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 | ssmu.ca | 3501 rue Peel, Montréal, QC, H3A 1W7

Black Affairs Committee Report

Submitted for: 2026/10/22

Members in Attendance & General Information

The Black Affairs Committee (hereafter referred to as 'BAC') consists of the following:

Non-Voting Members:

- Black Affairs Commissioner (Chair) – Moyọ Alabi
- Vice-President University Affairs – Meghan Lai
- Vice-President External Affairs – Harry Wang
- Black Student Affairs Liaison – Antoine-Samuel Mauffette Alavo

Voting Members:

- Black Law Students Association (BLSAM)
- Black Medical Students Association (BMSA)
- Black Psychology Students Association (BPSA)
- Black Students in Political Science (BSPS)
- Black Students' Network (BSN)
- Canadian Black Nurses Alliance (CBNA)
- Caribbean Students Society (CSS)
- McGill African Students Association (MASS)
- National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)
- Nigerian Students Association (NSA)
- Faculty of Education Representative (Councillor Representative) – Hana Cass
- Members-at-Large (4)

Inactive Members:

- Black Muslim Student Initiative (BMI)

- African Studies Student Association (ASSA)
- Black Varsity Association (BVA)
- Desautel's African Business Initiative (DABI)
- Members-at-Large (2)

The main objectives of the Black Affairs Committee are to:

- Support projects, research, events, and policies that work to end anti-Black racism and promote diversity and inclusivity in the McGill community.
- Foster leadership development, civic engagement, and improved representation of Black students and groups engaged in anti-racist work.
- Provide emergency financial support for Black students facing urgent needs (e.g., hydro, internet, groceries, rent).

Black Affairs Activity

Summer 2026

1. Monthly Black Affairs Committee Meetings
    a. Over the summer, the Black Affairs portfolio hosted monthly committee meetings to ensure consistency in financial accessibility for students. Over this time, we disbursed $11,700—providing support for 7 individuals and groups through the Black Equity Fund
    b. Over the summer months, the active committee members also discussed our collective goals for the year, with a return to our advocacy roots at the forefront.
2. Creation of the Black Directory and forthcoming Black Student Guide
    a. Made a Black Student Group Directory, which aims to streamline Black students' access to the clubs and services available to them. The directory currently has 20 clubs listed.

b. Additionally, a guide for Black students is currently forthcoming, with input from student groups on the Black Affairs Committee, representing the diversity of the Black student body.

Fall 2026

1. Activities Night Tabling
    a. Represented the Black Affairs Committee at the SSMU's Activities Night to increase awareness about the Black Equity Fund and to solicit Members-at-Large for the Committee through engagement with Black students.
2. Biweekly Black Affairs Committee Meetings
    a. Chaired and facilitated the biweekly Committee meetings with Black student groups, clubs, and Members-at-Large. Ensured meetings were advocacy and action-driven, with tangible action items and opening discussions for further collaboration between Black groups on campus.
    b. Onboarded 4 Members-at-Large for the Committee.
    c. Updated the Terms of Reference of the 2026/27 school year, including the addition of new Black clubs on campus, unanimously approved by Committee members.
    d. Voted and disbursed funding for Black students-in-need on campus, providing a total of $17,810 to 13 students and groups between the months of August to mid-October.
    e. One of our goals is to mobilize more as a collective for issues pertaining to Black student well-being at McGill
    f. Worked with Committee Members to establish a more forward facing, and unified, approach for pro-Black activism on Campus. Discussed various approaches to meeting this goal through forums, knowledge mobilization, and further connecting Black faculty with students.

Potential Initiatives for Winter 2026

1. Book Launch (18 November, 2026)

a. The Black Affairs Portfolio—in collaboration with the McGill African Student Association and the Black Students' Network, with support from Professor David Austin—is organizing and hosting a book launch with author Kagiso Lesego Molope, a South African writer. The book launch will be hosted at Paragraphe Bookstore, centred around Molope's most recent novel *We Inherit the Fire*, a work on women and the anti-apartheid struggle.

2. Publishing of Black Student Guide
    a. The Black Student Guide will be made available electronically, with physical copies available as well. The guide will be sent to print soon and disseminated at the Black Affairs Wellness Event.
3. Black Student Wellness Finals Check-in Event (Date TBD: Between 23 November – 4 December)
    a. The Black Affairs Portfolio will be hosting an end of the semester Finals season check-in event. The event will provide Black students an opportunity to come and decompress before the exam season begins. With representatives from the wellness hub and the Black Psychology Student Association, the event hopes to offer different opportunities for students to connect with healthcare professionals and fellow students to receive insight on coping strategies during the busy time. The event aims to further dismantle the stigma around Black mental health. The event will also provide a space to disseminate the Black Student Guide alongside Finals care packages for attendees.
4. McGill Alum and Montreal Community Organizer Film Screening, Director Dialogue, and Community Circle (January 2027)
    a. The Black Affairs Portfolio will be hosting a film screening and conversation, exploring Black Montreal across generations through the works of two filmmakers. The event will feature full screenings of both films, followed by a moderated conversation between the two filmmakers, an audience Q&A, and an opportunity for reflection on the future through community dialogue circles.
5. Black Marketplace (February 2027)

a. The Black Affairs Portfolio intends to continue the now-annual Black Marketplace. This platform hosts Black businesses and nonprofits, providing a space to celebrate Black creativity, entrepreneurship, and community at McGill and within the broader Montreal community.

6. Developing the Black Affairs Portfolio's Online and Digital Presence
    a. The Black Affairs Portfolio will continue to update the Black Affairs Website, making it more accessible and working to ensure that all information present is accurate.
    b. Additionally, the Portfolio hopes to launch a Black Affairs Newsletter, consolidating all relevant information and opportunities for Black students into one biweekly listserv.
    c. Finally, in collaboration with the Equity Office, the Black Affairs Portfolio is working to create a centralized calendar for the shared Black student space to streamline operations.
7. Potential Black Graduate School and Career Fair / Conference (March)
    a. The Committee aims to host an academic mobilizing event for Black students in the Winter semester. This event will either manifest as a Black Graduate School and Career Fair or a Black Conference / Symposium.

General Announcements

1. The Committee is always looking for, and open to, groups looking to collaborate on initiatives for Black History Month. If your group is interested, please send an email to <blackaffairs@ssmu.ca>.