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.
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Gender & Sexuality Advocacy Committee Report

Submitted for: 2026/11/19

Members in Attendance & General Information

The Gender & Sexuality Advocacy Committee (GSAC) consists of the following:

Non-Voting Members:

- Gender & Sexuality Commissioner (Chair) – Minahil Shahzad
- Vice-President University Affairs – Meghan Lai
- Vice-President External Affairs – Harry Wang

Voting Members in Attendance:

- UGE – Miles Moyer
- QPIRG – Laurence Desjardins
- QPIRG – Hana Cass
- Member-at-Large – Alissa Gharzouzi
- Member-at-Large – Emma Gimbert
- Member-at-Large – Lucy Heras

Voting Members Absent:

- BSN
- Gender Equality Collective
- Indigenous Student Alliance
- Queer McGill

The main objectives of the Gender & Sexuality Advocacy Committee are to:

- Advocate for queer students on campus.
- Provide financial support to queer students through the QUIPS Fund.

Gender & Sexuality Advocacy Activity

Summer 2026

1. First Committee Meeting

a. The committee reached quorum and reviewed backlogged QUIPS and GAC Fund applications from the previous academic year. Over this time, we disbursed around $34000—providing support for 14 individuals through the QUIPS Fund and around $$12,766 – providing support for 9 individuals through the GAC Fund.

Fall 2026

1. September Committee Meeting

a. The committee met to discuss the QUIPS Fund and reached quorum with three members. Over this time, we disbursed around $8443.61—providing support for 4 individuals through the QUIPS Fund.

2. October Committee Meeting

a. The committee reached quorum with three members and discussed the QUIPS Fund, campus advocacy, ways to make QUIPS more accessible, and how the GAC Fund could support international students. Over this time, we disbursed around $2400—providing support for 1 individual through the QUIPS Fund.

Potential Initiatives for Winter 2027

1. Build Financial Support Beyond QUIPS
    a. Review how many queer and trans students QUIPS is reaching, particularly students who need financial support. Identify gaps in support given the current cumulative funding cap of $5,000.
    b. Bring a proposal for a trans student emergency bursary to SSAO in Winter 2027.
    c. Work with International Student Services (ISS) to support queer and trans international students who may face rejection or loss of family support. Explore sessions on navigating health insurance and campus resources.
    d. Identify referral pathways for immigration and refugee support, including for students whose home countries criminalize same-sex relationships or restrict gender expression.
2. Advance the Trans Advocacy Plan
    a. Review the Trans Advocacy Plan to identify priorities for Winter 2027. Work with IT Services to streamline how students update and display their chosen names across McGill systems.
3. Build Awareness of GSAC and QUIPS
    a. Use student group outreach and SSMU communications to explain what GSAC does, who can access QUIPS, and how to apply.

General Announcements

1. The Committee welcomes collaboration on gender and sexuality advocacy initiatives. If your group is interested, please email gsc@ssmu.ca.