



President's Report

Submitted for: September 10, 2019

For the period of June 1, 2019 to September 10, 2019

Sustainability

Meetings to discuss electronic transcripts and working towards transitioning to these.

SSMU timeline

Presented the official dates for the 2019-2020 academic year including Legislative Council meetings, General Assemblies, clubs and services workshops, Activities Night.

Board of Directors

Serving as a director for the Board of Directors since 2019-06.

Legal

Discussions and meetings with legal team to ensure that SSMU is respecting and following the law in regards to insurance and fiduciary responsibilities.

HR

- Hired a Governance Documents Researcher to provide extensive research regarding governance documents reformatting.
- Hired a Chief Electoral Officer and a Deputy Electoral Officer for the 2019-2020 academic year for the upcoming elections.
- Hired Recording Secretaries and Parliamentarians, as well as Speaker of Council (on call).



Equity

- Meeting with AQEIPS.
- Meeting with PGSS about Empower Me.

University Center

Meeting with project managers and contractors regarding the University Center and the progress of the HVAC project.

Governance

- Meeting with PTOT regarding MoA with SSMU.
- Ensuring the governance documents are updated and uploaded on the SSMU website, including minutes and IRs from the 2018-2019 academic year.
- Working on the Ad Hoc Discretionary Funding Committee.
- Working on Policy and Plan Book reorganization with the Governance Manager, as well as a new process for development of policies.
- Ensuring to keep a timeline of all expiring policies and fees for the upcoming academic year.
- Working with the Executives to ensure that all projects and timelines are respected and upheld.
- Website review.

SSMU Retreat

Logistics of SSMU retreat has been completed. Making sure all that are attending have completed the forms and waivers for the retreat.

Fall Reading Break

Working with a researcher regarding the implementation of a Fall Reading Break at McGill.

Mandates

1. Working on various mandates from Legislative Council 2018-2019 including Clubs and Services as SSMU's highest priority, policy and plan book standardization.
2. Working on the budget with VP Finance and General Manager to ensure allocation of funds.



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Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories

3. Working on Letters Patent and President's mandate.
4. Working with the auditors to ensure they have all the information and documents they need to complete the audits.

BryanBuraga

TRAVAILLER POUR LA SSMU
LUTTER POUR VOUS

WORKING FOR SSMU
FIGHTING FOR YOU



VISION 2020

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

McGill University and the Students' Society of McGill University is located on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabeg nations. We honour, recognize and respect these nations as the traditional stewards of the lands and waters on which we meet today.



A MESSAGE FROM BRYAN

Over the past year, I have had the privilege to serve as the Arts & Science Senator. It truly has been an honour to be a public servant for you, meeting with countless students about your concerns and fighting for student priorities. Throughout my time in student government, it has become abundantly clear that our student union needs strong, principled, and experienced leadership now more than ever. The McGill administration, time and time again, acts against student interests. The average McGill undergraduate student either does not know what SSMU does or feels that it does not represent their interests.

But together, we can change that. We can have a student union that has our priorities in mind, that spends your hard-earned money responsibly, and that demonstrates leadership in human rights and social justice.

Join me. It's time to make SSMU work for us.

Kindest regards,

SENATOR BRYAN BURAGA

Candidate for SSMU President

MY EXPERIENCE

ARTS & SCIENCE SENATOR

**SENATE CAUCUS REPRESENTATIVE
SSMU LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**DIRECTOR
SSMU BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**CHAIR
SSMU AD-HOC FALL READING
BREAK COMMITTEE**

**SECRETARY-GENERAL
PACIFIC MODEL UNITED NATIONS**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

MY EXPERIENCE

- ✓ Arts & Science Senator, McGill Senate
 - Councillor, Bachelor of Arts and Science Integrative Council (BASiC)
 - Member, McGill Enrolment and Student Affairs Advisory Committee (ESAAC)
 - Member, McGill Subcommittee on Courses and Teaching Programs (SCTP)
 - Liaised directly with McGill University administration to advocate for student issues
 - Fostered strong working relationships with McGill administrators
- ✓ Senate Caucus Representative, SSMU Legislative Council
 - Member, SSMU Building and Operations Management Committee (BOMCOM)
 - Member, SSMU Steering Committee
 - Main mover for 12 motions in Legislative Council, the most of any non-executive Councillor
 - Aided in the creation of future plans for SSMU buildings and renovations
- ✓ Director, SSMU Board of Directors
 - Managed and administered the business and affairs of the SSMU with specific focus on the Society's legal, financial, and human resource affairs
- ✓ Chair, SSMU Ad-Hoc Fall Reading Break Committee
 - Chair, Yes Campaign Committee for the Policy on Implementation of a Fall Reading Week
 - Member, McGill ESAAC Fall Reading Break Sub-Committee
 - Drove massive voter turnout for the Winter 2018 Referendum question on a Fall Reading Week, with 96.6% voting in favour
 - Spearheaded SSMU's Fall Reading Break advocacy with the McGill administration
 - Directly managed representatives from many faculties to ensure a Fall Reading Break would be implemented at McGill as soon as possible
- ✓ Secretary-General, Pacific Model United Nations
 - Director of Policy, Pacific Model United Nations Foundation
 - Oversaw the growth, development, and execution of a conference
 - Managed a team of 12 organizing members and 60 volunteers
 - Grew the conference from 100 attendees to 600 attendees, from a \$1000 budget to a \$110,000 budget, and from a 1 day conference to a 3 day conference
 - Successfully negotiated a \$70,000 contract with our venue to ensure our financial goals were met

PLATFORM PILLARS

STUDENT ADVOCACY

**FINANCIAL & INSTITUTIONAL
REFORM**

STUDENT SPACE RENEWAL

**IMPROVED STUDENT
SUPPORT SERVICES**

**CONCRETE ACCOUNTABILITY &
TRANSPARENCY MEASURES**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PLATFORM

- ✓ Student Advocacy
 - Fall Reading Break implementation by Fall 2020
 - Strengthening protections in McGill's Sexual Violence Policy
 - Holding McGill administration accountable for implementing the Calls to Action in the Provost's Task Force on Indigenous Studies and Indigenous Education
 - Using the McGill Board of Governors seat to push for fossil fuel divestment
 - Overhauling McGill's Assessment Policy with an end to 70% finals and down-curving grades
 - Increasing the length of exam periods to decrease exam conflicts
 - Increasing student and Indigenous representation on McGill's Board of Governors and Senate
 - Increasing McGill's contribution to student health services
 - Increasing SSMU's research capacity to have better evidence in advocacy work
 - Having SSMU's Francophone Affairs Committee take more of an advocacy role for francophone student issues
 - Continuing to improve working relationships with McGill administrators
 - Membership on the McGill Board of Governors' Building and Property Committee and the Committee to Advise on Matters of Social Responsibility
- ✓ Financial & Institutional Reform
 - Dollar for dollar value for SSMU fees
 - Ending uncompensated student labour at SSMU
 - Fair compensation for student staff at SSMU
 - Reducing SSMU membership fees for students in financial need
 - Revising SSMU's policies on approving course fees
 - Ensuring social justice-based initiatives are fully funded
 - Bringing the International Health Insurance plan under SSMU's jurisdiction
 - Creation of SSMU Legal Defence Fund/Legal Services
 - Full revision of SSMU's Constitution and Internal Regulations by the Winter 2020 Referendum period
 - Creation of Statistics SSMU, an office for data collection to ensure more informed decision-making
 - Reforming SSMU General Assemblies
 - Making SSMU Legislative Council more accessible to the student body
 - Reforming SSMU Board of Directors to be more democratic and representative of the student body
 - Review of electoral practices and regulations
 - Increasing the number of permanent SSMU staff
 - Ensuring the Involvement Restriction Policy is implemented
 - Reviewing McGill's meal plan practices
 - Working with Macdonald Campus Students' Society to integrate their students under SSMU

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PLATFORM

- ✓ Student Space Renewal
 - Renovating SSMU's 3501 Peel Street property to become a student wellness centre
 - Renovating Gerts, the 2nd floor cafeteria, and theatre in the SSMU University Centre
 - Continuing Peel Street property acquisition to enable growth for clubs and services
 - Continuing the UTILE proposal for SSMU to build affordable student housing
- ✓ Improved Student Support Services
 - Creation of SSMU Student Academic Support Services, an integrated office to expand Open Educational Resources, notetaking for classes, and SSMU Tutoring
 - Creation of a SSMU phone app to provide more accessible information for SSMU clubs and services, an Uber-like interface for Walksafe and Drivesafe, and student government business
 - Holding McGill accountable for health service improvements and waiting time goals from the Rossy Wellness Hub
- ✓ Concrete Accountability & Transparency Measures
 - Ensuring implementation of a Conflict of Interest Policy
 - Creation of Ethics SSMU, an independent office housing the Equity, Anti-Violence, and Conflict of Interest portfolios
 - Implementation of a Policy on Freedom of Information Requests
 - Creation of a Whistleblower Policy
 - Having election platforms of SSMU executives be available on the SSMU website with an election promise tracker
 - Creation of an easy-to-understand SSMU budget explainer
 - Executive mid-term reviews as a Plebiscite question during the Fall Referendum period to gauge student opinion on Executives' progress
 - Ending membership of Directors on the SSMU Board of Directors' Nominating Committee
 - Creation of Communications SSMU, an office dedicated to improving communications with the student body
 - Creation of a Policy on Discretionary Spending
 - Releasing of discretionary spending reports once a semester
 - Biweekly Facebook Live updates and Q&A sessions
 - Monthly Reddit AMAs

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ABOUT ME





ABOUT ME

I was born and raised in Vancouver to immigrant parents from the Philippines. From a young age, my dad emphasized the importance of empathy and honesty and planted a seed in my mind about politics. His stories of activism and protest inspired me to fight for things I wanted to change. In high school, I became involved in environmental activism and student advocacy. I started out in Grade 8, knocking on doors and gathering petition signatures for environmental policies. It was during these formative years that I developed my knowledge of grassroots organizing and realized just how powerful political engagement can be in affecting positive change. I chose to go to McGill

for three reasons: to study at a world-class institution, to become fluent in French, and to challenge myself, meeting people with different perspectives and backgrounds than my own. I am very lucky to be able to be here, and it would not be possible without the support of my family. The reason I am so passionate about student government is because I have seen the ways in which our university has failed to support and protect its students, and I want to effect change. As Senator, I've been using my skills and knowledge to make McGill a better place for students, working on initiatives such as a Fall Reading Break. If elected, I would be honoured to serve as your President.

MY EXPERIENCE



MY EXPERIENCE

ARTS & SCIENCE SENATOR

Over the past year, I have had the privilege to serve as the Arts & Science Senator. It truly has been an honour to be a public servant, meeting with countless students about their concerns and fighting for student priorities. I have sat as a Councillor for the Bachelor of Arts and Science Integrative Council (BASiC), and have been a member of two McGill Senate committees. These include the Enrolment and Student Affairs Advisory Committee (ESAAC) and the APC Subcommittee on Courses and Teaching Programs (SCTP). I have had the opportunity to liaise directly with McGill University administration to advocate for student issues, and in the process, fostered strong working relationships with McGill administrators. This experience will allow me to hit the ground running with my platform goals and utilize my existing relationships with McGill admin to better serve students.

SENATE CAUCUS REPRESENTATIVE SSMU LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Being elected by my fellow Student Senate Caucus colleagues to be one of their Senate Caucus Representatives on the SSMU Legislative Council, I have had the opportunity to sit on two Legislative Council committees. These are the Building and Operations Management Committee (BOMCOM) and the Steering Committee. As a member of BOMCOM, I aided in the creation of future plans for SSMU buildings and renovations. As an active member of Legislative Council, I was the main mover for 12 motions, the most of any non-executive Councillor. My experience on SSMU committees and on the Legislative Council have prepared me to lead in initiating new policies and setting the agenda for Legislative Council.

DIRECTOR SSMU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As one of the elected Legislative Council representatives on the Board of Directors, I have helped manage and administer the Society's legal, financial, and human resource affairs. This experience will ensure a smooth transition for me, if elected, as the Chair of the Board of Directors.

MY EXPERIENCE

CHAIR

SSMU AD-HOC FALL READING BREAK COMMITTEE

Since my first year at McGill, I have been a strong advocate for a Fall Reading Break. In Winter 2018, I was the Chair of the Yes Campaign Committee for the Policy on Implementation of a Fall Reading Week, driving massive voter turnout for the Winter 2018 Referendum question. This question on a Fall Reading Week had 96.6% voting in favour, and it was the catalyst for the McGill administration to restart active discussions of a Fall Reading Break. As the Chair, I have spearheaded SSMU's Fall Reading Break advocacy with the McGill administration, also participating in McGill's Fall Reading Break Sub-Committee as a member. Additionally, I directly managed representatives from many faculties to ensure a Fall Reading Break would be implemented at McGill as soon as possible. The experience and knowledge that I have regarding the issues surrounding the implementation of a Fall Reading Break make me the best person to advocate for a Fall Reading Break and its subsequent implementation by Fall 2020.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

PACIFIC MODEL UNITED NATIONS

As the former Secretary-General of Pacific Model United Nations and current Director of Policy for the Pacific Model United Nations Foundation, I oversaw the growth, development, and execution of our flagship conference. As the head of the conference, I managed a team of 12 organizing members and 60 volunteers. I successfully led the conference to grow in size from 100 attendees to 600 attendees, from a \$1000 budget to a \$110,000 budget, and from a 1 day conference to a 3 day conference. I was also able to successfully negotiate a \$70,000 contract with our venue to ensure our financial goals were met. This experience demonstrates my ability to lead a large organization, budget responsibly, and plan large-scale events, and will aid me in helping with the vast array of responsibilities that the SSMU Executives have.

A large, classical-style building with a central dome and a flag on top, serving as a background for the text. The building has a prominent portico with columns and a central entrance. A flag is flying from a tall pole in front of the building. The scene is set in a courtyard with a fountain in the foreground and trees on the sides.

PLATFORM

STUDENT ADVOCACY

FALL READING BREAK IMPLEMENTATION BY FALL 2020

As the Chair of the SSMU Ad-Hoc Fall Reading Break Committee, I know first-hand just how close McGill students are to getting a Fall Reading Break. In an interview with myself, the current SSMU President, and the Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning), Deputy Provost Fabrice Labeau said, "[planning a Fall Reading Week for 2020 would be] a reasonable time frame." Although there are major logistical considerations that still need to be worked through at the university level, I will ensure that this continues to be a priority in my presidency and will work with McGill administrators, support staff, and teaching staff to ensure a Fall Reading Break is implemented by Fall 2020.

STRENGTHENING PROTECTIONS IN MCGILL'S SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY

I would like to recognize the work that SACOMSS and other students have done with regards to advocacy for sexual violence protections. Often the brunt of this work is done by female-identifying and non-binary folks of colour. I by no means have done much of the work on this issue, but as President, I would do everything in my power to ensure that this work has the resources and support it needs from SSMU.

As the Arts & Science Senator, I have had the opportunity to review the revisions to McGill's Sexual Violence Policy as a result of Bill 151 and advocate for stronger protections for students in the McGill Senate. McGill's revised Policy is not adequate. At SSMU's February 28th, 2019 Legislative Council meeting, the Motion in Support of Revisions to McGill's Policy Against Sexual Violence and Student Advocacy passed. This motion contained several advocacy points that I whole-heartedly support. As President, I would strongly advocate for:

- "A prohibition of relationships of an amorous or sexual nature between undergraduate students and professors at the University
- A prohibition between graduate students and professors who hold an evaluative or supervisory role over them (including but not limited to graduate thesis committees)

STUDENT ADVOCACY

- A policy that includes a clause prohibiting professors from engaging in “conduct of sexual nature” directed at student
- A policy that includes clause stating that disciplinary action against professors will stay in the their employment file for a period of 7 years and will be considered in promotion and tenure
- McGill administration to publicly state their position on being against a prohibition between undergraduate students and teaching staff, and provide a formal legal brief of the exact legal limitations
- McGill administration to lobby the Quebec government to amend privacy law for a broader prohibition to be enforced at the University and allow for complainants to be aware of the disciplinary outcomes of the process
- Protections for survivors against disciplinary investigation or sanction, in the course of making a Disclosure or a Report, that they breached a university regulation or policy by possessing or consuming alcohol, cannabis or any illegal drug, as allowed by law”

HOLDING MCGILL ADMINISTRATION TO ACCOUNT FOR IMPLEMENTING THE CALLS TO ACTION IN THE PROVOST'S TASK FORCE ON INDIGENOUS STUDIES AND INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

As a non-Indigenous person, I can never fully comprehend the lived experiences of Indigenous students on campus. I would like to recognize the work that the SSMU Indigenous Affairs Commissioner, the Indigenous Student Alliance, and many other students have done on the #ChangeTheName campaign and other important work on campus. As SSMU President, I would work with the SSMU Indigenous Affairs Commissioner and provide all the resources necessary to help support this work in any way I can. It is necessary to advocate for and support the efforts of Indigenous students with regards to pursuing reconciliation on campus. Call to Action 21, regarding renaming McGill male varsity teams, among many other Calls to Action, has still not yet been fulfilled. I would also use my position on the McGill Senate and Board of Governors to advocate for concrete timelines on implementation for these Calls to Action.

STUDENT ADVOCACY

USING THE MCGILL BOARD OF GOVERNORS SEAT TO PUSH FOR FOSSIL FUEL DIVESTMENT

As a student union with a constitutional obligation to provide leadership in matters of human rights and social justice, it is necessary to hold our university accountable for its continued investment in fossil fuels. Climate change will cause irreparable harm to our environment and disproportionately affect marginalized people. I would like to recognize that Divest McGill has done a great deal of work on this issue and continues to do so. As SSMU President, I would uphold the SSMU Climate Change Policy and push for fossil fuel divestment at the highest levels of our university.

OVERHAULING MCGILL ASSESSMENT POLICY WITH AN END TO DOWN CURVING FOR GRADES AND 70% FINALS

Fundamentally, students should be awarded grades equivalent to the learning that they achieve in a particular class. It is wrong when a professor down-curves student grades for the sake of artificially maintaining a lower class average, even when most students in the class have successfully learnt the material. As well, many classes have 70% finals, where a student's grade for a class hinges on a single exam. To alleviate student stress, help improve student mental health, and be more representative of a student's learning in a class, there needs to be an end to 70% finals. The McGill Assessment Policy will be reviewed next academic year, and I have already begun discussions with the Dean of Students as to how fair assessments should be institutionalized at McGill. The concerns guiding this review include fair grading equivalent to student learning. Prohibiting down-curving of grades is just one tool in the university's toolbox to solve the greater issue of fair student assessments.

STUDENT ADVOCACY

INCREASING THE LENGTH OF EXAM PERIODS TO DECREASE EXAM CONFLICTS

Through the process of attaining a Fall Reading Break (by starting the week before Labour Day), the academic calendar would be extended to increase the number of academic days. Consequently, having more academic days would allow final exam periods to be less condensed. Currently, McGill's final exam periods usually last 11 days. With a Fall Reading Break, this period could be extended up to 13 days, allowing for fewer exam conflicts and more time in between exams for students to study.

INCREASING STUDENT AND INDIGENOUS REPRESENTATION ON MCGILL'S BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND SENATE

A 2016 report created by the SSMU called for greater student participation and representation on McGill's highest governing body, the Board of Governors. Other university governing bodies across Canada have higher proportions of dedicated student seats in comparison to McGill. As students, it is vitally important that we are able to have a bigger say in the operations of our university. This report also called for greater Indigenous representation on the McGill Board of Governors. A similar call was made (Call to Action 22) in the Provost's Task Force on Indigenous Studies and Indigenous Education to "establish mechanisms that provide Indigenous community representation in central organs of University governance." As SSMU President, I would push for greater student and Indigenous representation as the cyclical review of the composition of the Board of Governors and Senate begins.

INCREASING MCGILL'S CONTRIBUTION TO STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

With the passage of the Motion Regarding the Student Services Fee Question for Winter 2019 Referendum on March 14, McGill pledged to match student contributions for McGill Student Services up to \$337,000 should the referendum question pass. This shows that McGill has clearly had the money to improve student health services, but has willfully chosen not to do so.

STUDENT ADVOCACY

This is unacceptable. As SSMU President, I would be more vocal in my advocacy for more resources for student health services at higher levels of governance.

INCREASING SSMU'S RESEARCH CAPACITY TO HAVE BETTER EVIDENCE IN ADVOCACY WORK

With the current budget deficit, SSMU has been unable to fund research into student issues. This work allows SSMU to have concrete, well-researched evidence that it can point to when advocating for student needs and negotiating with the university. As SSMU President, I would work with the Vice-President (University Affairs) to rebuild SSMU's research capacity and ensure we have all the tools necessary to be able to be the best advocates for students.

HAVING SSMU'S FRANCOPHONE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE TAKE MORE OF AN ADVOCACY ROLE FOR FRANCOPHONE STUDENT ISSUES

After consultations with francophone students on campus, they expressed their desire for the SSMU Francophone Affairs Committee to take more of an advocacy role for francophone student issues. These issues include grading disparities with work submitted in French and the lack of translations of key McGill policies and documents. As SSMU President, I would rewrite the Committee Terms of Reference for the Francophone Affairs Committee to give them more of an advocacy role.

CONTINUING TO IMPROVE WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH MCGILL ADMINISTRATORS

A key part of the Presidential portfolio is maintaining relations between SSMU and the McGill administration. As Arts & Science Senator, I have had the opportunity to develop good working relationships with many members of the McGill admin. As SSMU President, I would seek to maintain and grow these relationships in order to best represent and advocate for the needs of SSMU members.

STUDENT ADVOCACY

MEMBERSHIP ON THE MCGILL BOARD OF GOVERNORS' BUILDING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE TO ADVISE ON MATTERS OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

As SSMU President, I would occupy the sole undergraduate student seat on the McGill Board of Governors (BoG). In order to best fulfill my platform goals at the BoG level, I would like to sit on the Building and Property Committee and the Committee to Advise on Matters of Social Responsibility. By sitting on the Building and Property Committee, I would gain knowledge of the long-term infrastructure plans of the university and be in a position to fully understand the situation should more Peel Street properties be put up for sale. In addition, as the Committee to Advise on Matters of Social Responsibility deals directly with the issue of fossil fuel divestment, sitting on this committee would allow me to forcefully advocate for this issue with the direct decision-makers.

FINANCIAL & INSTITUTIONAL REFORM

DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR VALUE FOR SSMU FEES

Every year, hundreds of thousands of dollars in SSMU fees go unspent. I believe that if you pay \$1 to SSMU, you should be able to get your full \$1 worth of value. As SSMU President, I would work with the Vice-President (Finance) to ensure that SSMU utilizes every dollar that students pay to the Society effectively. Furthermore, I would advocate for lowering certain fees whose revenues often go unspent to ensure a balanced budget.

ENDING UNCOMPENSATED STUDENT LABOUR AT SSMU

FAIR COMPENSATION FOR STUDENT STAFF AT SSMU

As a student union, we should uphold the ideals that we advocate for. With regards to the SSMU Policy Against Unpaid Internships, we are acting against the spirit of this Policy. SSMU continues to not pay certain types of student labour rendered on behalf of the Society. Student government representatives often work unpaid or are not paid enough for their work, rendering these positions available to only those who can afford to not be compensated for their time and labour. This in turn makes it less accessible for marginalized students on campus to be in these positions due to structural financial barriers.

After consulting with the Equity Commissioners on the issue of making student government more accessible, it became evidently clear that we need to commit to having adequate compensation for student labour. As SSMU President, should the base fee increase pass, I would work with the Vice-President (Finance) to put SSMU on the path to ending uncompensated student labour and ensuring fair compensation for student staff by the passing of the 2020-2021 SSMU budget.

FINANCIAL & INSTITUTIONAL REFORM

REDUCING SSMU MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR STUDENTS IN FINANCIAL NEED

As students, there are many financial barriers in attaining a higher education. If you are a student that is designated as "in need" by the McGill Scholarships and Student Aid Office, I want you to be able to be reimbursed your SSMU membership fees according to your financial need. As SSMU President, I would work with the McGill Scholarships and Student Aid office to ensure this happens.

REVISING SSMU'S POLICIES ON APPROVING COURSE FEES

After the events surrounding POLI 339, it has been made clear that there needs to be more oversight from SSMU with regards to approving course fees. SSMU needs to do its due diligence before approving course fees from faculties instead of rubber-stamping them as is the case right now. As SSMU President, I would revise SSMU's policies on approving course fees by amending the Internal Regulations of Finance to ensure due diligence practices are ingrained in our approval process.

ENSURING SOCIAL JUSTICE-BASED INITIATIVES ARE FULLY FUNDED

In the past year, due to the SSMU budget deficit, cuts have been made to key SSMU social justice initiatives. The SSMU Constitution mandates our student union to provide leadership in matters of human rights and social justice. Part of providing that leadership includes providing the resources to enable social justice work to take place. As SSMU President, I would ensure that social justice-based initiatives are fully funded by working with the Vice-President (Finance) to find alternative funding sources should the need arise.

FINANCIAL & INSTITUTIONAL REFORM

BRINGING THE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN UNDER SSMU'S JURISDICTION

For international students, McGill currently administers the International Health Insurance Plan with Blue Cross. I think it is important for students to retain control over this vital resource, as we already carefully manage the SSMU Health and Dental plan for Quebec and out-of-province residents. Having the International Health Insurance Plan under student control would ensure that this plan is being administered in the best interests of its students. As SSMU President, I would lobby the McGill administration to cede control over the Blue Cross International Health Insurance Plan to SSMU.

CREATION OF SSMU LEGAL DEFENCE FUND/LEGAL SERVICES

Last semester, as the Senate Caucus Representative to Legislative Council, I introduced the Motion Regarding the Creation of the SSMU Legal Defence Fund. It was not passed by Council, but I still believe that the idea, in principle, is one worth pursuing. Legal insurance was considered for inclusion in the SSMU Dental Plan, but was ultimately decided against. This insurance would have provided students with access to a lawyer for the cost of the insurance premium. As SSMU President, I would seek the creation of a Legal Defence Fund or access to a communal lawyer for SSMU members.

INCREASING THE NUMBER OF PERMANENT SSMU STAFF

As an institution, SSMU does not have the personnel resources to be able to serve its students to its full potential. SSMU Executives are constantly overworked and cannot keep up with the demands of the job. The idea of increasing the amount of permanent SSMU support staff comes from the SSMU Master Plan introduced by the current SSMU President. As SSMU President, should the base fee increase pass, I would follow through with increasing the number of permanent SSMU staff.

FINANCIAL & INSTITUTIONAL REFORM

FULL REVISION OF SSMU'S CONSTITUTION AND INTERNAL REGULATIONS BY THE WINTER 2020 REFERENDUM PERIOD

CREATION OF STATISTICS SSMU, AN OFFICE FOR DATA COLLECTION TO ENSURE MORE INFORMED DECISION-MAKING

REFORMING SSMU GENERAL ASSEMBLIES

MAKING SSMU LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MORE ACCESSIBLE TO THE STUDENT BODY

REFORMING SSMU BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO BE MORE DEMOCRATIC AND REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STUDENT BODY

REVIEW OF ELECTORAL PRACTICES AND REGULATIONS

At the beginning of last semester, SSMU Legislative Council created the Comprehensive Governance Review Committee to review the SSMU's institutions and governance structures. The work of this committee is not done, and I would want to see it do a complete review of General Assemblies, the Legislative Council, the Board of Directors, and electoral practices and regulations. These guiding principles would govern the work of the committee for the next year. I would also want to create a data collection body to better inform our decision-making. As SSMU President, I would ensure that the work of the Comprehensive Governance Review Committee is completed in time for the Winter 2020 referendum period so that a new SSMU Constitution and updated Internal Regulations can be voted on by the student body.

FINANCIAL & INSTITUTIONAL REFORM

ENSURING THE INVOLVEMENT RESTRICTION POLICY IS IMPLEMENTED

The Involvement Restriction Policy is an important inter-faculty tool that is currently in development to protect students from other abusive students. An abusive student can be placed on the Involvement Restriction List to bar them from further participating in events not just associated with SSMU, but with all participating faculties as well. As SSMU President, I would work with our lawyers and the Vice-President (Internal) to ensure that this policy is ready to be implemented before Frosh in mid-August.

REVIEWING MCGILL'S MEAL PLAN PRACTICES

Students living in residence pay \$5475 on a mandatory meal plan, and \$975 of that consists of "administrative costs." Your meal plan dollars expire after two years, regardless of if you have completely used all your meal plan dollars. It is unfair that students are unable to take advantage of the full value of their meal plan if they have a balance remaining after their second year. As SSMU President, I would work with the Vice-President (University Affairs) and McGill Housing and Hospitality Services to reform this system and make it fairer for students.

WORKING WITH MACDONALD CAMPUS STUDENTS' SOCIETY TO INTEGRATE THEIR STUDENTS UNDER SSMU

The graduate Macdonald Campus students are members of the Post-Graduate Students' Society, but the undergraduate Macdonald Campus students are members of their own undergraduate students' society. Among other things, they are unable to take advantage of better health and dental insurance coverage. I envision a similar relationship with the Macdonald Campus Students' Society as SSMU currently has with faculty-level societies such as the Arts Undergraduate Society or Engineering Undergraduate Society. As SSMU President, I would like to work the the leadership of the Macdonald Campus Students' Society to integrate their students under SSMU.

STUDENT SPACE RENEWAL

RENOVATING SSMU'S 3501 PEEL STREET PROPERTY TO BECOME A STUDENT WELLNESS CENTRE

RENOVATING GERTS, THE 2ND FLOOR CAFETERIA, AND THEATRE IN THE SSMU UNIVERSITY CENTRE

CONTINUING PEEL STREET PROPERTY ACQUISITION TO ENABLE GROWTH FOR CLUBS AND SERVICES

These ideas are all part of the current SSMU President's Master Plan, developed in part by the SSMU Building and Operations Management Committee, of which I have a year's worth of experience sitting on. As part of this plan, SSMU's 3501 Peel Street property will undergo renovations over the summer to become a student wellness centre. Further SSMU building renovations and property acquisition ideas require long-term commitment. As SSMU President, I would continue to follow through and build upon the Master Plan and ensure that proper funding is maintained for these initiatives over the course of my Presidency.

CONTINUING THE UTILE PROPOSAL FOR SSMU TO BUILD AFFORDABLE STUDENT HOUSING

Earlier this semester, UTILE, a Quebec organization dedicated to promoting, studying, and developing affordable student housing in Quebec, gave their presentation about SSMU's affordable housing options. McGill students have the highest proportion of student apartment rentals compared other Montreal universities, and pay the highest in rent – about \$100 more than the average Montreal student per month. SSMU has the opportunity to further explore building affordable housing for students, and as SSMU President, I would explore this more and see if it is a possibility for students.

IMPROVED STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

CREATION OF SSMU STUDENT ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES

In previous years, SSMU Senators have worked on developing Open Educational Resources for students. These resources are free and available to all students. However, we can take this initiative even further. For example, Open Educational Resources could be an online resource for students that could be used for courses instead of buying expensive textbooks. Currently, thanks to the work of one of the Arts Senators and the Science Senator, Open Educational Resources have been created for five classes, including MATH 140, MATH 141, ECON 208, HIST 213, CHEM 110, and CHEM 120. I would work with the Vice-President (University Affairs) in developing these resources further. In addition, as I've learned from my consultations with students, the quality of note-taking services provided by the Office for Students with Disabilities has been poor, and proper compensation for students that are note-takers has been decreasing. I would begin the process of hiring note-takers with the aim of producing quality notes for all students, beginning with larger classes in its initial launch, and working to make proper compensation possible. As SSMU President, I would create SSMU Academic Support Services, an integrated office to expand Open Educational Resources, note-taking for classes, and SSMU Tutoring.

CREATION OF A SSMU PHONE APP

SSMU has a communication problem. It is not effectively communicating its resources and services available to the student body. With the creation of a SSMU phone app, we could better inform students about SSMU resources and services. In addition, I would like to work with Drivesafe and Walksafe to provide an interface on the app (similar to Uber) to make it easier for students to access their services. This app would also provide a platform for students to keep up to date with the goings-on of their student government and make it easier to know what their elected representatives are up to. As SSMU President, I would explore the creation of a SSMU phone app to provide more accessible information for SSMU clubs and services, an Uber-like interface for Walksafe and Drivesafe, and student government business.

IMPROVED STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

HOLDING MCGILL ACCOUNTABLE FOR HEALTH SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS AND WAITING TIME GOALS FROM THE ROSSY WELLNESS HUB

With the creation of the Rossy Wellness Hub, McGill has raised expectations that they will reduce wait times for student health services and increase staffing capacity. As SSMU President, I would use my position on the McGill Senate and work with the Student Senate Caucus to hold McGill Student Services accountable for these expectations.

CONCRETE ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY MEASURES

ENSURING IMPLEMENTATION OF A CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

For several years, SSMU has not had a Conflict of Interest Policy, allowing your student representatives to, at times, act in their own interests or that of their associates. On February 7, SSMU Legislative Council passed the Motion Regarding Adoption of a Conflict of Interest Policy, which is currently being vetted by the Board of Directors. It is vitally important that this policy becomes an active SSMU policy to ensure that your student representatives act in your best interests. As SSMU President, I would ensure the implementation of a Conflict of Interest Policy.

CREATION OF ETHICS SSMU

After meeting with the Equity Commissioners, a suggestion they had to strengthen and improve our commitment to equity was to create some sort of independent body to manage the Equity and Anti-Violence portfolios. This office would be at arm's length from the control of SSMU Executives, would function as an ombudsperson, and would be empowered to deal with equity, anti-violence, and conflict of interest issues. Furthermore, they would be able to act at an administrative level, similar to how SSMU's Human Resources department does for HR issues. As SSMU President, I would like to create Ethics SSMU, an independent office housing the Equity, Anti-Violence, and Conflict of Interest Portfolios.

CONCRETE ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY MEASURES

IMPLEMENTATION OF A POLICY ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS

CREATION OF A WHISTLEBLOWER POLICY

At SSMU Legislative Council this past year, I attempted to pass changes to the Internal Regulations to institute a process for the filing of Freedom of Information requests by any SSMU member. Unfortunately, it was voted down. I think giving the ability for students to see the work their elected representatives are doing on their behalf is a key part of being an accountable and transparent students' society. As SSMU President, I would ensure the implementation of a Policy on Freedom of Information Requests.

In addition, if SSMU commits wrongdoing, SSMU should be held accountable for that wrongdoing and not punish or reprimand the person that voiced their concern. In any organization, safeguards are required to protect against wrongdoing, as people do not always act in the best interests of that organization. As SSMU President, I would work with our lawyers to create a Whistleblower Policy.

HAVING ELECTION PLATFORMS OF SSMU EXECUTIVES BE AVAILABLE ON THE SSMU WEBSITE WITH AN ELECTION PROMISE TRACKER

After campaigns have been completed and voted have been tallied, all campaign literature on what SSMU Executives ran on is taken down, making it difficult to students remember and hold them to account for their campaign promises. I would ensure that the election platforms of SSMU Executives are available and accessible on the SSMU website, with a promise tracker to update students on the progress of each particular goal.

CONCRETE ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY MEASURES

CREATION OF AN EASY-TO-UNDERSTAND SSMU BUDGET EXPLAINER

For a non-accounting/finance student, the current format of the SSMU budget is entirely inaccessible and difficult to comprehend. As SSMU President, I would work with the Vice-President (Finance) to have a separate budget explainer to make it easier for students to understand how their student fees are being spent.

EXECUTIVE MID-TERM REVIEWS AS A PLEBISCITE QUESTION DURING THE FALL REFERENDUM PERIOD TO GAUGE STUDENT OPINION ON EXECUTIVES' PROGRESS

Currently, there are very few direct ways students can voice their opinion on the work of SSMU Executives. Conversely, it is difficult for SSMU Executives to get a read on how satisfied students are with the work they are doing. I would institute approval rating questions ("Are you satisfied with x Executive?") during the Fall referendum period to gauge student opinion on the progress of their elected SSMU Executives.

ENDING MEMBERSHIP OF DIRECTORS ON THE SSMU BOARD OF DIRECTORS' NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Currently, the SSMU Board of Directors has Directors sit on the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee vets and recommends candidate for key SSMU bodies, including the Judicial Board and the Board of Directors itself.

This creates the possibility of a revolving door of SSMU Directors appointing their friends to the Board instead of the most qualified candidates. It is time to remove the presence of Directors on this committee to remove the possibility of bias, and ensure representative and qualified candidates to be examined on their merits, and not their connections with current Directors.

CONCRETE ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY MEASURES

CREATION OF COMMUNICATIONS SSMU, AN OFFICE DEDICATED TO IMPROVING COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE STUDENT BODY

One of SSMU's fundamental problems is its inability to communicate effectively with its students. We need a dedicated office and team to better communicate with students and inform them of the clubs, services, and resources they have at their disposal. As President, I would create Communications SSMU, an office dedicated to improving communications with the student body.

CREATION OF A POLICY ON DISCRETIONARY SPENDING

RELEASING OF DISCRETIONARY SPENDING REPORTS ONCE A SEMESTER

Students should be able to know how their money is spent. However, the current SSMU budget does not go into sufficient detail regarding discretionary spending. I would create a Policy on Discretionary Spending to ensure SSMU Executives and student staff are not wasteful in spending student fees and are more transparent about discretionary spending. I would also ensure that the SSMU Executives release, on a semesterly basis, discretionary spending reports to keep students up-to-date with regards to how we are spending money. This would ultimately hold SSMU Executives accountable should they have questionable expenses.

CONCRETE ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY MEASURES

BIWEEKLY FACEBOOK LIVE UPDATES AND Q&A SESSIONS

MONTHLY REDDIT AMAS

One initiative proposed by a current SSMU Executive was to have bi-weekly Facebook live updates for students to gain an understanding of what is happening in SSMU. As SSMU President, this is something I would implement next year. In addition, I would hold monthly Reddit AMAs (Ask Me Anything) to further reach out to our student body and hear their concerns directly, as I have done numerous times in the past.