



# REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT (UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS)

Submitted for: December 3, 2020

*For the period of 2020/11/18, to 2020/12/01*

## University Affairs & Research

### Research

- Students' Rights Researcher and Advocacy Commissioner
  - [COVID-19 impact survey](#) has been released
- Working with the Mental Health Advocacy Coordinator to organize the release of the Preliminary Report for their Survey on Remote Learning and Mental Health

### Senate Activity

- Steering Committee met on November 23, 2020
  - Rejected a motion to reimplement the extended S/U policy from Winter 2020
- University Student Assessment Policy Work Group met again on November 26, 2020
  - Currently discussing reporting mechanisms, predetermined grade distributions, assignments during the add/drop period, and commitments to academic integrity
- Committee on Student Services met on November 30th
  - As Co-Chair, leading a review of the CSS terms of reference
  - Exploring the creation of an advisory body for Student Housing and Hospitality
- Senate is meeting on December 2, 2020
  - Notable agenda items include:
    - Steering Committee report re: the rejected S/U motion
    - Motion amending the 2021 academic calendar to extend the holiday break
    - Detailed overview of University financials

### Senate Caucus

- Continual meetings with the CGRC and Governing Documents Researcher to formalize and empower the Senate Caucus within SSMU's Governing Documents
- Last Caucus meeting of the year was December 1, 2020
  - Planned a "last hurrah" for our S/U advocacy



## Equity & Advocacy

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

- [Submission form](#) closes on December 9, 2020, at 23h59
- Consultations will continue until the Winter 2021 Referendum period
- Reverted to names of individuals, rather than ideals
  - Three tentative finalists have been selected
- Preliminary report to be approved by BACoN at the December 10 meeting
  - Report will be brought to Council for generative discussion in January

### Employment Equity

- Wages for Senators & Councillors - *ongoing*
  - Ongoing consultation and logistical planning
  - Reviewed job descriptions and pay scale assignments
  - Tentatively, on track to submit a referendum question for the Winter 2021 Referendum

### Equity Infrastructure

- Black Affairs Commissioner
  - Candidate has been finalized and a job offer was extended
  - Black Affairs Committee is meeting regularly with BSN VP Advocacy as Interim Chair
    - Working with BSN and VP External to prepare for the transition from the current Interim Chair to the BAC
- Assisted with the interview and selection process for the Student Services EDI Advisor
  - Two finalists were interviewed, an offer has been extended to the final candidate after extensive deliberation
- Equity Complaints Committee
  - Currently discussing expanding the training offered to ECC members
  - Special interest given to investigation training from HR and external consultants
- Drafted a Position on International Solidarity with the VP External with the goal of clarifying the SSMU's positions and mandates for international advocacy

### University Advocacy

- Open Letter Demanding the Overhaul of McGill's Statement Of Academic Freedom was released on November 30, 2020
  - Written in collaboration with the Anthropology Students' Association and Anthropology Graduate Students' Association



## Academic Resources

### Library Improvement

- Biweekly meetings with McGill Library Team on November 26, 2020
  - Received a detailed summary of LIF financials and proposals submitted to-date
  - LIF is running a substantial surplus due to COVID-related project cancellations
- Library Improvement Fund Committee (LIFC) funding applications have been extended
  - Working with the Indigenous Affairs Commissioner to source proposals
- Fiat Lux Functional Planning Group has held its first meeting
  - SSMU is represented by one undergraduate member-at-large and the Indigenous Affairs Commissioner
  - Notable discussion items included the creation of dedicated prayer spaces

### Open Educational Resources

- Met with Music Undergraduate Students' Association and Music Graduate Students' Society to discuss concerns over the discontinuation of physical course packs as course packs transition from Le James to the Library
  - Discussing possible printing solutions with the Library Team
  - Renewed discussions over the establishment of printing hubs on campus

Submitted in solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brooklyn Frizzle', is written in a cursive style.

Brooklyn Frizzle,  
Vice-President (University Affairs)