

REPORT OF THE AD-HOC FALL READING BREAK COMMITTEE

Current Membership:

President	Tre Mansdoerfer
Vice-President (University Affairs)	Jacob Shapiro
Senate Caucus	Sarim Malik
Arts	(Vacant)
Arts & Science	Bryan Buraga
Dentistry	(Vacant)
Education	(Vacant)
Engineering	(Vacant)
First Year Council	(Vacant)
Inter-Residence Council	(Vacant)
Law	(Vacant)
Management	(Vacant)
Medicine	(Vacant)
Music	(Vacant)
Nursing	(Vacant)
PT/OT	(Vacant)
Science	(Vacant)
Social Work	(Vacant)
Member-at-Large	(Vacant)
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Meetings: The Committee has been unable to meet thus far as we are still looking for representatives. We strive to fill these positions as soon as possible in order to begin our work. Our meetings shall begin once we fill at least ½ of the positions on the Committee. We request Councillors mention to their councils that this Committee is looking for members and to ask if there is one person that is willing to be a member of this Committee. Once a Councillor has found a member before the next Legislative Council meeting, we request that they send their contact information to Senator Buraga at artsscisenator@ssmu.ca ASAP.

Structure: The Committee will have two subcommittees, one focused on admin and dean consultation, and another focused on data collection from the student body at large.

Upcoming Work: The Fall 2018 semester will primarily be used to gather data from the student body regarding specific details of a Fall Reading Break (FRB). This would include: when a FRB would benefit students the most, what they plan on using the FRB for, what compromises to the academic calendar would students be willing to take for a FRB, as well as other things that the Committee thinks is necessary to fully consult the student body on a FRB. The Committee's consultations will consist of a student body-wide survey and focus groups. The Committee will also liaise with admin, deans, and Senators to figure out the bureaucratic challenges that face a FRB and work with them to resolve these issues. The Enrolment and Student Affairs Advisory Committee (ESAAC), a committee of the McGill Senate, may create a subcommittee to further study a FRB.

The Winter 2019 semester will focus on compiling and analyzing the collected data in order to present it as a final report to the Legislative Council and the membership at large through Referendum. The Committee will further consult faculties and schools once the final report has been drafted before presentation to the Legislative Council and the membership.

Admin Consultation: Senator Buraga met with the Dean of Students, Christopher Buddle, on October 5th to talk about a FRB. Dean Buddle stated that while he sees the benefit of a FRB on students' mental health, he believes that other issues, such as improving the Assessment Policy, would alleviate stress and increase student well-being more than a FRB. He stated that while admin is not necessarily opposed to a FRB, the complexity of the issue and workload constraints prevent an administrator from fully taking on the issue. He was pleased to hear that the SSMU is taking on some of the consultation work on a FRB and expressed his interest with working with the SSMU further on this issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan Buraga, Senate Caucus Representative