



# **Vice-President (University Affairs)**

## **Legislative Council Report [October 8, 2026]**

This month's work was organized around managing the chaos of the start of the school year and continuing projects that had begun earlier over the summer.

### **STAFF**

Every member of the University Affairs team is hired and onboarded! Many of the UA Commissioners tabled at Activities Night to generate interest and awareness for SSMU's advocacy mandate and related activities.

### **Black Affairs**

Coordinated communication between the Black Affairs Commissioner and the McGill Alumni Association to discuss a Film Screening event in late January. Highlighted this as a potential event with the Provost's office and gathered interest to gain momentum for planning. Assisted the Commissioner with managing the Black Equity Fund and the Black Affairs Committee, and recruited membership for the Committee.

### **Indigenous Affairs**

Helped the Indigenous Affairs Commissioner recruit members at large for the Indigenous Affairs Committee. Initiated discussions about the Indigenous Affairs Plan and a potential biweekly Indigenous market. Connected the Commissioner for a potential collaboration with the McGill Farmer's Market. Discussed the Indigenous Equity Scholarship with McGill Scholarships & Student Aid.

### **Gender & Sexuality**

Managed the distribution of QUIPS funding to a variety of individuals after a backup of applications since March. Coordinated with the Commissioner on a case-by-case basis and ensured that students were receiving both communication from the G&S portfolio and their funding in a timely manner.

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## **Wellness**

Discussed the potential of a campus-wide map illustrating the available First-Aid kits in campus buildings, and reached out to McGill Security Services to determine the potential of this project. Connected the Commissioner with the Campus Saves Lives Task Force to continue intercollegiate work on leaves of absence. Preliminary planning on Wellness themed events for the year: puppy yoga, arts&crafts night, etc. Answered some individual questions from students about PASL, healthcare options, accessibility to legal services, etc.

## **Open Education Resources**

Coordinated design and ordering of merch for distribution at Activities Night and for future tabling. Communicated with the Commissioner about attending relevant conferences and trainings and ensured proper funding for all initiatives. Brainstormed ideas about how to incentivize instructors to incorporate OER into their course design.

## **Menstrual Health Project**

Facilitated bonding for the Menstrual Health coordinators, ordered materials for tabling, placed orders for ULINE products and communicated with the Commissioner about offering menstrual cups through Diva. Initial discussions with the Commissioner about MHP events combining education and an activity, potentially period packing, decorating pouches, etc. Also discussing with the Commissioner the potential of collaborating with the Monthly Dignity group.

## **Library Improvement Fund**

Worked with Commissioner to assemble collection of ideas for the Fund and a google form to collect feedback from students. Discussed ideas with McGill Library Services to hear initial quotes and create proposals for a seat tracking platform, extended hours, improved library infrastructure, and enforcement of noise levels through better zone designated signage.

## **Student Rights Research & Advocacy**

Hired the Commissioner and onboarded earlier this week. Commissioner will help with recruiting for all of the UA advocacy committees and the McGill Committees.

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## Senate

Senate met on September 16th for the first time this year with comments and questions from at least six student Senators. Senate presented a Notice of Motion, and a few reports for review.

## Committees

All of the Senators have been appointed to at least one Committee and will report on their Committee appointments as relevant to Senate Caucus.

### My Committees

#### VP People & Culture Advisory Hiring Committee

- The Committee's work continues.

#### Mac Campus Task Force

- The task force and its sub-groups continue to meet and discuss the required steps for scaling the programs and services currently available at Mac to make room for expanded enrollment

#### Ad Hoc Senate Governance Committee

- The Committee had its first meeting in late September and will continue to meet to discuss the efficacy of Senate's current structure and that of its standing committees

#### Senate Nominating

- Populated the new Senate committee on AI and nominated student appointees to other Senate standing committees

#### Senate Steering

- Approved agenda items for each Senate and discussed the logistics of holding Senate at Mac Campus in October

## Advocacy Projects

All of the Senators are leading at least one Advocacy Project with some of the following diversity:

1. Food Insecurity, Leads: Frances & Rajan
  - a. Breakfast Grab & Go Program (Frances): free snacks & breakfast items available outside lecture halls from 8:15-9am.

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2. Harassment & Discrimination, Sexual Violence, Leads: Maja & Fadumo
  - a. Last year Caucus had some tough conversation on students reporting harassment cases about professors and how it was effectively a process that ended at the reporting stage and nothing else took place so we wanted to explore that further as the Policy Against Sexual Violence up for review this year.
3. Nursing Events/Engagement, Leads: Lu Tong
  - a. Nursing students often have busy schedules with classes and clinical placements, which can make it hard to attend campus events.
  - b. We want to hear what kinds of events nursing students would actually enjoy and what times would work for them.
  - c. We could explore easier ways for nursing students to connect with each other and with students across McGill.
4. Alumni relationships for MUSA, Lead: Liam
  - a. Goal of strengthening community and alumni connection to the school with potentially a donation aspect to raise money for student services affected by cuts, e.g. accompanist funding,
5. SAA, Lead: Andrea & Fadumo
  - a. Continuation of SAA related work from last year. There will be a needs assessment based on the surveys collected from last academic year, and an official report on results and conclusion. From there, we will take these findings to the SAA admin and find tangible solutions that work for everyone.

## **Trainings**

Senators were provided with a training on Argument Framing to prepare for future meetings with McGill units and senior administration.

## **VP Academic Roundtable**

The VP Academic Roundtable, with some of the faculty association Presidents, met with LICM to discuss AI at McGill. The results of the discussion were also brought up at the most recent Roundtable as it pertains to the Senate's new committee on AI. VP Acads were also reminded of the Strategic Academic Plan and asked to remind their constituents and fellow student leaders to fill it out and to join the focus groups. The Roundtable also discussed Wellness as a topic in the context of Teaching & Learning, reflecting on RLFs and that the existing gap is just about the helpfulness of the resources, not necessarily awareness. It was mentioned that students, particularly in the Faculty of Engineering, may be interested in helping McGill IT work on projects, especially with the Wellness Hub's new online

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booking system. The discussion also referenced the lack of community building and community engagement with Wellness Services at McGill and how mentorships might or might not fill that gap. The VP Academics also discussed the impact of budget cuts on their respective faculties, the possibility of including Lunch & Learns in faculty hiring processes, and the potential of a McGill-wide Masters Fair in future years. The Roundtable also provided an opportunity to share faculty-specific projects for knowledge sharing and areas for collaboration.

## Meetings with McGill

### Student Services

- Tabling: provided accurate and up-to-date information and ensuring consistency for both McGill and SSMU
- Student Wellness Hub: online booking system has been approved by McGill IT as a priority and is in the works!
- Scholarships & Student Aid: how can we alleviate the intimidation of asking for help and conversations about finances?
- Career Planning Services: myFuture and a potential McGill-wide calendar, as well as the Student Experience Record for student leaders and student committee appointees
- Campus Life & Engagement: mentorship and a labelling system for mentors to ensure that students can get help and advice with specific experiences
- Student Accessibility & Achievement: discussions on invigilators and how we might improve the systemic overburdening that hurts everyone
- International Student Services: discussed late arrivals and how we might ensure that even those who arrive late to McGill can still engage with one another and form connections

### Registrar/Enrollment Services

Convocation: balancing tradition with celebration— how can we make substantive changes to the structure of Convocation to respect the true audience?

Medical Notes/Leaves of Absence: software changes to Minerva to allow a tiered universal system for the University

Tour Guides: updating tour guide talking points to ensure accuracy and relevant details (ex. Lettuce Club, the Ginger Run)

Open House: shaping and understanding the purpose of Open House and other Enrollment events in the cycle of the admissions process.

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## **Athletics & Recreation**

Disruption from the Cycling event causing limited booking space and potential rearrangement of charity events. Accessibility in A&R is affected by the entire front facade of the building and cannot be redone until funding is brought for the building. HVAC and Memorial Pool need funding urgently!

## **Student Life & Learning**

Bill 9 effects: the University Centre is exempt under the law because according to McGill's legal interpretation, it is controlled by the SSMU which is a separate legal entity and does not fall under the public domain that McGill does. Other spaces at the University however have been impacted by the bill and despite being labeled as "quiet spaces" still can no longer be used for prayer.

The Code of Student Conduct: revisions to the Code as was required by last year's approval at Senate are underway.

Policy Against Sexual Violence: revisions were undertaken by a working group last semester and will be sent to Senate later this fall for a notice of motion and then an official motion.

## **General SSMU**

Events: Helped out with Movie Night, Activities Night, Community Engagement Day

Tabling: tabled at the front Kiosk of the University Center for at least 3 hours a week

Bike Rack: worked with Wallace to put a bike rack in the parking lot of the 3501 Office for staff to use.

Full-time Staff: Coordinating birthday celebration to appreciate full-time staff!