



Vice-President (Internal Affairs) - Report

Halloween

- Filmed promo video with TVM ([SSMU - The Great Gertsby](#))
- Ticket sales are low - please share them with friends and on faculty pages and buy tickets yourself!

FYC

They're meeting regularly and have started planning for all their activities in the year ahead

Environment Committee

A lot of events, including apple picking at Mac Campus.

Press Release

- There was a 12 delay in sending out the press release mandated by the indigenous student leaders due to technological issues
- Met with the communications department to ensure this doesn't happen again
- My official statement with an explanation of the events leading to the delay :

To start off, I do acknowledge that SSMU has traditionally been a difficult and sometimes impossible institution for indigenous students on campus to navigate. While I can't speak for all cabinets past, the current executive committee is committed to trying to change that, and I am sorry that recent events suggested otherwise.

This isn't an excuse, rather an explanation but here's exactly what happened two weeks ago. Once the motion was passed at council on Thursday night, everyone in the room was aware that a press release would be sent out the next day, to be co-written by the Indigenous Affairs Commissioner and certain SSMU executives. I assumed that the communications department (which is under my portfolio) had been made aware of this. That was my mistake, and I do apologize for that. I had a midterm that Friday and so spent the day working remotely from the library, calling into the two meetings I had. Before my midterm, around 6 pm, I checked to see if we had a final draft of the release so that I could send it out before heading into a two hour exam. We didn't. So, after I was done with my midterm, around 7:15 pm, I figured I'd log into MailChimp to prepare the template for the post to be sent out. It was then that I realized that I had an out-of-date password (it was updated by the communications department for safety reasons - MailChimp has the emails and names of all



undergraduates on the downtown campus and that is sensitive information). I couldn't update the password as it requires two-factor authentication - my work email and the communication director's phone number. I immediately contacted the communications coordinator as well as the other executives to let them know. Around 9:15 pm, we received the final version of the release and were still with no password in hand. The other executives also started reaching out to the communications department. The President even reached out to the Human Resources manager to get the communications manager's personal phone number. The delay here was because it was a Friday night; permanent staff aren't (and shouldn't be) expected to be as « always on » as executives. Luckily, the HR manager saw President's message and was able to pass along the communications manager's phone number, leading to the executives finally being able to access MailChimp around midnight and the President set up a press release to be sent out at 9 am the next day. Unfortunately, the combination of a very long week that included a six hour long legislative council, many midterms, and the drowsy side effects of Lexapro led to me passing out around 11:30 pm and being unable to be awake to help the President out. The next week, we met with the communications department to come up with a plan to prevent such a fiasco from happening ever again.

I recognize that delaying the press release by twelve hours harmed the success of the planned campaign and, more importantly, was not in line with the timeline mandated by the ISA in the motion passed. I offer my sincerest apologies to anyone harmed by that and invite anyone, indigenous student leaders included, to ask me about SSMU's new method of dealing with emergency press releases and provide feedback to ensure that this never reoccurs so that we can best support all of our students.

To clarify, in reference to the [The McGill Tribune's](#) wording, I didn't decline to send out an email. I wasn't reluctant about the press release. I did not have the password.

This isn't an act of individualistic ignorance, this isn't a personal vendetta, it's an unfortunate instance of technological failure.