

Vice-President (University Affairs)

Legislative Council Report

November 4th, 2025

TeamUA

Equity Complaint Processing

The Equity committee received multiple complaints during the semester. One has recently entered into an investigation. We have interviewed the complainant, three respondents, and two witnesses. We are currently finalizing our final evaluation and producing the report to share with the parties involved.

Library improvement room

Originally, the library was very resistant to implementing a spirituality room for practicing religious student who could not access MORSL spirituality space due to weather or timing conditions. Finally, we were able to agree on keeping the tranquility zone but moving it to redpath, and turning the sixth floor McLennan space into a "reflection zone". The space's mandate will be a quiet reflection and prayer space to encourage more equitable spaces in the library and to address a critical pain point among students.

The rationale for this project is supported by a report presented to senate which lists the student participation in the 2022 fall census and has a specific section about participants' religions and spiritual affiliation. This census was performed in part to "better anticipate the needs of students". Since 2022, McGill has known that there are well above 12,000 students who identify with a particular religion or spirituality, many of which do not have local or accessible places of worship within proximity of campus. Student should be able to use the library without worrying about how they are going to connect with their faith.

Vice-présidence (affaires universitaires) de l'AÉUM
SSMU Vice-President (University Affairs)

*Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.
Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.*

ua@ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | ssmu.ca | 3501 rue Peel, Montréal, QC, H3A 1W7



It is important to note this space is not the same as the tranquility zone. While the tranquility zone is about offering a peaceful, quiet, and comfortable space that is gender neutral within the library for students to enjoy as they complete their McGill business, the spirituality space is to be engaged with entirely differently and students should not be asked to compromise between the two. The spirituality zone's interior design will account for elements of religious practice like gender, direction, and prayer movement or arrangement. Many practices happen in congregation, or might be dependent on the time of day, or might require specific equipment to perform, all which can be attended to through a designated space for students to use for religious purposes to allow them to continue studying while using the library.

Our goal is to officially set up and open the space before December, so practicing students are able to, for the first time, spend exam season entirely indoors without having to uncomfortably modify their practice or hike between buildings in the snow. This project will be supported by the library improvement fund.

UA project: [STM Emergency Subsidy program](#) (ESP)

The STM ESP was created in anticipation of the month-long STM strike to support students' access to campus and education. Students were invited to submit transportation-related expenses incurred as a result of the STM strike for consideration. Examples of acceptable submissions include Bixi fees, rides between campus and your home address, parking passes, or other transportation passes. All submissions were carefully evaluated. The program continued until November 13, when the STM workers union announced the strike had officially ended.

The STM subsidy program received 260 applications between November 1st and the 12th. 151 applications were approved and are currently being processed for reimbursement. Reasons why applications were not approved include: not being a SSMU member (grad student), OPUS submissions, weekend trips, or invalid address location with no rationale. Approved applications amounted to less than the budgeted amount for the month and this project was funded from the UA equity programming budget.

Student Rights: TL;DR KYR series is officially here

The TL;DR series was created to address the inefficiencies of the traditional Know Your Rights (KYR) campaign overseen by the UA through IRs Advocacy and Representation. Historically, VP UA relied on

Vice-présidence (affaires universitaires) de l'AÉUM SSMU Vice-President (University Affairs)

*Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.
Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.*



ua@ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | ssmu.ca | 3501 rue Peel, Montréal, QC, H3A 1W7

occasional KYR workshops to teach students about key university policies, but this format was not aligned with students' needs or the sheer volume of policies they must understand. The TL;DR series provides a more accessible and scalable alternative offering clear, on-demand summaries of important policies, and allowing far more topics to be covered within a single year.

Completed and processing series include:

1. Religious accommodations (collab with MORSL, pending translation)
2. [Protest rights](#)
3. [Strike safety](#)
4. [Charter of student rights](#)
5. Code of Student conduct (pending translation)
6. [Policy on Assessment and student learning](#)

New ♦ Onboarded staff

Wellness and Access Commissioner:

Approved by the board of director, Mental health and Accessibility at SSMU are in transition to Wellness. In the absence of an accessibility fee, there are currently no fees with descriptions that can properly pay the Accessibility Commissioner. For this reason, SSMU is introducing a Wellness and Access Commissioner, which will be a centralized role that oversees mental health and accessibility for the society.

This will also enable a more productive working conditions between the commissioner and the UA. Currently VP UA oversees 25 staff, 4 of them being from the mental health and accessibility teams. Combining the roles for one person will be significantly more productive for the staff, the VP, and the society.

Gender and Sexuality Advocacy Commissioner:

The previous commissioner was hired before the implementation of French translation standards. Their last day was October 6th, and during this time, the translation department was overwhelmed with general assembly materials translation. Because of this, translation for the GSC job description was delayed. In their absence, I stepped in as Gender and Sexuality Advocacy committee chair to continue QUIPS application approvals. The new Gender and Sexuality commissioner started on November 24th

Vice-présidence (affaires universitaires) de l'AÉUM
SSMU Vice-President (University Affairs)

*Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.
Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.*

ua@ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | ssmu.ca | 3501 rue Peel, Montréal, QC, H3A 1W7



McGill & Administration

Bi-monthly meeting with student services.

Following the fall referendum, the president and I have started attending bi-monthly meetings with the director of McGill Student Services. At our first meeting, we followed up on referendum fee question.

Divestment

In line with the Policy Against Genocide in Palestine, the Policy on Harmful Military technology, and Divest for Human Rights Policy, I have reintroduced the topic of divestment to the University. I spoke with McGill Provost Christopher Manfredi and DPSLL Angela Campell to discuss the state of divestment efforts at McGill. We began with a follow up on the efforts of the encampment negotiations. The results of those negotiations were disclosing the investment equity mandates of the University. Otherwise, McGill continues to invest in the list of companies compiled for divestment.

We highlighted the clear disconnect between access to investment decision makers at McGill and students voicing demands. Specifically, it is clear that divestment demands are being directed towards an information shuttle through Angela. Following our initial conversation, Angela has scheduled a followup with Chief Investment Officer & Treasurer Sophie Leblanc and VP Admin and Finance at McGill University Fabrice Labeau for January.

SSMU/CSO - Orientation Meeting

The president and I were invited to meet with the new Chief of Security for McGill. We discussed opportunities for increased consultation with students to get a better understanding of students needs and direction for the new CSO.

VP Academic roundtable

Only Arts and and Management VP Academic responded to my request for a VP Academic roundtable. I sent the invite to Science, Engineering, Education, ArtSci, Music, or law, Arts, and management. If your faculty did not receive my invite, please share with my the VPA's email. If your faculty did receive the invite and did not respond, please ask them to check their email.

Vice-présidence (affaires universitaires) de l'AÉUM
SSMU Vice-President (University Affairs)

*Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.
Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.*

ua@ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | ssmu.ca | 3501 rue Peel, Montréal, QC, H3A 1W7



McGill Community Council (follow up)

At the October MCC meeting, the committee discussed “uninviting” SSMU from future meetings. The decided they would publish an open letter regarding the situation. I sent an email requesting an update on our status as MCC members and on the open letter, and did not receive any response. Since then, SSMU has been invited to the November MCC meeting which was meant to be hosted by SSMUUnion. SSMUUnion canceled the meeting so there has not been a chance to have a proper MCC meeting following the discussion from October.

SSMU affairs

PAGIP committee terms of reference review

A previous draft of the committee terms of reference did not have a strong enough consultation process. Along with the external affairs commissioner, we reviewed the draft to include more consideration for Arab and Muslim representation.

Connect with FYC about OER

I reached out to FYC about SSMU's [Open education resources](#) (an initiative which cross references course syllabi and curriculums and creates open access content for students). Specifically, I reached out to FYC because the OER classes we consider in this service are popular first-year courses.

I requested FYC's support in outreach and a survey to send to the people registered in the courses we offer OER for to gauge if the contents we produce are beneficial. This feedback would be helpful for the Open Education Resources Commissioner with ramping back up the service. So far, we finished COMP and BIO recourses, are working on finalizing ECON and PHYS, and Scheduling math and chemistry for next semester.

Reports

In the recent council meetings, I presented the Indigenous Affairs committee and wrote and presented the Gender and sexuality advocacy committee as recent acting chair.



Senate

Student Code of Conduct

Senator Boulanger is the senator that took the liberty of presenting the amendments of the CSD from the floor at senate. Before the senate meeting, I met with him to understand his amendments and their implications on the code, to better understand how to develop the senate caucus strategy for the November 12 senate meeting.

Senate caucus was especially busy with the code of student conduct during november. We had an emergency caucus meeting to discuss senate strategy, comments we want to make, and amendment we want to support. This helped us navigate how to respond on the floor and how to vote based on different outcomes.

On November 12, senate voted on the approval of new revisions to the code of student conduct. We responded to Senator Boulanger's amendment as discussed, along with other senators, and the amendment passed. Accordingly, the caucus voted in favor of the new code. We recognize DPSLL's willingness to engage in extensive consultation with the students, and feel that many of our changes and edits were received in this new code.

Adhoc Mtg Board of Governors followup

Following the senate meeting of November 12th, the President and I met with President Saini and DPSLL Campell to discuss the next steps and Board of Governors ratification of the vote. We were assured that the administration would defend the code with the amendments to the Board, and are expecting the amendment to remain.

Other senate caucus affairs

- PASL myth busters
- Question writing for senate
- AI senate open discussion
- Mac Discussion
- Athletics varsity president