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SENATE CAUCUS REPORT
OCTOBER 10-OCTOBER 24, 2016

RENE IWO (SSMU UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS SECRETARY GENERAL)
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Senate Caucus
The Senators attended the October Senate Meeting on Wednesday, October 19, 2016.

The MacDonald Campus Students' Society (MCSS) has recently elected Jade Corriveau as their VP University Affairs. She will be the MCSS Senator, representative to the McGill Board of Governors, as well as a member of SSMU Senate Caucus.

Main points from Tuesday, October 11 Caucus Meeting:

- Discussed the Cyclical Unit Review for McGill Human Resources and Enrolment Services. Erin (VP University Affairs) sits on the review committee. Senators have compiled a survey to gather more data about the unit review.
- Discussed the deferred exam policy pilot, in which students in most faculties are now able to have the first exam deferral request of their degree approved without having to submit supporting documentations. This pilot appears to have been communicated poorly.
- Shannon Snow (Law Senator) will submit a question on the issues surrounding the new McGill Bookstore.

Main points from Monday, October 17 Caucus Meeting:

- Postgraduate Students' Society (PGSS) Senators Victor Frankel and Nicholas Dunn attended this meeting.
- Dean of Students Chris Buddle came in for a Q&A session. In light for his recent appointment as the Dean of Students (since August 2016), we discussed:
    - How he's adjusting to the role downtown
    - His overall role and vision for the Office of the Dean of Students
    - His involvement and opinions about the Policy against Sexual Violence and how he plans to handle sexual assault cases in general
    - His ideas about how to communicate with students
    - His plans regarding accommodation policies
- Reviewed the documents for the Senate meeting on Wednesday, Oct 19, 2016.

To read the minutes of each Senate Caucus meeting, please email me at uasecgen@ssmu.mcgill.ca.

Communications

- We officially launched the University Affairs website. Check it out for the most up to date information regarding the Senators and committee representatives, as well as regular blog posts to bring you updates about affairs concerning academics, Senate, relations with Admin, library, equity, and research.

CASARINA HOCEVAR (ARTS SENATOR)

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Committees:
Nothing to report, y'all.

AUS Council:
Due to a conflict I was unable to attend last meeting on Oct. 19th, however Senator Charles was present. Next AUS Council is Nov. 2.

Miscellaneous:
Senate Dow and I have put together a feedback form regarding Enrolment Services, which can be found here: https://goo.gl/forms/PgtJPM2X10ZEhCv83

I am still collecting feedback regarding textbooks costs and accessibility. Especially in need of feedback from the following faculties: education, social work, medicine, music and management. The survey is available here: https://goo.gl/forms/RwruUMJ75il7cK852

WILLIAM CLEVELAND (ARTS SENATOR)

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University Affairs Committee:

- Know Your Rights website review and redesign
- Reaching out to individual Arts departments to centralize assessment evaluation policies

CSS
Status quo. Next meeting: November 9th

SSAP
No meetings yet. First meeting: October 28th

Senate

- First discussion on draft Sexual Violence Policy
    - Short discussion focusing mainly on support of the policy or smaller logistical concerns
- University Advancement annual report was given
    - Plans set for future fundraising in line with 2020 vision

SSMU Council

Unable to attend this past week. Alexander Dow went in my stead.

Last week's Council:

- Notices of two motions concerning free access to menstrual products for all McGill students that require them
- Presentation of SSMU's audited financial statements from the last fiscal year
- Council voted to support AMUSE in their bargaining efforts with the University
- Most of the debate concerned the provision of a minimum wage of $15 an hour

CHARLES KEITA (ARTS SENATOR)

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Subcommittee on Racialized and Ethnic Persons (SCREP):

- Questioning the position the Fam-Care subcommittee as it relates to the definitions associated with equity on campus.
- Ad Hoc Working Group on Systemic Discrimination report showed that 75% of tenure/tenure track professors at McGill identify as white. This asks whether there are shortcomings in the hiring process or evaluation process that undercuts those in marginalized groups.
- Push for an online course on Equity similar to the course on Academic Integrity, in which all would be required to participate.

Committee on Enrollment and Student Affairs (CESA):

- Accommodation made to students in religious studies achieving a Bachelors of Theology who are taking courses off campus in pursuit of a (priest degree?). Whereby these students were previously considered part-time students because they took below the required 12 credits, they will now be considered full-time students and be eligible for scholarship

AUS Council:

- Voted to support AMUSE (Association of McGill University Support Employees) Collective Bargaining.
- Discuss other uses for the AUS technology fee which has gone untouched in the past 5 year.

AUS-Library Partnership Committee:

- Any library improvement plan should be future proof as the accommodate the Fiat Lux concept.

GUY ETTLIN (ARTS & SCIENCE SENATOR)

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Subcommittee on Undergraduate Student Advising (SUSA):
See Mitchel Russo's report.

Bachelor of Arts and Science Integrative Council (BASiC):
I met with Peter Barry to discuss ideas for better advising for Arts&Sci students, which I will communicate to BASiC at the next assembly. Regular meetings with SOUSA are anticipated.

Subcommittee on Courses and Teaching Programs (SCTP):
Cancelled due to a lack of business.

AMANDA MONTAQUE (EDUCATION SENATOR)

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Meeting with President of Education Undergraduate Society (EdUS):
I met with the President of EdUS, Natalie Pepiot, earlier this week to discuss what is happening in the Education Faculty. They are currently working on adding new mandatory courses to the undergraduate teaching programs. Those include:

- First Nations Class
- How to Teach Sexual Education Class in the Elementary and Secondary School Context

Also of import was the Education Faculty's strong support for Free Menstrual Product Campaign in contact with Ben Ger. We also discussed the general increase of Education fees.

I will be meeting with EdUS this Monday, Oct. 24 to discover more about what initiatives are being started and supported in the Education Faculty. Will also discuss renovation priorities of learning labs or parent counselling spaces.

Course Evaluations Advisory Group (CEAG):
We had a meeting, where there were general introductions and a short report on the status of course evaluations. Main Initiatives:

- Improvement of comments flagging for inappropriateness and "odiousness"

- Encourage more student participation
- Deletion of hateful comments based on identity

ALEXANDER DOW (ENGINEERING SENATOR)

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APC (Academic Policy Committee):
SQ. APC for October 27th cancelled, next meeting November 17th.

UTLWG (University Teaching Lab Working Group):
SQ. UTLWG for November 7th cancelled, next meeting December 15th,
Call for proposals due on December 1st.

UHSC (University Health and Safety Committee):
SQ. Next meeting November 7th.
Smoking Policy Town-Hall October 26th

SLWG (Sustainable Lab Working Group):
Meeting October 20th 2016, discussed the following:

1. New Laboratory Safety Checklist Finalization
2. Student Training in Sustainable Lab Management (Senator Taylor and I are set to examine the possibility of organizing a student committee with representation from different faculties)
3. Laboratory Waste Management Discussion
4. Vision 2020 Update
5. Capital Asset Steering Committee

Next Meeting December 1st

SSMU – SSPN (Student Society Programming Network):

1. **4FLOORS: October 27th**
   BUY YOUR TICKETS BEFORE IT'S TOOK LATE: LAST CHANCE
   https://www.facebook.com/events/1230132317037730/
2. **General Assembly: November 7th**
   SSPN members will be staffing the General Assembly

SSMU – Council:
Went in the place of Senator Cleveland for October 20th Council.

1. Approved a variety of referenda including the Midnight Kitchen and CKUT Existence, Free for Feminine hygiene products.

2. Presentation from Malcolm McClintock, VP Communications of the EUS and Library Fund Commissioner on the Library Improvement Fund.
3. Not much new in the reports of executives due to last meeting being only one week earlier.

New Business: UA (University Advancement)
Met with Shana Szikman, Associate Director of Student and Young Alumni Programs, after the report from Marc Weinstein's presentation to Senate last week and addressed concerns about student involvement in the University Advancement processes.
Discussed increasing transparency of figures for UA, the formation and members of MASEC, ways to increase UA's effectiveness and the needs of students.

EUS (Engineering Undergraduate Society) - COUNCIL Next is October 26th
Motion to be presented asking for EUS Endorsement to conduct the Engineering Senator Election through Engineering's electoral system (Axolotl) versus the current system with SSMU (SimplyVoting). Draft can be found here.

SHANNON SNOW (LAW SENATOR)

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Mental Health Service Advisory Board:
Had first meeting with Nancy Low (Clinical Director of Mental Health Service).

Subcommittee on First Peoples:
No updates.

Charter on Student Rights Advisory Board:
No updates.

ALEXANDRE PERRON (MANAGEMENT SENATOR)

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No report submitted.

JOSHUA CHIN (MEDICINE SENATOR)

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Detailed report here.

Senate Committees:

Advisory Committee for the Selection of a Vice-Principal (Research & Innovation)

- SQ. Currently in the process of shortlisting candidates.
- Next meeting on Nov 7, 2016.

Academic Policy Committee (APC)

- APC meeting on Oct 13, 2016.
    - Presentation by Dr. David Eidelman (Dean of Medicine) on the proposed School of Population and Global Health for Senate approval.
- Next meeting on Oct 27, 2016 cancelled.

SSMU Legislative Council (as Senate Caucus Representative):

- Legislative Council meeting on Oct 13, 2016.
    - Discussion on AMUSE endorsement, including questions re: the SSMU's position on 15$ minimum wage.
    - Presented motion re: election of Medicine and Nursing Senators, approved unanimously.
- Legislative Council meeting on Oct 20, 2016.
    - Presentation by Library Improvement Fund.
    - Approval of Free Menstrual Hygiene Products Policy.
    - Approval of council-initiated referendum questions.
- Next meeting on Nov 3, 2016.

SSMU Committees (as Senate Caucus Representative):

- **Finance Committee**
    - SQ
    - No planned meeting to date.

MITCHEL RUSSO (MUSIC SENATOR)

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Subcommittee on Undergraduate Student Advising (SUSA):

The Committee met on October 11 in James 301 to discuss the following:

- Policy Proposals & Updates

  - The idea was brought of adjusting evening exams to a 6:30 start time to help alleviate the time constraints between the afternoon and evening exams. This proposal is still in early stages of discussion and brought up by Kathleen Massey (McGill Registrar) at the APC meeting.
- Deferred Exam Policy Pilot
  - The faculties are unsure about how this will be communicated (faculty level or university level)
  - The question has been passed onto Enrollment Services regarding how this will be communicated. SUSA will be working with enrollment services regarding this. Our goal will be to have all information online for easier access
- Feedback on the Outdoor Advising Day
  - We've seen an increase in numbers from last year regarding general advising questions.
  - This year there were more mechanical questions (i.e. registration, courses not open for registration yet, pre-reqs etc.) than advising topics.
  - Our overall goal of Ask an Advisor is to triage students and provide them with assistance before going to their Student Affairs Office. This is to help alleviate congestion on student affairs offices.

Subcommittee on Teaching and Learning (STL):

- Nothing to report at this time
- Next meeting will be Tuesday November 8 at 2pm

Subcommittee on Queer People (SQP):

- Update on Preferred Names
  - Angela Campbell is behind us on this issue and she has voiced frustrations with the holds up we've been experiencing. Things are being held up by HR on the faculty side and IT on the student side
  - We will be moving forward and filing a grievance on this issue as a subcommittee
- Trans Health Update
  - Hormones for Trans Students are available at the Health Clinic from Dr. Pereira, as well there is quite a lot of movement in both the Health Services and Mental Health Services
  - Our goal is to draft a policy on Queer & Trans Health by the end of the current
- Return to the Rainbow Event
  - October 29 in a 5 a 7 style in Thompson House, open to all students, faculty and staff. Everyone is welcome to attend!
- Queer Issues Forum

  - Tentatively we have set a date for November 7 in a 5 a 7 style in the Thompson House basement
  - We hope to get key issues of what people are experiencing on campus by create a safe space where people can speak out about their encounters (i.e. classroom or administration issues etc.)
- Interim Chair for Winter 2017 Term
  - The subcommittee is still looking for someone to take over for our current chair, Dr. Lynn Kozak during the Winter 2017 term

Music Undergraduate Student Association (MUSA):

- Community Music Therapy Outreach
  - The President and VP External are looking to implement at an outreach program for residents of a Ukrainian Retirement Home
  - We would have open concerts where students can perform for residents also it was brought to our attention some residents have their own instruments so we were thinking of 1 on 1 opportunities
  - Currently the council is looking into transportation costs for participants (Beaubien Metro) and possible funding
- Implementation of Fountains
  - I personally met with the Head Library of the Marvin Duchow Music library, Cynthia Leive, to propose the idea of having water fountains installed. She was on board with the idea and we are in the very early stages of collecting information for how plausible this project would be
  - More information will be available on this project as it becomes available

SEAN TAYLOR (SCIENCE SENATOR)

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Enrolment and Student Affairs Advisory Committee (ESAAC):
Nothing to report.

Teaching and Learning Spaces Working Group (TLSWG):
Meeting was cancelled, next meeting is in November. The submissions from the form put out will be sent to the group before the November 8 deadline for repair requests.

Sustainable Labs Working Group (SLWG):

- Lab safety checklist additions on sustainability were passed and are in line with Vision 2020.
- Will begin the process of establishing system to train student lab staff on sustainable practices.

- Also looking into a student level sustainable labs initiative/reporting method to improve the sustainability level in the teaching labs.
- Also looking into the recycling practices of labs and the recycling of non-hazardous plastics in different buildings.
- Also looking to streamline or at least have more efficient manner for recycling of the different streams/materials to be recycled, primarily uncontaminated plastics, compost, bulky waste (furniture), autoclave waste, animal waste, and regular recyclables.
- Also looking into tracking and maintenance database development for capital assets on campus.

Senate:

- Was held on the 19th, could not attend due to a midterm.
- First draft of Sexual Violence Policy was discussed, along with other reports and documents.

SUS Council:

- At the October 12th meeting, passed the 2016-2017 budget.
- Yearly audit has already been carried out.

ERIN SOBAT (SSMU VP UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS)

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BEN VAN DER GER (SSMU PRESIDENT)

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As SSMU Executives, Erin Sobat and Ben van der Ger reports to the SSMU Legislative Council every two weeks. Their reports can be found among the other Council Meeting documents at this link.

Their most recent reports were published on October 20. For Erin's report, please click here. For Ben's report, please click here.