfortunately he didn't have any pamphlets in English. We now have English versions though, so I'll be making those available in the SSMU office.

Student Movement elsewhere



- There will be another large demo on the 22nd, organized by CLASSE. Aside from that, the strike has ended and everyone is waiting to see what Madam Marois will do with the summit and possible tuition increases after that.

Campus

- Did a Rad Frosh workshop about the strike and tuition hikes. I think it went well. Lots of students from outside Quebec who didn't really know what was going on and they were quite receptive.
- Activities night was fun. So many students, so many clubs!

HR

- Have had my first meetings with my student staff. They're all wonderful!

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Reid-Fraser, VP External