

# REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT (UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS)

Submitted for: November 19, 2020

For the period of 2020/11/04, to 2020/11/17

Note: The University Affairs portfolio has been visually restructured.

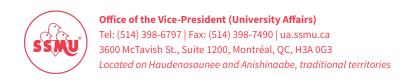
## University Affairs & Research

#### Research

- Special Researcher (Preferred Names Use & Advocacy)
  - Preparing for imminent report release
- Special Researcher (Student Health & Wellness)
  - Predicted report release late Winter 2021
  - Student survey to be released January 2021
- Students' Rights Researcher and Advocacy Commissioner
  - COVID-19 impact survey to be released in the coming weeks

#### **Senate Activity**

- Joint Senate-Board of Governors meeting on November 12, 2020
  - Discussed the University's response to COVID-19
- Senate met on November 18, 2020
  - Three questions, submitted by students were answered:
    - Question Regarding the Withdrawal of an Emeritus Designation
    - Question Regarding the Principal's Message on Academic Freedom and Inclusiveness
    - Question Regarding the Naming of the Men's Team
  - Other notable agenda items included:
    - Approval of the academic calendar from 2021 to 2024
    - Annual report on the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures
- A "Motion to Extend the 2020-2021 Winter Holiday Break" was submitted as an emergency motion to be considered by Senate Steering for the November 18, 2020, Senate meeting



#### **Senate Caucus**

- Drafted two motions submitted to Senate:
  - Motion to Extend the Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) Option in Fall 2020
  - Motion to Extend the 2020-2021 Winter Holiday Break
- Working with the Governing Document Researcher to formalize and empower the Senate Caucus within SSMU's Governing Documents

# Equity & Advocacy

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

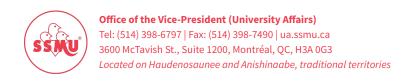
- <u>Submission form</u> is still open!
- Consultations will continue until the Winter 2021 Referendum period
- New two-tiered naming system has been established
  - Tentatively, building names will be reserved for alternative naming options (ex. ideas, values, words in local Indigenous dialects)
  - Names of individuals will be given to rooms within buildings (ex. ballrooms, conference rooms, meeting spaces)
- Hoping to finalize naming proposals by November 27 with consultations ongoing over the Winter semester
  - Tentatively, proposals will be brought to Legislative Council for generative discussion and informal approval
  - Referendum question will be student-initiated

## **Employment Equity**

- Wages for Senators & Councillors ongoing
  - Action plan for the project has been drafted
  - Currently in consultation and logistical planning stage

## **Equity Infrastructure**

- Equity Triage Amendment was ratified by the Board of Directors
- Black Affairs Commissioner hiring ongoing
  - Final interviews have been conducted, final candidate to be selected by SSMU and BSN by November 20, 2020
  - Black Affairs Committee is meeting regularly with BSN VP Advocacy as Interim Chair
    - Currently discussing actionable goals to improve solidarity within SSMU
- Equity Committee has been assembled first report presented to Council



## **University Advocacy**

- University Student Assessment Policy Work Group met again on November 12, 2020
  - Currently discussing the issue of reporting mechanisms and predetermined grade distributions
- Ongoing talks with AMUSE regarding student involvement in the Codes of Community Living
  - Considering the establishment of an advisory body for Student Housing and Hospitality Services

## Academic Resources

## Library Improvement

- Biweekly meetings with McGill Library Team on November 5 and 19, 2020
- Library Improvement Fund Committee (LIFC) funding applications have closed
- Undergraduate representative to the Fiat Lux Functional Planning Group has been nominated

### **Open Educational Resources**

- Reminder: Beginning Winter 2021 all course-packs will be offered digitally, free of charge, by the McGill Library
  - Physical course-packs will no longer be offered by Le James

Submitted in solidarity,

Brooklyn Frizzle,

Vice-President (University Affairs)