



Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

Students' Society of McGill University

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

(514) 398-6800 | ssmu.ca | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

BLACK AFFAIRS REPORT

Submitted for: 10-23-2025

BLACK AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEMBERS ATTENDANCE

Non-Voting Members:

- Black Affairs Commissioner (Chair)
- Black Affairs Coordinator
- VP University Affairs
- Black Affairs Liaison

Voting Members:

- Black Student Outreach Representative
- National Society of Black Engineers (McGill Chapter)
- Black Student Network
- Black Varsity Association
- African Studies Student Association
- McGill African Students Society
- McGill Black Alumni Association
- Caribbean Students Society
- Black Psychology Students Association
- Black Law Students Association
- Councilor
- Members at large X4

Absent:

- Canadian Black Nurses Alliance (McGill Chapter)
- Black Medical Students Association
- Black Financial Students Association
- VP External
- Members at large X2



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BLACK AFFAIRS ACTIVITY

SUMMER

1. **Creation and Hiring of the Black Student Outreach Representative Position:**

The Black Student Outreach Representative supports initiatives that advance the rights, representation, and well-being of Black students within the McGill University community. They assist in conducting research and consultations related to the experiences, needs, and challenges faced by Black students, helping to inform advocacy priorities and policy recommendations.

Additionally, the representative engages directly with the student body to strengthen communication between the Black Affairs Committee and the broader Black student community, ensuring that programming, services, and institutional efforts reflect the diverse perspectives and realities of Black students at McGill.

2. **Planning and Administrative Setup:**

Developed internal systems and goals for the upcoming academic year, including meeting structures, accountability frameworks, and collaboration plans with other student groups and the BISSI working group.

FALL

1. **Activities Night Tabling**

- a. Represented the Black Affairs Committee at McGill's Activities Night to increase visibility, promote engagement opportunities, and connect with new and returning students.
- b. Engaged directly with Black Students to share information about the Committee's mandate, ongoing projects, and available support for Black students.
- c. Collected contact information and feedback from interested students to expand outreach and ensure inclusive participation in future initiatives.
- d. Created Posters and Pamphlets: Designed and distributed visually engaging informational materials highlighting upcoming events, funding opportunities (such as the Black Equity Fund), and ways to get involved. These materials were displayed across campus and shared digitally to strengthen awareness and accessibility.

2. **Monthly Black Affairs Committee Meetings:**

Organized and facilitated monthly meetings to plan programming, review equity initiatives, and set advocacy priorities for Black students. Ensured meetings were inclusive, goal-oriented, and action-driven, allowing committee members to coordinate effectively on campus-wide initiatives.



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- a. **Updated Terms of Reference:** Developed and implemented a new Terms of Reference for the Black Affairs Committee, approved collectively by members to ensure transparency and accountability.
- b. Clarified distinctions between voting and non-voting members, established clear decision-making procedures, and introduced accountability measures such as publicly posting amended meeting minutes on the Black Affairs website.
- c. Strengthened internal governance and consistency in committee operations through standardized documentation and accessible records.

3. Facilitation and Collaboration Among Student Groups:

Strengthened inter-club communication by facilitating collaboration among Black-led and allied student organizations, supporting shared advocacy efforts, event planning, and resource sharing.

- a. Met with every Black student group on campus to discuss their goals, challenges, and expectations for the academic year, ensuring that the Committee's work reflected community priorities.
- b. Instituted an annual formal meeting structure with all Black student groups to provide updates, gather feedback, and maintain accountability.
- c. Created and maintained a centralized **Black Student Group Registry** containing executive contacts, roles, and organizational details to streamline communication, coordination, and coalition-building.

4. Collaboration with BISSI & VP University Affairs:

Maintained continuous coordination with the Black Inclusion and Student Success Initiative (BISSI) and the Vice President (University Affairs) to align institutional advocacy, events, and funding priorities.

- a. **Bi-weekly Meetings with BISSI** to exchange updates on joint programming and student needs.
- b. **Weekly Meetings with VP University Affairs** to ensure consistent communication on equity issues and university-level representation.
- c. **Internal Coordination:**
Conducted a minimum of one internal meeting per week between the Black Affairs Commissioner, Coordinator, and Student Outreach Representative to monitor progress, share updates, and troubleshoot challenges.

5. Welcome Back to School Barbecue (with BISSI):

Co-hosted a campus-wide event to celebrate the start of the school year and foster community among new and returning Black students. Included inviting Black-owned Montreal businesses to campus.



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6. Black Equity Fund Request Review (pending):

Participated in reviewing and approving funding applications for student-led projects advancing Black equity and inclusion on campus.

a. Audit and Accountability Measures:

Introduced and managed new audit forms to ensure transparent tracking of committee projects, finances, and goals.

7. Black Affairs Coffee Chats:

Launched informal, open-invitation sessions where students could share feedback, connect with the committee, and discuss community needs in a relaxed setting.

UPCOMING PROJECTS

1. General Assembly (October 24th):

The Black Affairs Team is organizing and leading the first ever Black Affairs General Assembly to share updates, gather community input, and collectively set priorities for the remainder of the academic year.

- a. A comprehensive questionnaire was distributed to collect feedback on topics such as campus climate, access to resources, academic and social supports, and student engagement.
- b. Insights gathered will inform upcoming programming, advocacy strategies, and committee objectives.

2. Market Place (Businesses and Nonprofits) - Black History Event (February):

- Other Faculty partnerships for Black History
 - Equity Office for BHM opening ceremony
 - Supporting faculty of Arts for a panel event
 - Supporting and working other student groups within the committee for collaboration (BSN to collaborate for a combined Black Beauty and Market Place Event)

3. Workshops and Community Engagement

- a. The Committee will expand its educational and community programming through interactive workshops and experiential learning opportunities, including a *Black History Tour of Montreal* highlighting the city's rich legacy of Black activism, migration, and cultural influence.
- b. Additional Black Affairs Coffee Chats will continue to be hosted throughout the semester to provide informal spaces for students to connect, voice concerns, and build relationships with committee members. These sessions will strengthen accessibility and foster a sense of belonging among Black students.



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4. New Student Club Projects

- a. The Committee will support the continued development of new Black student organizations, such as the Black Future Lawyers. A Montreal Chapter, fostering mentorship and professional pathways for Black students pursuing legal education.
- b. Work will continue to expand the Black Equity Fund Fee to include Post-Graduate Students' Society (PGSS) members, ensuring equitable funding access for Black graduate students.
- c. Additional collaborative projects will be launched to promote cross-faculty engagement, capacity-building, and sustained advocacy across McGill's Black student community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS

3. Looking for more student groups interested in partnering for BHM projects