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)

SEPTEMBER 29, 2016

INTRODUCTION

As our first month of orientation and training is wrapping up, we're working hard to kick off portfolio committees and term projects! There have been many developments in the University Affairs portfolio, from consultations on the draft McGill *Policy Against Sexual Violence* to the launch of registration for our 2nd Annual Student Academic Summit (sign up by Friday, October 7th at 5:00PM). Read on to find out more!

UNIVERSITY & ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

SENATE & UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Senate

- Organized make-up senator training sessions, committee representative information sessions, and start-of-year senator goal meetings
- First Senate meeting **Wednesday, September 21st**; asked question on for-cost course assessment technologies; received reports on Harassment Policy & Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity
- Next Senate meeting **Wednesday, October 19th**; receiving draft *Policy Against Sexual Violence*, University-Wide Wellness Strategy & Report of the Working Group on Systemic Discrimination

Student Life & Learning

- Met with Deputy Provost to discuss key issues for year including building renovations, mental health training, experiential learning & equity education
- Met to re-start Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) negotiations; hoping to wrap up this term
- Meeting with Dean of Students this week to discuss potential Medical Notes Working Group
- Next Undergraduate Skills Program Steering Committee meeting Friday, October 14th

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

Student Services

- Committee on Student Services (CSS) meeting next Wednesday, October 5th
- Academic Matters Working Group meeting next Wednesday, October 5th
- Currently compiling feedback on draft *University-Wide Health & Wellness Strategy*
- Awaiting consultation plans for integration of Mental Health and Counselling Services; presentation on changes at *Students in Mind* Mental Health Conference this Sunday, October 2nd from 1:30-2:30 PM (SSMU Ballroom)

Libraries

- Met with Communications Librarian & Open Access Researcher to discuss project goals
- Made Library Improvement Fund Committee selections; meeting this Wednesday, September 28th
- Meeting with Library administration next week regarding operating budget & projects for year

FACULTY & DEPARTMENT RELATIONS

McGill Academic Roundtable (MART)

- 2nd Annual Student Academic Summit scheduled for Saturday, October 15th, 11:00AM-4:00PM in the SSMU Ballroom; deadline to register is Friday, October 7th at 5:00PM
- Next MART meeting to be scheduled for mid-October
- Currently distributing information on scheduled cyclical unit reviews to departmental reps

University & Academic Affairs Goals – Fall 2016

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

ADVOCACY & RESEARCH

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

McGill Policy Against Sexual Violence

- Draft *Policy Against Sexual Violence* to be presented at Senate meeting on October 19th
- Hosting consultation focus groups with SACOMSS, PGSS & MCSS between September 23rd & October 3rd; compiling feedback into report for October Senate meeting
- Attended policy Q&A with Associate Provost (Policies, Procedures & Equity) on September 27th

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

- Met on Wednesday, September 21st to discuss peer institution policies
- Current priorities include stronger language on accommodations, disability & intersectionality; ensuring consistency with other policies; & improving students' awareness of their rights
- Next meeting TBD (mid-October)

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

Unpaid Internships Policy

- Presentation on background research & issues at Legislative Council this Thursday
- Researcher completing scan of current practices & meeting with relevant administrators
- Drafting Senate question on internship monitoring & SSMU policy framework for consultation

McGill Smoking Policy

- Working group drafting university-wide 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 10th from 3:00-5:00PM (Redpath Museum Auditorium)

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Alternative Campus Histories

- SQ – Incorporating alternative histories timeline into new University Affairs website (need to finalize content, citations & images)

First Generation Student Support

- SQ – Reviewing final report for release around end of month

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Charter Case

- Compiling Charter of Student Rights case on academic accommodations
- Currently reviewing student testimony, following up with respondents & conducting further outreach (still accepting submissions here)

Know Your Rights

- Completed Add-Drop awareness campaign (social media, posters, tabling, radio, etc.)
- University Affairs Committee will review ssmu.ca/studentrights & organize January campaign

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 Revision

- Compiling revisions for consultation & October 13th Legislative Council (first reading)
- Addressing inconsistencies, accessibility, conflicts of interest scenarios, etc.

Equity Committee

- Selected members-at-large & scheduled first meeting for this Wednesday, September 28th
- Projects may include anti-cultural appropriation campaign, speaker series, Minerva equity tutorial, consultation on SSMU initiatives (governance reform & equitable hiring policy), etc.
- Panel discussion on *Sexual Violence & Power Dynamics in a University Setting* this Thursday, September 29th at 6:00PM (McConnell Engineering Room 204)

Equity Advocacy Network

- 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

- Will be meeting with Simone (Equity Commissioner) & others regarding project priorities
- Organizing meeting of student reps on capital funding committees to discuss UD standards
- Will be following up with Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) to support distribution & implementation of new Universal Design for Learning (UDL) toolkit

Racialized Student Support Resources

- 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

- Met with Indigenous Affairs Commissioner, VP External & President regarding collaborations
- Consulting on statement regarding notice of seizure motion for Fall General Assembly
- Hoping to further discuss University Centre indigenization with Commissioner & Executives

Provost's Task Force on Indigenous Education

- New Task Force launched on September 22nd at relocated Hochelaga Rock
- Provost's Office adopted territory statement that was never approved by existing Subcommittee on Indigenous Peoples; some community calls for this to be retracted
- Following up on community concerns regarding Task Force composition & consultation process

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

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

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 from LSA & LICM about striking a Judicial Board Review Committee

Provincial Representation

- Next Members' Assembly scheduled for October 8th– 9th in Montréal (hosted by CSU); hope to bring forward unpaid internships research & issues with ancillary fees
- Mobilization Camp scheduled for October 21st –23rd near Trois-Rivières (aveqcamp.ca)

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

University Affairs Website

- Updating content including biographies, university committees listing, Senate Caucus overview, research reports, blog posts, & more; should be launching officially by next week!

University Affairs Social Media

- Sent out University Affairs Listserv #2: Know Your Rights, Student Academic Summit & more!
- Hit 500 likes on the SSMU Equity Facebook page!
- Remember to like the SSMU University Affairs Facebook page ☺

Student Experience Survey

- Discussed logistics 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