



# REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT (UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS)

Submitted for: September 8, 2020

For the period of 2020/06/01, to 2020/09/08

## University Affairs & Academics

### Senate Activity

- Committee Assignments for Student Senators and Members-at-Large finalized on June 2, 2020
  - As of September 8, 2020, nearly all undergraduate seats have been allocated
- Scholarship Review Subcommittee Summer meetings
  - June 25, 2020, July 8, 2020
  - Final Summer meeting TBA
- Senate Nominating Committee (first meeting, September 2, 2020)
  - All undergraduate nominations were approved
- Senate Steering Committee (first meeting, September 8, 2020)
  - Senate Standing Rules were amended
  - Questions Re: “Athletics Facility Improvement” and “Harm Reduction and Substance Use” were approved for September Senate
  - Motion Re: “the Creation of a Senate-Board Conference Committee on Fossil-Fuel Divestment” was deferred until Senate can meet in person
- Motion to reimplement the Winter 2020 extended S/U option
  - To be presented to the Academic Policy Committee
  - Met with APC Student Senators on September 8, 2020
- September Senate meeting scheduled for September 22, 2020

### University Advocacy

- Attended TLS Forums on Remote Course Delivery
  - June 4, June 22, August 25, 2020
  - Student experience minisurvey released before the forum
- Policy on Harassment and Discrimination Working Group
  - Review process ongoing as of June 15, 2020
  - Finalized draft submitted for Senate approval - *pending*
  - Next meeting TBA



**Office of the Vice-President (University Affairs)**

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*Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories*

- Academic racism
  - Campaign to remove Philip Carl Salzman's Emeritus designation -
    - Discussions began June 26, 2020
    - SSMU, MSA, ASN, ASA, AGSA, BSN, SPHR, TMA, WIMESSA
  - PHIL 237 open letters released August 24
    - SSMU, AUS, BSN, BLSA, PSA, MAP
    - PSA currently in discussions with the Department of Philosophy
- University Tenure & Hiring (Prof. Fitzpatrick)
  - In discussion with HSA
  - Facilitated June 29, 2020 meeting with Provost and AP (Equity & Academic Policies)
- Indigenous Affairs Commissioner's Report, Calls to Action
  - UA Secretary-General drafted University Committee implementation guide for IAC
  - Finalized August 11, 2020
- Donation campaign and student aid to support Lebanese students
  - Met with Cara Piperni (SSAO) on September 1, 2020
  - Met with MAA on September 4, 2020
  - Met with Jade Dagher, alumni donor, on September 8, 2020

## Senate Caucus

- Monthly Summer meetings from June 15, 2020, to August 18th, 2020
- Regular weekly meetings as of September 1, 2020
- First-ever Senators' Guidebook released August 31, 2020
  - Senator training ongoing
- Senate orientation scheduled September 14th, 2020
- Vacant Nursing Senate seat reallocated to Physical Therapy & Occupational Therapy
  - Election for Nursing Associate Senator TBA

## Equity

### Activism

- Mobilizations against anti-Black racism and police violence
  - Collaborative statement with the BSN released June 5, 2020
  - Attended Provost's Town Hall, September 1, 2020
  - Senate discussion on McGill's Plan to Address Anti-Black Racism scheduled for September 22, 2020
- Mobilizations against the PEQ reforms
  - SSMU statement released June 8, 2020
  - Met with Fabrice Labeau (DPSLL) on June 12, 2020
  - Conversations with UEQ ongoing



## Employment Equity

- [2018 Employment Equity Report](#) - for reference
- Employment Equity minisurvey for Student Staff
  - Released June 22, 2020
- Dayforce deadnaming
  - Solutions implemented as of June 22, 2020
  - Considering alternative digital HR platforms - *ongoing*
- Wage subsidies for Senators & Councillors - *ongoing*
  - Attended Presidents' Roundtable on July 9, 2020
  - Examining funding and disbursement options
- Overhauled Human Resources Policy finalized
  - Submitted as a notice of motion for September 8, 2020

## Board Ad-hoc Committee on Naming (BACoN)

- [Interim provision](#) passed by the Board of Directors on June 11, 2020
  - Presented to Council for ratification September 8, 2020
- [Naming Guidelines](#) established August 3, 2020
- Nomination and submission forms released with September 3, 2020 listserv
  - Accepting nominations until September 17, 2020
- Fall meeting schedule TBD

## Equity Infrastructure

- Equity Triage for internal procedures
  - Implementation in process for Accounting
  - In development for Communications, IT, Operations
- Accountability review of SSMU Nominating Committee - *ongoing*
  - Met with Committee on July 8, 2020
- Black Affairs Commissioner - *hiring ongoing*
  - Collaboration with BSN
  - Job posted August 17, 2020
- "Queer Affairs" Commissioner - *in development*
  - Tentative job title
  - Collaboration with QM, UGE
- Executive training sessions
  - Queer Positivity (Queer McGill) on August 11, 2020
  - Gender Inclusivity (UGE) on August 19, 2020



## Research & Advocacy

### Special Researchers

- Special Researcher (Preferred Names Use & Advocacy)
  - Extension granted in June
  - Final draft to be reviewed
- Special Researcher (Academic Accessibility & Accommodations)
  - Hired July 27, 2020
  - Research proposal presented and approved on August 31, 2020
  - Currently drafting comparative review of Canadian university accommodation policies
- Special Researcher (Student Health & Wellness)
  - Hired July 29, 2020
  - Currently reviewing archives and drafting research proposal

### Francophone Affairs Researcher

- Extension granted in May by Madeline Wilson, former Vice-President (University Affairs)
  - Expired on June 8th, 2020
  - Researcher continued the project as a volunteer, project delayed
- Francophone Affairs portfolio is currently overseen by Vice-President (University Affairs)
- Finalized report to be reviewed

### Know Your Rights

- Content updated and digitized by SRRAC and ASVMAC
- SRRAC tabled at Virtual Services Fair, August 25, 2020
- September communications plan drafted by SRRAC
  - Posts are being made by UA Secretary-General over September
- Tabling at Activities Night, September 9 and 10, 2020

### Research Infrastructure

- SSMU Research Advisory Board
  - Early development began August 12, 2020
- Professional survey & data storage platforms
  - Comparative review compiled by UA Secretary-General on August 27th, 2020
  - Final selection to be made September 15th, 2020
- First-ever SSMU Researcher's Guide completed August 31, 2020, by SRRAC



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## Libraries

### Open Educational Resources

- OER Coordinator hired July 8, 2020
- PHYS 102 OER Assistant hired July 15, 2020
  - Phys 102 OER pack completed August 28, 2020
  - Contract ended August 31, 2020
- [OER Master Plan](#) finalized July 28, 2020
  - Revamped promotional campaign
  - Exploring funding options
- Digital course packs will be offered by the Library, free of charge
  - Beta testing in Fall 2020, fully implemented in Winter 2020

### McGill Study Hubs

- Redpath (423 hubs) and Law (81 hubs) libraries to open September 8, 2020
  - 3-hour time slots (morning slot + afternoon slot) in Redpath
  - 4-hour time slots in Law
  - 85% of seats in Redpath are electrified, roughly 100% in Law
- No group study will be allowed
- Study slots must be booked at least one hour before the start time for that slot
- McGill Library is currently hiring "student ambassadors" to direct students to their reserved spots and maintain social distancing
- Plans for Redpath Hall, Music, Birks, and Mac Campus are in development