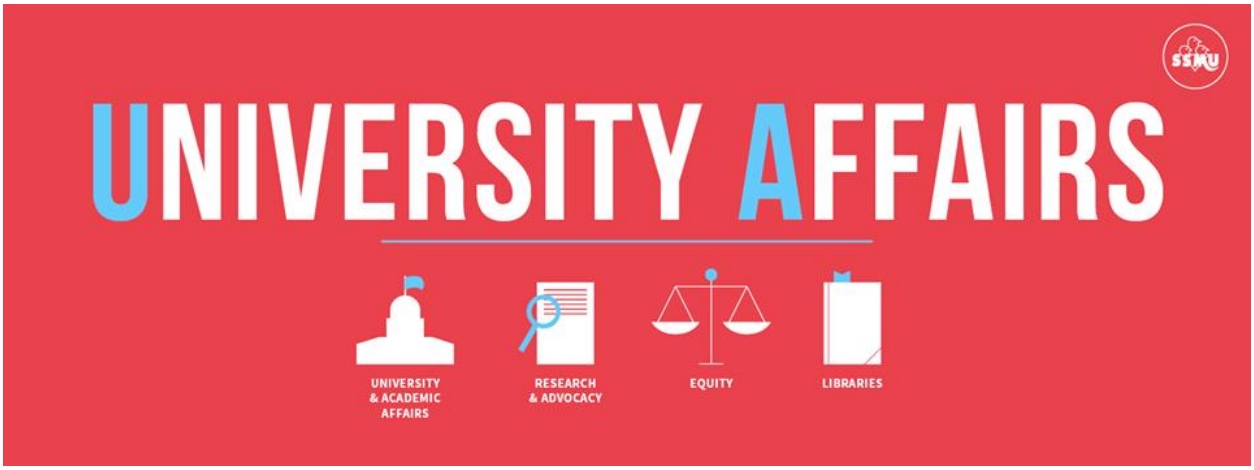
Office of the Vice-President (University Affairs)
Tel: (514) 398-6797 | ua@ssmu.mcgill.ca
3600 McTavish St., Suite 1200, Montréal, QC H3A 0G3
Located on unceded, Kanien'kehá:ka traditional territory

REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT (UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS)

OCTOBER 20, 2016



INTRODUCTION

We're pleased to announce the launch of our brand-new website, www.ssmu.ca/ua. Check it out for portfolio updates & other useful resources on student representation, research, and advocacy!

UNIVERSITY & ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

SENATE & UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Senate

- Next Senate meeting this Wednesday, October 19th:
  - Asked question regarding relocation of the McGill Bookstore
  - 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

- Academic Policy Committee (APC) met last Thursday, October 13th; discussed annual reports & new School of Population & Global Health
- Undergraduate Skills Program Steering Committee met last Friday, October 14th; discussed program structure & objectives
- McGill Commitment Steering Committee meeting this Thursday, October 20th
- Next Enrolment & Student Affairs Advisory Committee (ESAAC) on Tuesday, November 1st
- Sitting on review committees for Human Resources (Oct 24-26) & Enrolment Services (Nov 9-11)
  - Students are invited to give feedback about Enrolment Services on Thursday, November 10th between 9:15-10:00AM or 3:50-4:30pm (MS55, Service Point)

Office of the 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

Student Life & Learning

- Met with Deputy Provost (Student Life & Learning) & Principal Fortier on Thursday, October 13th; discussed biking on campus, student mental health, & tuition deregulation

Student Services

- New Senior Director of Student Services announced: Martine Gauthier will begin in January!
    - Cara Piperni (Director of Scholarships & Student Aid) will take over interim role
- Meeting with Director of Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) on Monday, October 17th regarding new Universal Design for Learning (UDL) toolkit
- Next Committee on Student Services (CSS) meeting on Wednesday, November 9th; receiving presentations from working group chairs for cyclical review recommendations
- Next Academic Matters Working Group meeting TBD; converting to SLL program committee

Libraries

- Met with Dean of Libraries last Wednesday, October 12th; discussed student employment funding, Library operating budget, Fiat Lux project & student prayer space
- Library Improvement Fund Committee (LIFC) met last Wednesday, October 12th to discuss project ideas & plan whiteboard & tabling consultations

ASSOCIATION RELATIONS

Faculty & Department Associations

- Met with First-Year Council VP Student Affairs regarding project ideas on Thursday, October 13th
- Hosted Student Academic Summit for student reps on Saturday, October 15th
- Still distributing information on 2016-2017 cyclical unit reviews to department reps
- Next McGill Academic Roundtable (MART) meeting on Thursday, October 27th

Unions & Professional Associations

- Next Inter-Union Council meeting this Tuesday, October 18th; discussing cyclical review feedback & draft *Policy Against Sexual Violence* recommendations
- Wrote statement on Legislative Council endorsement of AMUSE collective bargaining
- Meeting with unions & other groups on Friday, October 28th regarding Sexual Violence Policy
- Next McGill Communities Council on Tuesday, November 1st

University & Academic Affairs Goals – Fall 2016

- ~~Fill all seats on university committees~~
- ~~Goal-setting meetings with every senator~~
- ~~Host 2nd annual Student Academic Summit~~
- Submit union feedback for Human Resources review
- Submit student feedback for Enrolment Services review
- Memorandum of Agreement signed
- Make first round of Library Improvement Fund allocations
- Submit question at every Senate meeting

Office of the 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

ADVOCACY & RESEARCH

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

McGill Policy Against Sexual Violence

- Draft *Policy Against Sexual Violence* will be presented at Senate this Wednesday, October 19th, including initial proposed revisions & SSMU-PGSS consultation report
- Met with Associate Provost & Dean of Students on Friday, October 14th about recommendations
- Further meetings include Dean of Students (October 17th), Provost & Associate Provost (October 24th), unions & associations (October 28th) & consultants (November 3rd & 4th)

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
- Meeting next Thursday, October 27th to begin revising sections

Unpaid Internships Policy

- Meeting with Arts Internship Office (AIO) this Tuesday, October 18th to discuss mandate
- In response to proposed Senate question, Provost is reviewing current internship postings to ensure legal compliance; results will be shared at November 23rd Senate meeting
- Presenting to Council on background research this Thursday, October 20th; will be followed by draft policy for student consultation in November

McGill Smoking Policy

- Working group drafting smoke-free campus policy based on 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 end of month!

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Charter Case

- Currently following up with respondents & developing case structure (still accepting submissions here, particularly from outside of Arts & Science)
- Comments will also contribute to unit review of Enrolment Services (early November)

Know Your Rights

- University Affairs Committee (UAC) is developing improvements for Student Rights website, including clearer language, details on other policies & more Faculty-specific resources
- Creating structure for inventory of Faculty- and department-level assessment policies (possible collaboration between University Affairs Committee & McGill Academic Roundtable)

Office of the 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

Advocacy & Research Goals – Fall 2016

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

EQUITY

SSMU EQUITY

Equity Policy Revisions

- Meeting with Equity Commissioner this Thursday, October 20th to review revised structure; plan to submit revisions for November Legislative Council meetings (two readings)
- Addressing issues with scope, accessibility of process, conflicts of interest scenarios, etc.

Equity Committee

- Met last Wednesday, October 12th; discussed cultural appropriation workshop & other event ideas
- Developing more advocacy opportunities for members-at-large (e.g. around course content)
- 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 for 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

Racialized Student Support Resources

- SQ – McGill Mental Health Education Coordinator is developing closed POC WRAP groups
- Will be organizing meeting to discuss formal racialized student mentorship program

INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Indigenous Solidarity Policy

- Met with committee representatives on Wednesday, October 10th to discuss issues with McGill "territory acknowledgment" & consultation plans for Task Force
- Met with Indigenous students on Friday, October 14th to discuss concerns with titleholders motion at Fall General Assembly
- Hope to continue discussions on University Centre art project & Indigenization plan

Office of the 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

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)
- Develop improved McGill territory acknowledgment

SSMU-WIDE

GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Governance Documents

- Created Judicial Board Review Committee at Board of Directors meeting on October 11th
- Working with President to revise Conflict of Interest Policy & formalize equitable hiring process

Provincial Representation

- Attending AVEQ Mobilization Camp this weekend (October 21st –23rd); register at aveqcamp.ca!
- Working on AVEQ endorsement of demands from *Québec Contres les Violences Sexuelles*

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

University Affairs Website

- Launched officially at Student Academic Summit this past Saturday!
- University Affairs Committee will be developing improvements (e.g. student advocacy toolkit)

Student Experience Survey

- Meeting with President & Secretary General this Monday, October 17th
- 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