



# MOTION REGARDING LETTER FOR DPSLL ADVISORY/SELECTION COMMITTEE 2019-02-21

Submitted for: February 21, 2019

**WHEREAS**, the selection of the Deputy Provost of Student Life and Learning (DPSLL) is currently underway;

**WHEREAS**, the DPSLL role has units which includes Dean of Students, Athletics, Teaching and Learning Services, Student Hospitality Services, Enrollment Services, and Student Services;

**WHEREAS**, the DPSLL Selection Committee should be cognizant of what students value in the Deputy Provost role.

**BE IT RESOLVED, THAT** the the Students' Society of McGill University Legislative Council endorse the letter detailed in Appendix A to be sent to the chair of the DPSLL selection committee.

Moved By:

Tre Mansdoerfer, *President*

Garima Karia, *Arts Representative*

Bryan Buraga, *Senate Caucus Representative*

Jacob Shapiro, *Vice President (University Affairs)*



## Letter to Deputy Provost Selection Committee

Dear selection committee for the Deputy Provost of Student Life and Learning,

On behalf of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) Legislative Council, a body that represents the entirety of the McGill undergraduate student body (23,000 students), we are writing to you to state what we are looking for in a new Deputy Provost.

Over the past decade, the students have had a strained relationship with the DPSLL. Statements in executive exit reports and [student media](#) actively reflects this dynamic. As the SSMU, we actively want this relationship to change. In changing this dynamic, it's important for us to recognize in what we value in a Deputy Provost. We have compiled a short list of both characteristics and important student needs that the DPSLL should find pertinent to their role.

The SSMU recommends the following characteristics in a DPSLL:

- 1) The desire to collaborate. The DPSLL role should actively seek collaboration with the student body, understanding that the DPSLL and student societies have the same end goal, to improve student life at McGill University. The DPSLL should seek to work with students, not for students.
- 2) Valuing engagement with the student body. The DPSLL should actively be immersed in student life and experiences at McGill, interacting with students among a variety of viewpoints and backgrounds. This includes student societies but extends to the great student community.

With these characteristics taken into consideration, we would like to see a Deputy Provost prioritize the following initiatives:

- 1) Examining structures to create a Fall Reading Break with the eventual adoption of such a break.



- 2) [Improvement of Student Wellness Services](#), which includes counseling, psychiatric, etc. As well as the relationship between McGill assessment policies and the impact on student mental health.
- 3) Sustained interaction with areas of the DPSLL portfolio that students don't have as much historic access to, such as Athletics and Student Housing and Hospitality.

The SSMU would also like to lend its support to and acknowledge asks made from other societies on campus who have also taken the time to write letters directly to the Deputy Provost selection committee. Both the Engineering Undergraduate Society and Arts Undergraduate Society have already approved of statements to be sent to the selection committee. We would like to echo the following goals for a Deputy Provost, that these student societies have stated:

- 1) Continuing to foster productive working relationships with student organizations
- 2) The promotion of equity and diversity (and be an individual with the skills and experience to effectively carry this out)
- 3) Increasing student representation on all committees that deal with matters pertaining to students to at least 50%
- 4) Seeing through relevant Calls to Action of the Provost's Task Force on Indigenous Studies and Indigenous Education
- 5) Providing more than adequate resources to the now-relocated initiatives of the former Social Equity and Diversity Education Office such that they are fully capable of providing the same, or higher, level of services and opportunities as they did pre-relocation

The SSMU council believes that the recommendations listed in this letter reflect the undergraduate student body of McGill. Thank you for taking the time to engage with these asks, we are available for any further consultation if wanted.

Sincerely,

The Students' Society of McGill University