Office of Vice-President (University Affairs)
Tel: (514) 398-6797 | ua@ssmu.mcgill.ca
3600 McTavish St., Suite 1200, Montréal, QC H3A 0G3
Located on unceded, Kanien'kehá:ka traditional territory

REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT (UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS)

OCTOBER 13, 2016

INTRODUCTION

Registration for the 2nd Annual Student Academic Summit has been extended until this Wednesday, October 12th at 11:59PM. Sign up here to benefit from our many insightful speakers and presentations!

Other important developments in the University Affairs portfolio include:

- Release of a SSMU-PGSS report on the draft McGill *Policy Against Sexual Violence*;
- Consultation surveys on classroom repairs, textbook costs, and international health insurance;
- Launch of a survivor-led campaign for Quebec legislation on campus sexual assault policies.

UNIVERSITY & ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

SENATE & UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Senate & Board of Governors

- Presented to the McGill Board of Governors regarding SSMU on Thursday, October 6th
- Next Senate meeting on Wednesday, October 19th:
    - Submitted questions regarding bookstore relocation & regulation of unpaid internships
    - Discussing draft *Policy Against Sexual Violence* & reports of Working Group on Systemic Discrimination, Committee on Physical Development, University Advancement
- Upcoming Senate Caucus guests: Chris Buddle (Dean of Students), Angela Campbell (Associate Provost of Policies, Procedures & Equity), Christopher Manfredi (Provost)

University Committees

- Enrolment & Student Affairs Advisory Committee (ESAAC) met last Tuesday, October 4th; discussed Add-Drop timeline, deferred exam schedule; new degree-mapping software; and more
- Next Academic Policy Committee (APC) meeting this Thursday, October 13th
- Next Undergraduate Skills Program Steering Committee meeting this Friday, October 14th

- McGill Commitment Steering Committee meeting next Thursday, October 20th
- Sitting on review committees for Human Resources (Oct 24-26) & Enrolment Services (Nov 9-11)

Student Life & Learning

- Met with Dean of Students on Monday, October 3rd to discuss Faculty accommodation policies
- Met with Deputy Provost (Student Life & Learning) on Thursday, October 6th to discuss building renovations, Student Services, & Memorandum of Agreement negotiations
- Providing senator feedback on draft *University-Wide Health & Wellness Strategy* for November

Student Services

- Committee on Student Services (CSS) met last Wednesday, October 5th; discussed Terms of Reference, calendar of business, advisory board structure & service integration plans
- Academic Matters Working Group met last Wednesday, October 5th; converting to Student Life & Learning program development committee (conducting environmental scan of current offerings)
- Awaiting announcement regarding Senior Director of Student Services position

Libraries

- First Library Improvement Fund Committee (LIFC) meeting last Wednesday, September 28th
- Meeting with Library administration this Wednesday, October 12th; discussing issues including student employnent funding, operating budget information & student prayer space
- Next LIFC meeting this Wednesday, October 12th; discussing October consultation campaign

ASSOCIATION RELATIONS

Faculty & Department Associations

- Promoting Student Academic Summit as knowledge-building opportunity for Faculty & Department association executives
- Met with EUS President on Friday, September 30th regarding advocacy priorities & support
- Distributing information on 2016-2017 cyclical unit reviews to department reps

Unions & Professional Associations

- Worked with Inter-Union Council to draft letter regarding concerns with scheduled review of Human Resources (committee membership, review schedule, consultation priorities, etc).
- McGill Communities Council met Tuesday, October 4th; discussed Board of Governors reform; 360-degree performance reviews; open 311 system; HR unit review; and more
- Drafted Legislative Council motion to endorse AMUSE collective bargaining priorities

University & Academic Affairs Goals – Fall 2016

- ~~Fill all seats on university committees~~
- Implement senator alternate pool for McGill committees
- ~~Goal-setting meetings with every senator~~
- Host 2nd annual Student Academic Summit
- Submit question at every Senate meeting
- Memorandum of Agreement signed

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ADVOCACY & RESEARCH

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

McGill Policy Against Sexual Violence

- Draft *Policy Against Sexual Violence* to be presented at October 19th Senate meeting alongside report on community consultations, initial proposed revisions
- Released consultation report with 24 recommendations in six categories: Language & Framing, Scope, Empowering Survivors, Education & Awareness, Support Resources, Accountability
- Meeting with Associate Provost thisFriday, October 14th regarding recommendations

McGill Ad-Hoc Committee to Review the Charter of Student Rights

- SQ – Priorities include stronger language on accommodations, disability & intersectionality; ensuring consistency with other policies; improving students' awareness of their rights
- Next meeting on Thursday, October 27th to begin revising text

Unpaid Internships Policy

- Met with Career Planning Service (CaPS) on Wednesday, October 5th; meeting with Arts Internship Office (AIO) next Tuesday, October 18th; may meet with other Faculty offices as-needed
- Submitted question regarding regulation of unpaid internships for October 20th Senate meeting
- Presentation on background research at next Legislative Council (Thursday, October 20th), followed by draft policy framework for student consultation

McGill Smoking Policy

- McGill working group drafting policy for transition to a smoke-free campus, based on consultation results & requirements outlined in SSMU *Smoking on Campus Policy*
- Town Hall scheduled for Tuesday, October 25th from 2:30-4:30PM, Redpath Museum Auditorium

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Alternative Campus Histories

- SQ – Integrating timeline content & visuals into new University Affairs website

First Generation Student Support

- Reviewing researcher's draft report; hope to release publicly by next week!

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Charter Case

- Academic Research Commissioner is currently following up with respondents & conducting targeted outreach beyond Arts, Science, Engineering (still accepting submissions here)
- Comments will also contribute to unit review of Enrolment Services (early November)

Know Your Rights

- University Affairs Committee (UAC) currently reviewing Student Rights website (www.ssmu.ca/studentrights) to develop improvements for January campaign
- Creating structure for inventory of Faculty- and department-level assessment policies (possible collaboration between University Affairs Committee & McGill Academic Roundtable)

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Advocacy & Research Goals – Fall 2016

- ~~Re-launch Student Rights website~~
- ~~Host Add-Drop "Know Your Rights" campaign~~
- Submit charter case on academic accommodations
- Sexual Violence Policy approved at Senate
- Fall Reading Break approved at Senate
- Unpaid Internships Policy approved at Legislative Council
- Launch Alternative Histories Timeline
- Release First Generation Students Research Report

EQUITY

SSMU EQUITY

Equity Policy Revisions

- SQ – Compiling revisions for consultation & November Legislative Council (two readings)
- Addressing issues with scope, accessibility of process, conflicts of interest scenarios, etc

Equity Committee

- Next meeting this Wednesday, October 12th; discussing anti-cultural appropriation campaign, speaker series, Commissioner projects & more
- Other initiatives include Minerva equity tutorial; feedback on Equity Policy revisions; consultation on SSMU initiatives (governance reform, equitable hiring policy, etc)

Equity Advocacy Network

- SQ – Compiled contact list of campus equity committees & relevant student groups; will be reaching out about potential support needs & advocacy priorities
- Hoping to organize roundtable meeting of campus equity groups in October or November

Accessibility & Universal Design (UD) Advocacy

- SQ – Will be meeting with Simone (Equity Commissioner) & others regarding project priorities
- Organizing meeting of student reps on capital funding committees to discuss UD standards
- Meeting with Director of Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) on Monday, October 17th regarding new Universal Design for Learning (UDL) toolkit

Racialized Student Support Resources

- SQ – Submitted letter of support for proposed Community Manager, Racialized & Ethnic Students
- Marilyn (Equity Commissioner) met with Mental Health Services to discuss closed WRAP groups
- Will be organizing meeting to discuss formalizing a racialized student mentorship program

INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Indigenous Solidarity Policy

- Meeting with Indigenous students this Friday, October 14th to discuss concerns with notice of seizure motion for Fall General Assembly
- Hope to further discuss building Indigenization with IA Commissioner & Executives

Provost's Task Force on Indigenous Education

- Supporting Indigenous community mobilization for retraction of new "territory acknowledgment"
- Meeting this Tuesday, October 10th between student representatives on related university committees; discussing Task Force process, issues & priorities for this year

Equity Goals – Fall 2016

- Equity Policy revisions approved at Legislative Council
- ~~Identify "Equity Advocacy Network" groups~~
- Host roundtable meeting of campus equity groups
- ~~Host Consent Week panel on power dynamics~~
- Implement UD standards in capital funding committees
- Establish POC-only WRAP group(s)
- Implement improved McGill territory acknowledgment

SSMU-WIDE

GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Governance Documents

- Bringing Notice of Motion to add Member-at-Large provisions from repealed Accountable Leadership Policy to revised Internal Regulations of Governance
- Working with President & legal counsel to finalize revised Conflict of Interest Policy
- Waiting to hear back from LSA about striking a Judicial Board Review Committee
- Working with President on formalized equitable hiring process for SSMU

Provincial Representation

- AVEQ Members' Assembly met October 8th–9th at Concordia University; next meeting in January
- Discussed international health insurance, mobilization camp, sexual violence advocacy, housing cooperatives, anti-oppression mandates, regional impacts of austerity cuts, Quebec Council of Universities, democratization of research data & much more
- Did not elect new General Coordinator, but mandated increased support from participating associations as well as more flexible job description for recruitment
- Obtained support for *Québec Contres les Violences Sexuelles*, a new survivor-led campaign for provincial legislation on university sexual assault policies
- Mobilization Camp (October 21st –23rd) open for registration at www.aveqcamp.ca!

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

University Affairs Website

- SQ – Updating content including bios, committee listing, research reports, blog posts & more
- Launching officially at Student Academic Summit this Saturday!

University Affairs Social Media

- Sharing lots of event & consultation opportunities for students (as well as administrator salaries)

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- Broke 400 likes on the SSMU University Affairs Facebook page

Student Experience Survey

- SQ – Need to discuss further with Executive Committee & President's Secretary General
- Currently planned for November (coinciding with Fall referendum period)

SSMU-Wide Goals – Fall 2016

- Conflict of Interest Policy revisions approved
- ~~Accountability Policy & Committee revisions approved~~
- ~~Launch new University Affairs Listserv~~
- 500 like count on SSMU University Affairs Facebook page
- ~~500 like count on SSMU Equity Facebook page~~
- Launch new University Affairs website
- Conduct new Student Experience Survey

Cheers,

Erin Sobat
Vice-President (University Affairs)
Office Hours: Thursdays 10AM-12PM