

Report of the Vice-President (University Affairs)

Madeline Wilson
October 28, 2019



cw: sexual violence, ableism,
and institutional transphobia

Fall General Assembly

ft. the mcgill governance font bc something something subversive undermining

What do we do?

UA & ACADEMICS

RESPONSIBILITIES

Senate & Committee Representation
University Relations
Faculty Relations

RELEVANT STAFF

University Affairs
Secretary General

COMMITTEES

Senate Caucus
McGill Academic Roundtable



UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

EQUITY

RESPONSIBILITIES

Education & Programming
Advocacy Projects
Complaints & Accountability

RELEVANT STAFF

Equity Commissioners (2)

COMMITTEES

Equity Committee

RESEARCH & ADVOCACY

RESPONSIBILITIES

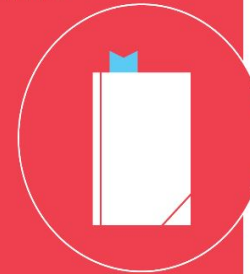
Research Projects
University Level Policy Development

RELEVANT STAFF

Academic Research Commissioner
Contract Researchers

COMMITTEES

University Affairs Committee



LIBRARIES

RESPONSIBILITIES

Library Improvement Fund
Library Relations

RELEVANT STAFF

Library Improvement Fund Commissioner

COMMITTEES

Library Improvement Fund Committee

Why should you care?

- Almost every decision the University makes impacts you
 - From divestment to mental healthcare to research funding to course evaluations
- Students make up almost 70% of the on-campus University community
- We deserve to create the rules we are bound by and the decisions that govern and represent us
- That being said
 - The structures currently in place do not need our permission to create these rules and make these decisions; there is no material incentive to seek it (eg. Senate, Board, committees)
 - And for the most part, regardless of what they do, we will continue to pay tuition and attend classes; the University will continue to function
- Therefore: active participation in and awareness of University Affairs is necessary

University Updates and Senate Caucus

University Updates

- Reappointment of the Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic)
- Suspension in development of the Involuntary Leave Policy
- Creation of the University Student Assessment Policy Working Group

Senate Caucus

- 13 SSMU senators, 1 MCSS senator, 3 Associate Senators, University Affairs Secretary General (Nathan Mendel)
- Senate Questions/Motions on:
 - Law 21
 - Cancelling Classes for the Climate Strike
 - Made by McGill (lol) and its effects on Student Services



University Advocacy, Student Rights, and Research

Divestment from fossil fuels

- Decision to be made in a few weeks, announced December 5
- Rallied 20 student unions, 2 student union executives from universities that have already divested (in some part) to sign joint open letter
- Passed moratorium on ancillary fees until divestment

Sexual violence

- Hired Anti-Sexual Violence Mobilization and Advocacy Commissioner (Maevé Botham)
- Scored new Policy Against Sexual Violence with Students for Consent Culture Canada
- Interviews and advocacy around flaws in *It Takes All of Us*

Student rights

- Ran Fall 2019 Know Your Rights Campaign with the Student Rights Researcher and Advocacy Commissioner (Adrienne Tessier)
- Tabling, social media, Tribune Article
- Updating student rights website
- Planning consultations around assessment
- Collected testimonials about curving and enforced averages

University Advocacy and Research (continued)

Black Students' Bill of Rights: Arts Senator (& BSN VP Advocacy, SSMU Anti-Violence) Chloe Kemeni

- Rights guaranteed to Black Students at McGill
- Hoping to pass at Senate in December/January

Food Insecurity

- Working with VP Student Life and units in the Office of Student Life and Learning to allow food insecure students to access free meals at on-campus cafeterias through their McGill ID
- \$10,000 commitment from Scholarships and Student aid / \$10,000 commitment from Student Housing

Usage of Preferred Names

- Working with Queer McGill and the Quebec Public Interest Research Group to hire a researcher who will look into how McGill processes preferred names in an effort to reduce deadnaming (candidate selection underway)

University Advocacy and Research (continued)

Mental Health

- Regular meetings with VP Student Life and the Wellness Hub
- Collecting testimonials with VP External and Association for Graduate Students Employed at McGill
- Advocacy around Involuntary Leave Policy

Open Educational Resources

- Working with Engineering Senator (Jeremy Garneau) and Education Senator (Mu Rong Yang) to continue expansion of the OER project (free, online, open access resources). Goal: financial accessibility
- Aiming to complete OER for Uo Science and venture into Eng

University Tenure Process

- Hired Special Researcher (University Tenure Process) - Kat O'Donnell to look into how tenure works and how students can be more involved. Report completed, currently being formatted

Also: First Generation Students (Diamond Yao), Students from Care (Isabelle Oke), universal waitlists, and much more

Please reach out with suggestions for research and advocacy

Equity, Indigenous Affairs, Libraries

Equity

- Commissioners: Alana Bertin and Zeytouna Suleiman
- Equity Committee formed and meeting
- Plans: Online campaign about Equity on campus and Winter art show
- Fee increase and non-opt out going to referendum

Indigenous Affairs

- Commissioner: Tomas Jirousek
- Indigenous Equity Fee
- Demonstration against federal government's appeal of Canadian Human Rights Tribunal decision to compensate First Nations children taken from their families, histories, cultures, under the child welfare system

Libraries

- Library Improvement Fund Commissioner: Brianna Cheng
- Committee formed and meeting
- Fiat Lux advocacy

Questions, comments,
concerns?

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(i am not on reddit and never will be)