



REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT (UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS)

Submitted for: October 22, 2020

For the period of 2020/10/06, to 2020/10/20

University Affairs & Academics

Senate Activity

- September Senate meeting on October 21, 2020
 - Notable agenda items include an open discussion on McGill's Plan for Addressing Anti-Black Racism
 - Updated Senate Standing rules presented for information
 - Prof. Robin Beech appointed Dean of Students
- Senate Steering Committee met on October 6, 2020
 - Approved Senate Committee items
 - Speaking Rights for representatives of BSN were denied

University Advocacy

- SSMU Executive Team attended the TLS "Forum on Remote Delivery" on October 8, 2020
- SSMU Executive Team met with Principal Fortier on October 14, 2020
- University Student Assessment Policy Work Group met again on October 15, 2020
 - Currently overhauling the definitions and Section 1
- Attended a meeting of the JBSCE Subcommittee on Queer People on October 15, 2020, to give updates on our Preferred Names Use Project
- Academic racism
 - Currently working with ASA on a Senate Question regarding the removal of an Emeritus Designation

Senate Caucus

- Nursing Senator has been elected and onboarded
- Currently working on compiling [Senators' projects](#) and Faculty-specific [COVID19 updates](#)
- BSN invited to October 20, 2020, Caucus meeting to discuss McGill's Plan on Anti-Black Racism



Equity

Board Ad-hoc Committee on Naming (BACoN)

- Nomination and submission forms released with September 3, 2020 listserv
 - Accepting submissions - *open-ended*
- Two frontrunners have been selected from among the submissions
- Deliberations and consultations will continue until the Winter 2021 Referendum period

Employment Equity

- Wages for Senators & Councillors - *ongoing*
 - Referendum question delayed, possibly until Winter 2021
 - Senators' Job Descriptions presented for feedback from Caucus on October 13, 2020
 - Councillors' Job Description presented for discussion at Council on October 22, 2020

Harm Reduction

- Ongoing talks between Vice-President (University Affairs), Vice-President (Student Life), PTOT Senator, and AMUSE Vice-President (Floor Fellow)
 - Job Description for Special Researcher has been drafted
 - Policy on Harm Reduction to be presented as a notice of motion for the November 5, 2020, Council meeting

Equity Infrastructure

- Amendment to the Equity Policy regarding tone policing and equitable communication was approved by the Board of Directors on October 15, 2020
- Black Affairs Commissioner - *hiring ongoing*
 - First meeting of the Black Affairs Committee scheduled for October 23, 2020, with BSN VP Advocacy as Interim Chair
 - Interviews ongoing
- [Applications](#) open for Equity Committee members-at-large
- Our Turn Task Force met October 16, 2020
 - Currently seeking a new Chair



Research & Advocacy

Special Researchers

- Special Researcher (Preferred Names Use & Advocacy)
 - Final draft in proofreading and graphic design phase
- Special Researcher (Academic Accessibility & Accommodations)
 - Student survey to be released in early November
- Special Researcher (Student Health & Wellness)
 - Currently reviewing archives
 - Assisting with Qualtrics onboarding and training

Know Your Rights

- [USAP Report](#) released on for September 25, 2020
- SRRAC is also attending the USAP Work Group

Research Infrastructure

- Conducting Political Researcher interviews for the Vice-President (External Affairs)
- Qualtrics subscription has been approved
 - Set-up and training to begin shortly
- Renewed talks with SRRAC around the establishment of an IRB or Research Committee

Libraries

Library Improvement Fund

- Biweekly meeting with McGill Library Team on October 8, 2020
- Library Improvement Fund Committee (LIFC) has been assembled
 - Now accepting Fall [funding applications](#)

Open Educational Resources

- #textbookbroke promotional campaign - *ongoing*
- [Student Textbook Experience Survey](#) released on September 26 - *ongoing*
- SSMU OER got a [shoutout](#) in the Tribune



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Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories

McGill Study Hubs

- Study Hubs will remain open for the time being
- Expansion into new spaces has been delayed until we leave “code red”
- SSMU is continuing to plan our protocols in preparation for the Fall exam season
 - Protocols will be sent for approval by the EOC with the understanding that our Hub won’t open until restrictions are relaxed and demand picks up