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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Vice-President (University Affairs) Legislative Council Report [Nov 5, 2026]

Highlights of this month's report: planning and designing events, organizing finances, and facilitating the work of a variety of stakeholders.

STAFF

Many UA staff members have initiated plans for portfolio specific events which I have helped facilitate by providing contacts and connections and assigning action items and next steps.

Black Affairs

The Black Affairs Commissioner submitted a report on the Black Affairs Committee in mid-October and is continuing plans to organize the Film Screening event in January, with a Book Launch on Nov 18. The Commissioner has also communicated with the Committee to generate potential interest in a Black Career Fair and other events for the Black community. Working with the McGill Equity Office to support individuals and sits on the committee to approve funding for the McGill Black Impact Fund.

Indigenous Affairs

Held an Indigenous Affairs Committee meeting to approve funding, and is collaborating with the McGill Farmers Market to potentially begin work on our own Indigenous Market. Coordinating with the First People's House, McGill Office for First Nations and Inuit Education (OFNIE) and the McGill Office for Indigenous Initiatives to support Indigenous students.

Gender & Sexuality

Planning events to work with International Student Services and the Student Wellness Hub to encourage greater support for queer international students who may face additional cultural and familial challenges and barriers. Working on posts to promote QUIPS and Gender & Sexuality Advocacy through the University Affairs instagram. Preliminary review of the Trans Advocacy Plan to identify areas to improve and expand inclusion.

Wellness

Working with the Governance Affairs Coordinator to write motions for the Wellness Plan and the Wellness Fee to be presented at LC in the Fall and Winter semesters respectively. Collaborating with the Arts Science Senator on a project regarding the implementation of self-reported Wellness Days at the University. Continuing work to support individuals students and Puppy Yoga later in the Fall. Attended meetings with MORSL and other student services.

Open Education Resources

Tabling at the Redpath McLennan Library to encourage greater awareness. Attending the 2nd Canadian Open Science Conference in Ottawa to connect with open science folks in Canada, librarians and other OER initiatives and generate visibility on SSMU efforts. Brainstorming ideas to incentivize professors to use OER in their classrooms and courses. Connecting with the Open Science Advisor at McGill in the VP Research & Innovation's office.

Menstrual Health Project

Coordinating monthly pickups and weekly stocking in campus bathrooms. Creates and designs posts to promote awareness of the Project. Coordinates giveaways for monthly pickup, and is beginning to plan for educational and engagement based events (ex. Decorate your own pouch, make your own heating pack, Trivia Night) for early next semester.

Library Improvement Fund

Submitted a plebiscite question for consideration by the Legislative Council to ask the Membership about their preference on extended hours versus other improvement projects. Meeting with the Governance team to discuss options for an Ambassador program to replace the historically dysfunctional Committee. Also working with the Governance Affairs Coordinator to draft a Plan to guide the work of the Library Improvement Fund and the Commissioner to accomplish advocacy and funding work in a more strategic, thoughtful and intentional way.

Student Rights Research & Advocacy

Sent emails to every single student appointee to establish communication channel and expectations. Working with the Secretary General to plan the Student Appointee Workshops to be held in November, which will include trainings, opportunities for information sharing, and greater connection among representatives of the SSMU to McGill and Senate Committees.

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Senate

Senate met on October 21st at the Macdonald Campus for the first time in McGill's history. Senators reported on the Mac Campus Task Force, Horizon McGill, and participated in an Open Discussion on the University's new Strategic Academic Plan.

Committees

Senators will have the opportunity to engage further with their committees at the Student Appointee Workshops. All spots except for one are filled on this year's Senate Standing Committees.

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
- The task force is meant to present its recommendations by the December Senate.

Ad Hoc Senate Governance Committee

- The Committee met with the chairs and secretaries of each of the Senate Standing Committees to hear their feedback and insight on the efficacy of Senate Standing Committee structure and organization.
- Sent out surveys to Senators and to Senate Standing Committee members

Senate Nominating

- Considered an amendment to the Academic Policy Committee Terms of Reference

Senate Steering

- Approved agenda items for November Senate

Advocacy Projects

Updates on the Senators' Advocacy Projects

1. Food Insecurity, Leads: Frances & Rajan

a. Breakfast Grab & Go Program is expanding to other faculties, with consideration on financing and staff capacity building

2. Harassment & Discrimination, Sexual Violence, Leads: Maja, Fadumo and Demi
    a. The Policy Against Sexual Violence is set to be presented with its revisions to Senate this fall. Requests for the Student Senators and VP Academics to be consulted have been continually sent out.
3. Mid-Term Course Evaluations, Leads: Amy & Demi
    a. Met with Teaching & Academic Programs (TAP) and the Office for Science Education (OSE) to hear feedback and consultation
    b. Each senator received feedback from their faculty association and are tasked with taking the proposal to their Faculty Councils

Senator Transitions

The Management Senator has recently switched roles in the MUS to be the new VP Academic. The MUS will elect a new Senator to fill the empty spot. The Engineering Senator recently forwarded notice of resignation, but will stay in the interim to help transition the next Senator hired by the EUS.

VP Academic Roundtable

The Roundtable invited Chris Buddle and Nicole Li-Jessen, Deputy Provost (Academic) and Academic Lead in the Provost's Office respectively, to discuss the SAP as part of their larger consultations. VP Acads asked questions regarding the accountability of the SAP, strategies for outreach into the student population, and ensuring actionability once the SAP is implemented. The Roundtable will invite Chris Buddle back in the Winter to discuss PASL revisions. Further, VP Academics shared their initiatives in their faculties this year, including Career Fairs, curriculum software, graduate relations, and potential implementation of Lunch&Learns (or something similar) in Faculty hiring processes.

Meetings with McGill

Student Services

- Geography: Google Maps has incorrectly marked the "Brown Student Services Building" at the 3501 rue Peel office, which has caused confusion for many students and resulted in numerous individuals daily being redirected to the correct building.

- Student Wellness Hub: Project manager assigned (IT system implementer), and are officially on the books and within a few months will have strong visibility for when launch of online booking system will happen. Clarified how the online booking system will add to prescheduled appointments and greater accessibility for students.

Registrar/Enrollment Services

Discussed University Calendar for Academic Dates to determine potential solutions for Reading Break and examination period. Discussed potential solutions for course waitlists and impact on course registration and new section openings.

Athletics & Recreation

Collaborated with A&R on the Homecoming Tailgate/Fan Fest which was hosted on October 24th behind the Stadium. Many vendors showed up and the turnout was great!

Student Life & Learning

Transportation: incorporating the UPass model into Montreal Universities and received support from the Associate Provost office and the President.
Future Events: discussed francofete, winter social in collaboration with CL&E, and other opportunities for students to engage with Quebec culture and the french language.
Connecting with Student Hospitality and Housing Services through the SLL office.

General SSMU

Events: Helped out with Student Group Workshops, 4Floors, and the Tailgate
Tabling: tabled at the front Kiosk of the University Center
Staff Appreciation: coordinating birthday celebrations for the full-time staff and a Mac&Cheese cook-off to celebrate "SSMUs-giving" with the General Manager.