



Report of the Vice-President (External Affairs)

Submitted for: January 14, 2021

For the period of 2020-12-04 to 2021-01-12

External affairs

Federal political affairs

Undergraduates of Canadian Research-Intensive Universities (UCRU)

- Advocacy Committee (Dec. 8) and Board of Directors (Dec. 17)
 - Resolved to conduct climate emergency survey of undergraduate students
 - Resolved to write a policy paper on mental health and to expand the briefs on student financial aid and international students into smaller policy documents

Other

- A win for graduated international students: IRCC has granted a [one-time renewal of expired/expiring post-graduation work permits](#)! Credit goes to Migrant Students United, the only nationwide organisation representing international students - a result of international students organising with *and as* migrant workers.
 - Using their work and advocacy as a source for research on international students

Provincial and municipal political affairs

Inter-associatif

- Réunion ODJ le 9 décembre, réunion de l'inter-associatif le 9 janvier
- Principaux points de discussion: avenir de l'éducation post-COVID, Loi 21, étudiant-e-s provenant de l'international
- Introduced SV and Indigenous solidarity as new discussion items; items postponed, hoping to draft propositions for next session - less a forum for discussion as for concretely establishing propositions and province-wide campaigns
- Discussion on items on which we don't yet have a position e.g. defunding the police
- Will give a more comprehensive presentation at next Council session
- Participating in next ODJ committee meeting

Other

- Coalition contre la réforme du PEQ (Dec. 16, Jan. 12)



- La partie des réformes du PEQ relative étudiant-e-s provenant de l'international est entrée en vigueur le 1er janvier 2021
- Décision de former un groupe de travail dont les objectifs sont d'exiger une réunion avec la ministre Girault et de faire du PEQ un enjeu électoral
- Reaching out to other student unions to discuss potential for a public assembly on the condition of international students; further study required to develop a more permanent forum for international student advocacy at SSMU
- Loi 21
 - Discuté à l'inter-associatif: manque de capacité chez plusieurs associations de beaucoup organiser, mais de l'intérêt existe toujours, surtout pour l'éducation populaire et des campagnes de réflexion pour une stratégie long-terme
 - Will bring to Council for discussion of association mandates and decision-making on next steps
 - Please amplify [Muslim Awareness Week](#) (Jan. 25-31) on your association social media
- Couvre-feu au Québec
 - Opposition led by civil liberties, housing justice, migrant justice, Indigenous solidarity/sovereignty groups

Political research and infrastructure

- Drafted a guide to political research to inform; setting priorities and deadlines with Political Researcher
 - Policy frameworks and governance frameworks to develop more robust awareness of the political and organisational landscape
 - Current priorities include international students, Bill 21, student / university finances
- Building external affairs infrastructure (spreadsheets, mailing lists, regular meetings with key actors: VPXs, politicians, youth councils, labour unions, etc.)
 - SSMU External Affairs traditionally not involved in much direct government lobbying because it's ineffective and time-consuming for one or two representatives, esp. of anglophone student unions, and esp. on oppositional issues. That said, a balance can probably be struck that involves more direct advocacy; and good connections with other actors is very valuable
 - Idea to revive an External Affairs Committee; further study and consultation required
- Drafting an External Affairs resources document for eventual publication, aim to facilitate accessibility of SSMU External Affairs to student body and preserve institutional memory within the office



Community affairs

Affordable student housing / social housing

- ASH committee virtual event on tenants' rights (Dec. 23, Jan. 11 & 12): 110 attendees!
- ACORN Montréal fundraiser (Dec. 9), housing organising against predatory landlord CAPREIT
- Restructuring of ASH committee shared drive for ease of access

Milton-Parc and Peter-McGill

- CKUT Board of Directors and HR Committee (Dec. 7, Jan. 12)
- CMP purchase of Bar des Pins, interest in SSMU partnership

Political campaigns

Political campaigns infrastructure

- Drafting of a Guide to Political Campaigns, to be published on SSMU EA website
- Creation of a Campaigns shared drive for EA campaigns-related staff to better preserve institutional memory
- Regular check-ins with Political Campaigns Coordinators
 - Ongoing assistance with Guide for Political Campaigns Coordinators as new questions arise, especially concerning finances and accounting

Justice climatique

- Réunions avec Divest McGill (11 déc, 7 jan); écrit une lettre de la part du Comité exécutif à Metro Inc. pour communiquer notre soutien du boycott de Divest McGill
- Réunion avec C-JAM (8 jan), qui veut être plus active cette session

(Re-)Emerging campaigns

- Students for Peace and Disarmament: helping draft a policy on harmful military research, outreach for consultation
- Dollarama warehouse workers

Union affairs

- Regular meetings with MUNACA (Dec. 8, Jan. 12)



- MUNACA often the unifier at McGill Communities Council, most capable of building common cause between disparate employee groups (student, non/academic, trades) + leading efforts among employee groups to counter McGill's narrative as a #1 employer
- Reaching out to McGill's SEU Local 800 - Facilities to discuss working together
- Meeting with AMUSE to discuss support for Dollarama workers (Dec. 17)
- Drafting of Union Affairs resources, including labour unions external to McGill, especially those student-based and education-based - would have been particularly beneficial during anti-PEQ protests and very worth inviting to coalition meetings against PEQ and Bill 21

Office & Governance

Finance and HR

- Meetings with HR and Finance staff to answer unresolved questions about EA budgets (Dec. 10, Jan. 8)
 - Will be working with VP Finance to amend the IRs of Finance for greater clarity of funds access to EA-related departments, in particular Community Relations, and updating job descriptions of Political Campaigns Coordinators, and Community Affairs Commissioner to reflect status as department head / signing officer
- Budget preparations and submissions for External Affairs-related departments
- On-boarding the Black Affairs Commissioner
- Hiring for Community Affairs Commissioner and External Affairs Coordinator positions

Governance

- Consultation with Indigenous Affairs Commissioner on renewal of Indigenous Solidarity Policy
- Outreach for consultation on upcoming proposals on harmful military research and Bill 21
- Consulted on Accessibility Policy; wrote in new External Advocacy section

Office varia

- Restructuring of the External Affairs google drive to better facilitate storing of institutional memory, creation of portfolio-specific guides
- Setting up anti-racism workshop for current and future Executives

Respectfully submitted,

Ayo Ogunremi, Vice-President (External Affairs) | Vice-Président (Affaires externes)

[Virtual Office Hours | Heures de bureau virtuelles](#): Mondays and Wednesdays 11-12h lundi et mercredi