



## REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT (UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS)

**APRIL 6, 2017**



Have you ever wanted to see how McGill works behind the scenes? Are you passionate about campus issues like student services, academic programs, or equity? Do you have a great idea to improve student life? [Apply](#) to sit as a student representative on a university committee by April 17th at 5PM!

### UNIVERSITY & ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

#### SENATE & UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

##### Senate

- Senate met on Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>:
  - Discussed budget plan, student aid, Strategic Enrolment Management, graduate studies issues & proposed revisions to *Policy on Intellectual Property*
  - Provost has allocated \$500K towards 2017-18 Indigenous initiatives (\$2.3 mil over 5 years)
  - Vice-Principal (Research & Innovation) committed to including humanitarian licensing principles in upcoming commercialization guidelines (Fall 2017 timeline)
- Next Senate meeting on Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>:
  - Discussing proposed budget, revised *Charter of Students' Rights*, implementation of *Policy against Sexual Violence*, campus construction projects, Student Life & Learning report
  - Voting on revised *Policy on Intellectual Property* & Strategic Academic Plan 2017-2022
  - Submitting questions on university responses to Islamophobia & student diversity
- Legislative Council approved revisions to Internal Regulations of Representation & Advocacy that will now automatically delegate senator elections to Faculty associations

##### University Committees

- Vision 2020 Education Action Team met on Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss final objectives
- Academic Policy Committee (APC) met on March 29<sup>th</sup>; next meeting on Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup>
- Enrolment & Student Affairs Advisory Committee (ESAAC) meeting next Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>; hope to discuss transfer credit policy & guidelines for accommodating students with dependents



## Student Life & Learning

- Fall Reading Break Working Group met on Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss possible models
- Undergraduate Skills Program Steering Committee met on Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>
- Currently awaiting clean draft of Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for final review & approval
- Athletics & Recreation fee increase referendum failed with 64.3% “No” vote!

## Student Services

- McGill Mental Health Working Group has released an [open letter](#) regarding ongoing concerns with Counselling & Mental Health Services
- Health & Wellness Strategy Advisory Committee met on Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup> to discuss goals
- Next Committee on Student Services (CSS) meeting on Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup> to follow-up on budget, Innovation Fund applications & committee role

## Libraries

- Library Improvement Fund Committee met on Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> to make final allocations (report submitted to this Legislative Council meeting)

## ASSOCIATION RELATIONS

### Faculty & Department Associations

- McGill Academic Roundtable (MART) met for final time on Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>

### Unions & Professional Associations

- McGill Communities Council (MCC) met on Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss Board of Governors reform proposals for May meeting
- MCC meeting with Chair of Board & Secretary General on May 3<sup>rd</sup> to discuss reform proposals

### Provincial Representation

- Next AVEQ Congress April 21-23 at Concordia to elect 2017-2018 executive; nominations are open until Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at [www.aveq-nous.ca/en/elections-2017/](http://www.aveq-nous.ca/en/elections-2017/)!
- AVEQ currently hiring [researcher](#) to collect information on international tuition deregulation; also participated in *Journée de Réflexion* consultations for provincial sexual violence legislation
- Bringing motion to this Council meeting to support Quebec human rights case against citizenship-based discrimination

### University & Academic Affairs Goals – Winter 2017

- ~~Host student senator information session~~
- Pass policy on academic amnesty for GAs – Tabled
- ~~Pass policy against ancillary & overhead fee increases~~
- Memorandum of Agreement signed – End of term
- Create Board of Governors reform committee – May Board meeting
- ~~Make final Library Improvement Fund allocations~~
- Submit question or motion at every Senate meeting – May Senate
- ~~Launch 2017-2018 McGill committee recruitment~~



## ADVOCACY & RESEARCH

### POLICY DEVELOPMENT

#### McGill Policy against Sexual Violence

- SQ – Administration has [announced the chairs](#) of the implementation & campus review committees; working with SACOMSS to ensure effective student representation on each group

#### McGill Ad-Hoc Committee to Review the Charter of Students' Rights

- Revised Charter will come to Senate for information in April & approval in May; committee will meet to review feedback following April meeting
- Looking into best ways to address issues with “McGill context” jurisdiction

#### McGill Policy on Intellectual Property

- Final policy coming to April Senate for approval; Associate Vice-Principal striking working group to develop commercialization guidelines (with humanitarian licensing principles) for Fall 2017

#### SSMU Policy against Unpaid Internships

- SQ – Will be following up on relevant external mandates at AVEQ Members' Assembly

### RESEARCH PROJECTS

#### Alternative Campus Histories

- SQ – Academic Research Commissioner is overseeing integration into UA website

#### Targeted Support Resources

- Enrolment Services working group met on Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> to review admissions diversity survey data; currently following up on further data collection & retention-tracking possibilities
- Café Collab [Year-End Showcase](#) next Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>; come learn how to better support trans, racialized, Indigenous, caregiver, first generation & foster care students!
- Students from Care Researcher working to allocate dedicated bursaries for first generation/foster care students & organize Student Life & Learning policy hack-a-thon (Fall 2017)

#### Harmful Military Technology

- SQ – Researcher completed review of initial ATI documents & is now investigating further cases

### SPECIAL PROJECTS

#### Academic Accommodations

- Finalizing submission to the Advisory Council on the Charter of Students' Rights
- Faculty of Management is centralizing the processing of supporting documentation for accommodation purposes through their Student Affairs Office
- Met with SEDE Family Resources Coordinator on Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss revising Guidelines for the Accommodation of Pregnant Students and Students Caring for Dependents

#### Know Your Rights

- Graphic designer has created draft flowchart poster on academic accommodations
- Will be finalizing University Affairs Committee changes to student rights website & discussing future possibilities with incoming VP University Affairs



- Advocacy & Research Goals – Winter 2017**
- ~~Host Add-Drop “Know Your Rights” campaign~~
  - ~~Submit charter case on academic accommodations~~
  - ~~Release first-generation students research report~~
  - ~~Release foster care students research report~~
  - ~~Release alternative histories timeline on UA website – End of term~~
  - ~~Launch sexual violence policy committee & campus study~~
  - ~~Unpaid Internships Policy approved at Legislative Council~~
  - ~~Humanitarian Licensing Framework approved at Senate – Fall 2017~~
  - ~~Charter of Student Rights revisions approved at Senate – May Senate~~
  - ~~Fall Reading Break approved at Senate (for 2019-2020) – Tabled~~
  - ~~Form working group on academic accommodation policies~~
  - ~~Launch online advocacy resources on UA website – End of term~~

## EQUITY

### SSMU EQUITY

#### Equity Committee

- Campus Conversation on *Unpacking Love: Racialized Dating Preferences* held on March 29<sup>th</sup>
- Developing revised Equity Complaints flowchart for website & posters

#### Accessibility & Universal Design (UD) Advocacy

- SQ – Collecting accessibility resources for UA website (related groups, funding sources, etc.)
- Still awaiting postponed launch of online Universal Design for Learning (UDL) toolkit

#### Racialized Student Support Resources

- SQ – New Community Projects Manager (Racialized & Ethnic Students) has been hired; will be fleshing out SSMU collaboration (e.g. student mentorship network) over remainder of term

## INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

#### Indigenous Affairs Committee

- Met for last time on Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> to debrief event series, committee role & recommendations
- Still collecting information for Indigenous course content advocacy & Indigenous Affairs guide

#### Indigenous Education Taskforce

- Provost has committed \$500 000 in funding for Indigenous initiatives in 2017-2018 (\$2.3 million over five years); awaiting final report of the Taskforce on June 21<sup>st</sup> to learn details

- Equity Goals – Winter 2017**
- ~~Equity Policy revisions approved at Legislative Council~~
  - ~~UD standards for capital funding committees – Tabled~~
  - ~~Launch Accessibility webpage on UA website – End of term~~
  - ~~Indigenous Solidarity Policy revisions approved~~
  - ~~Create Indigenous course content advocacy plan~~
  - ~~Develop Indigenous Affairs guide – In-progress~~
  - ~~Initiate McGill diversity enrolment plan – End of term~~



## SSMU-WIDE

### GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION

#### SSMU Governance & Documents

- Will be assisting with updating of governance documents based on year-to-date revisions (Constitution, Internal Regulations, Policy & Plans Book, Resolution Books)

#### Staff Hiring

- Attended equitable hiring training from SEDE on Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup>; still developing formal employment equity statement, procedures & job description review
- Conducting interviews with incoming executives for University Affairs & External Affairs staff

#### Executive Transition

- Assisted with group training schedule & developed University Affairs training plan
- Currently compiling University Affairs exit report & revised mandate letter
- Also assisting with development of VP External transition plan & training materials

### STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

#### University Affairs & External Affairs Communications

- Final University Affairs listserv sent on April 3<sup>rd</sup>!
- Will be finalizing new UA website content in time for executive transition (i.e. additional advocacy, research & equity resources)

#### SSMU-Wide Goals – Winter 2017

- Approve Internal Regulations for Board of Directors
- Formalize SSMU equitable hiring procedures – In-progress
- Launch University Affairs staff hiring
- Send monthly University Affairs listservs
- Prepare May executive training schedule
- Complete exit report & revised mandate letter – In-progress
- Develop long-term student staffing plan

Cheers,

**Erin Sobat**

*Vice-President (University Affairs)*