

Vice-President (University Affairs)

Legislative Council Report [January 29th, 2026]

TeamUA

We're so Back to School!

Meetings with every commissioner/portfolio have been scheduled to continue initiatives from last semester and start new projects for the upcoming semester.

DABI Reinstated

The Black Affairs team received communication from some students in the membership that DABI's (Management Undergraduate Society club) status had been revoked. The team was concerned about the implication of the faculty no longer having clubs catering to diversity and inclusion, especially towards black and african students. The BA commissioner worked with MUS and McGill to advocate for the team's reinstatement.

Concerns expressed by MUS about the club included inconsistent communication with the association, financial mismanagement, and issues complying with internal MUS policies (especially relating to sponsorships). They noted the issue was flagged by their VP Internal for two consecutive years, and attribute the council's decision to remove the club to this note.

MUS was not pleased with SSMU's interference in faculty affairs, and requested we do not make requests to the association or interfere in the future.

New staff onboarding

Interviews for new Menstrual Health coordinators started in late december and have officially wrapped. Two new coordinators were hired in the absence of two others on exchange. They will begin onboarding soon.

Indigenous affairs

The Office of Indigenous Initiatives has requested each student association to develop a system for indigenous students to opt-out of student insurance, as they already have access to government issues insurance. The OII also flagged concerns that these students would benefit from adapting a digital portal to a physical contract that their course faculty can print, distribute, collect, and upload for them. This system has been developed and the portal will be available on the website shortly.

The Indigenous affairs commissioner along with the IA committee have committed part of the Indigenous equity support budget to McGill undergraduate awards available through Scholarships and Student Aid. The amount is renewable for four years, and the award is available to all undergraduate full and part time Canadian Indigenous students.

McGill & Administration

Meeting with new Board of Governors Chair

Fred Headon has been appointed as the new McGill BoG chair! His term will begin in July of this year. We spoke about his goals and intentions for his term, and how he planned on integrating student experience and consultation into his leadership style. So far, there has been widespread confidence among the students in his appointment.

Synergy Circles

The first synergy circle meeting of the semester was hosted by the chancellor. He discussed initiatives and efforts between himself and the canadian government.

Faculty Matters AI Panel

Faculty Matters is a workshop that started during Covid aimed at supporting faculty through current teaching and learning developments and uncertainties. The most recent workshop was regarding generative AI in the classroom and as a resources. It also featured a panel with two students (VP UA and Science Senator) who were asked to share the perspective of

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students using AI for their school work. The event only left time for four questions, none of which were actually questions but rather grievances about the fact that students use AI, and there was no opportunity for the students to respond. There will be a second part to the workshop, where hopefully there will be more questions to respond to, to help clarify the experience of education and AI.

Student Services Monthly

President and VP UA attended regularly schedule meeting with the director of Student Services, Cara. Cara requested feedback on how to improve the description of the fee levy and feedback on how to make students more receptive to the increase.

PGSS Meeting

Met with PGSS Secretary General (President) about student services fee levy as well as food resources fee levies. Their team seemed open to levying a fee for the food pantry, but remained firm in discontinuing the midnight kitchen fee.

McGill Community Council

At the most recent MCC meeting, member associations discussed writing an open letter to SSMU regarding the midnight kitchen decision. This has been part of the discussion since October. Additionally, MCC is exploring formalizing the council (bylaws, etc). One priority of this formalization is the ability to censor and condemn member associations, inspired by the sentiment following MK. SSMU would have to decide if we would like to become formal members.

New Code of Conduct

In his new capacity as Deputy Student Life and Learning, Tony has invited senate caucus members to revisit the code of student conduct as per the members' request during the november senate meeting. Senators are hoping to make proposed revisions previously brought to senate floor, and discuss the status of CSD procedures since November 11th.

Winter Orientation 2026 - CLAE

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Learned a lot about the experience of exchange students and how they might be integrated into the TLDR KYR series of UA.

SSMU affairs

Equity program

The muslim student association had been in need of replacing the carpets in the ballroom that are used to host friday prayer service. For the past 12 years, the carpets have not been replaced, and since the MSA fee renewal failed, the service was unable to budget for carpets. In consultation with the equity commissioners, an equity program was developed to renew the ballroom carpets.

Elections consultation

Discussion with the chief returning officer to discuss improvements for the election process. Discussion included experiences from the previous year, feedback on campaigning, and suggestions for supporting candidates throughout the nomination, campaigning, and election periods. Major shout out to CRO Mike Lee!

Accountability mid-point review

The accountability commissioner performed the mid-point accountability review for the University Affairs portfolio. An overwhelming majority of the mandates have been satisfied and continue to progress.

General Manager Interviews

It better work out this time.

Activities night tabling

My eighth and last Activities Night, I will miss SSMU so much, Activities Night is my favorite, this is so bitter sweet, I'm so sad.

Senate and Caucus

Convocation

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MCGILL GOVERNANCE TEAM WON'T LISTEN TO ME I asked them (very nicely mind you, and early) to make graduation at an accessible timeline to accommodate for Eid, but to no avail. Anyways, affected students can write to convocation@mcgill.ca to make such a request (each request must include the reason for the request).

New Campus access authorization policy

McGill introduced a new policy to senate for information. The Presentation on the Proposed Identification Policy for Access to Properties Owned, Occupied, or Used by the University aims to establish a framework for requesting the identification of persons on properties owned, occupied or used by the University. Fabrice Labeau mentioned feedback from Senate was sought prior to submission of the Policy to the Board of Governors for approval. Student senators were not consulted, and the policy seemed to come as a shock for many others. After the meeting, an invitation to virtual consultation sessions being hosted by Professor Fabrice Labeau, Vice-President (Administration and Finance) was sent to senators. These sessions will provide Senators an opportunity to provide additional questions and comments on the policy.

Caucus letters to New Leadership

Student senators sent a letter to congratulate Angela Campbell on her appointment as Provost, Fred Headon on his appointment as Board of Governors chair, and Anthony Mittermaier on his appointment as DPSLL.

Accountability Structure

With the support of the accountability commissioner and policy and advocacy coordinator, a new structure was developed to support future VP University Affairs in maintaining accountability among student senator at caucus. This structure was developed following feedback from current senators about standardizing the expectations for caucus. Expectations include clear guidelines on attendance, projects, reports, and participation.

New Senator

Following the resignation of the previous Medicine senate, a new member has been appointed to senate and joined SSMU caucus, Arielle Mbuyo

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Ngantchang. She will be onboarded and will be introduced to the team in the coming days, and will attend her first senate meeting in February.