

Senate Caucus Report

DATE: 12-4-2025

Membership:

FACULTY	First	Last
ARTS	Maggie	Tang
ARTS	Keith Andre	Baybayon
SCIENCE	Sofie	Fournier
EDUCATION	Meghan	Lai
MEDICINE	Alvin	Leenus
ARTSCI	Chloe	Munoz
LAW	Fadumo	Hussen
NURSING	William	Kallianiotis
MANAGEMENT	Daniel	Jennings
ENG	Paul	Hutu
SSMU	Tayssir	Benchoubane
MAC CAMP	Owen	Pflipsen
SSMU President	Dymetri	Taylor
Secretary General	Nicklas	Rieck

Senate Caucus met every Wednesday (excluding the first Wednesday of October) from 6:00-8:00 pm Starting August 26th until December 10th. Senator Hutu (Engineering) and Senator Benchoubane (SSMU) joined October 15th. Due to employment conflicts, the Secretary General also joined in early October.

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1. CSD [The Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures](#)

- A. Frequent roundtable discussions with members from the CSD working group, namely Angela Campbell (DPSLL), Fred Headon (Board of Governors), and Noah Weisboard (Law Faculty)
- B. Contributed substantial revisions to the draft documents
 - I. MLOA (Mandatory Leave of Absence)
 - II. Presumed Minimum Sanctions section (section 40),
 - III. “Knowingly” definition added

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- IV. AI use to “Plagiarism” section (25b - “AI detection software is not sufficient, by itself, to substantiate an allegation”)
- V. New definitions such as “Intimidation,” “University Context,” and “Obstruction.”
- C. Senate Nov 12 - one amendment to remove all Board of Governors involvement in the Code passed, second amendment failed, the third wasn’t presented.
- D. The Code is now a legal document until the next Board of Governors meeting (Dec 11), during which they’ll vote to either accept or reject Senate’s recommendation (note: no precedent of doing so, but there’s always a first)
- 2. PASL ([Policy on Assessment of Student Learning](#))**
 - A. Violations of the PASL are frequent and ubiquitous, enforcement is non-existent, thus bodies like SUS (Science Undergraduate Society) has created their own system of enforcing PASL violations
 - B. At January Senate, Senators Lai [Education] and Fournier [Science] will be asking a question to the McGill Administration about PASL enforcement and effective accountability mechanisms for professors.
 - C. To ensure that students are also aware of their rights under PASL, Caucus will start a weekly “Rights of the Week” [VP UA] and “Mythbusters” [VP Hutu, Engineering] program to be sent out in listservs and posted on social media channels.
 - D. Senators will also be collaborating on social media across faculty student associations to raise awareness on PASL and make the policy more accessible to students.
- 3. MCSS Shuttle**
 - A. Senator Pflipsen [MCSS] has been working to address inter-campus transportation concerns raised by Macdonald Campus students.
 - B. He has looked into the possibility of extending shuttle service past 6:00pm, given that students must rely on the STM 211 for all evening travel.
 - C. He has also explored options to increase the frequency of the McGill inter-campus shuttle during peak hours.
 - D. His goal is to improve the reliability and accessibility of transportation for MAC and Downtown students alike who may have lectures, labs, or commitments to either campus.
- 4. AI Use across campus**
 - A. During the September Senate meeting, Deputy Provost of Student Life and Learning, Angela Campbell asked student senators to take charge of brainstorming for a campus-wide AI usage practice.
 - B. In the winter, Senate will be engaging in an Open Discussion about AI Use on campus to provide some additional perspectives on the issue, Senator Munoz [ArtSci] sits on the working group for this Open Discussion topic.

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- C. Senator Lai [Education] found a TLS (Teaching & Learning Services) [report](#) from July 2023 which outlines recommendations to the Senate Academic Policy Committee which say that “Instructors must be explicit in course outlines about the expectations for use of generative AI tools and may set limits on their use in assessment tasks”
- D. This document will hopefully serve as a draft for a future mandate for professors

5. Athletics Cuts

- A. Senate Caucus held an emergency meeting immediately following the announcement to discuss concerns raised by varsity athletes and identify what advocacy pathways are available within Senate structures. Senators Lai [Education], Jennings [Management], Hutu [Engineering] and Pflipsen [MCSS] discussed possible questions to be asked at Senate in the new year.
- B. Senators are looking into how Athletics, University Advancement, and Senate governance intersect, to better understand what avenues exist for student representatives to push for better support and long-term solutions for varsity athletics.

6. Teaching & Learning at McGill

- A. Senator Lai [Education] notes the struggles that students across campus experience with their learning. To determine and confirm the cause of these issues, Senator Lai has begun collecting data through census surveys on Professors’ teaching experiences at McGill, namely their research & teaching responsibilities, their teaching certification/training, and the support they receive from McGill regarding quality teaching practices.
- B. Students will also be receiving a survey shortly about their experiences in larger learning communities, namely 300+ person classrooms and with disengaging pedagogy.
- C. All this data will be collected to make a report to McGill Admin about improving teaching and thereby learning at McGill to ensure that professors obtain necessary pedagogical support and students are receiving the education they pay for and deserve.

7. Accessible Study Spaces

- A. Senator Baybayon [Arts] is working on an accessibility study spaces project to create a platform students can use to locate spaces that meet their needs.
- B. Established a set of accessibility criteria using OSD guidelines, CSA/ADA standards, and best-practice models from other universities.
- C. Researching permissions and logistics for campus-wide room audits and pilot scans for the winter semester.
- D. Collaborating with Geographic Information Centre to design an online framework and confirm floor-plan access under McGill security protocols.

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8. OneCard Food Services & Library Access

- A. Senator Tang [Arts] is working to make the Redpath library doors accessible after 6pm and the Schulich library doors facing University St accessible after 9pm. In this way, entering libraries can be more convenient for students especially in the winter time.
- B. Senator Tang [Arts] is also working on bringing back off-campus restaurants to the OneCard Flex Dollars Program. As of now, the OneCard is only accessible for on-campus cafes and dining halls.
- C. To help first-year students and the student population in general, Senator Tang [Arts] is looking to make a detailed foodmap of all the places on campus that are OneCard inclusive.
- D. Looking to advertise and help family-owned, small businesses on campus (such as the new pizza place in the Arts Building Basement) in partnership with Zach Zuhl, the Associate Director, Food and Dining Services.

Attendance notes:

- There was a scheduled McGill Senate meeting on October 15th, during reading week.
- Education Senator (Meghan) scheduled break plans to attend Senate then travel for break
- November 26th Meeting was regarding athletics x senate
- Arts (Maggie and Keith): AUS LC meets biweekly Wednesdays 6-9 PM; senators alternate between LC and Caucus, or both attend when votes are necessary.
- Law (Tayssir, Fadumo, Nick): Faculty of Law break is for 2 weeks (October 15, 22)
- Medicine (Alvin): There was a long strike
- Senate meetings were October 15 and November 12th

Attendance	October 8	October 15 (Senate)	October 22	October 29	November 5	November 12 (Senate)	November 19	November 26 (OPTIONAL)
Susan (VP UA)	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Dymetri (President)	Present	Present	Present	ABSENT	Present	Present	Present	Present
Nick (SecGen UA)	Present	ABSENT	ABSENT	Present	Present	Present	ABSENT	ABSENT
Daniel (Management)	Present	Present	Present	ABSENT	Present	Present	Present	Present
Owen	Present	Present	ABSENT	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present

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(MCSS)								
Meghan (Education)	Present	ABSENT	Present	ABSENT	Present	Present	Present	Present
Paul (Eng.)	(Vacant)	(Vacant)	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Keith (Arts)	Present	Present	ABSENT	ABSENT	Present	Present	Present	ABSENT
Maggie (Arts)	Present	ABSENT	Present	ABSENT	Present	Present	Present	ABSENT
Sofie (Science)	Present	ABSENT	Present	ABSENT	Present	Present	Present	ABSENT
William (Nursing)	Present	ABSENT	ABSENT	Present	Present	Present	Present	ABSENT
Tayssir (SSMU)	(Vacant)	(Vacant)	Present	Present	Present	LATE	ABSENT	ABSENT
Chloe (ArtSci)	TBD	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	Present	LATE	Present	ABSENT
Fadumo (Law)	Present	ABSENT	ABSENT	Present	Present	LATE	ABSENT	ABSENT
Alvin (Med)	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	Present	Present	Present	ABSENT