

# Report of the Vice-President (University Affairs)



Fall 2024 General Assembly - *Abe Berglas*

# Student Participation in University Decisions

- Take advantage of student representation
  - Filled university committees with broad array of students
  - Sent targeted invitations to community groups
  - Created record of which groups are active
- Foster culture of engaged student Senators
  - Weekly Senate caucus meetings of 2hrs
  - At first Senate meeting, students asked about 8 questions
  - Meeting with faculty Senators to create bonds
- De-myth-ify the MoA
  - Created a committee to negotiate the MoA that has broader membership than a handful of execs
  - We have sent our first draft to McGill with substantial changes to previous MoAs

# Security Services & the Right to Demonstrate

- Supporting individuals
  - Helped the drafting of 2 complaints to the University
- Addressing the systemic issue
  - Collaborated with Cops Off Campus to solicit reports of security profiling
  - Met with Liam Halford from Security Services
  - Sent a Senate question about the use of contracted security and their knowledge of the Charter of Rights
- Student empowerment
  - Ran a Know Your Rights workshop at Rad Frosh with a focus on the right to demonstrate

# Equity at McGill

- “EDI”
  - I sit on the McGill’s EDIC (Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee)
  - With equity commissioners, currently critically reviewing McGill’s Strategic EDI plan
- Disability
  - I proposed a remodelling of the Accessibility Committee to open up the membership and to bring focus from projects/events to the sharing of resources and experiences
- Queerness
  - Douglas Farrow awareness campaign
  - I sit on the Ad Hoc Committee on Preferred Names Committee (under DPSLL’s office)
  - I sit on SSMU’s Gender and Sexuality Advocacy Committee
- Students of Colour
  - Annotated McGill’s 5-year plan on addressing anti-Black racism

# Supporting Roles

- Open Educational Resources
  - Reformulated the role and sent a job offer
- Menstrual Health Project
  - Bought products for the Menstrual Health team
- Library Improvement
  - Hired and onboarded a Library Improvement Fund Commissioner

# Sharing my Work

- MART
  - Revived and chaired the McGill Academics Roundtable
- Sending pitches to newspapers
  - Kept the Daily and the Tribune in the loop about Senate and my projects
- Monthly UA newsletter
  - Solicited subscribers through the SSMU listserv and when sending committee rejection letters, as an alternate way to get involved
- Blog on UA website
  - 4 posts so far!

# What's Next

- Disability Roundtable & Accessibility Policy
  - I'll be reviewing the Accessibility Policy and the Policy on Accessible Education
  - Helping the Accessibility Commissioner, once onboarded, host the open disability roundtable
- Senate & Advisory Committee Reporting
  - Will compile a report from one representative on each committee as a form of institutional memory
- Students with Financial Barriers
  - Will potentially move to hire a Researcher (at Legislative Council) to examine barriers for these students
- Committee representation
  - I want to grieve the policies at McGill made by bodies without student membership



**Questions?**