Office of the Vice-President (University Affairs)
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Located on unceded, Kanien'kehá:ka traditional territory

REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT (UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS)

NOVEMBER 17, 2016

UNIVERSITY & ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

SENATE & UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Senate

- Joint Board-Senate Meeting convened last Thursday, November 10th to discuss "McGill's Sustainability Initiatives" (teaching, research, operations)
- Next Senate meeting this coming Wednesday, November 23rd:
    - Submitted questions regarding campus accessibility during construction & university regulation of unpaid internships
    - Discussing future of PhD studies & *Policy Against Sexual Violence* (for approval)
- Provost Christopher Manfredi attending Senate Caucus on Monday, November 28th

University Committees

- Participated in review committee for McGill Enrolment Services, November 9th-11th
- Vision 2020 Education Action Team met on Monday, November 14th to discuss priority areas

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- Academic Policy Committee (APC) meeting this Thursday, November 17th
- Enrolment & Student Affairs Advisory Committee (ESAAC) meeting on December 6th to discuss Faculty mental health training, Student Services changes, accommodation policies & more

Student Life & Learning

- Met with Dean of Students on November 8th regarding medical note & accommodation policies
- Met with Deputy Provost (Student Life & Learning) & Provost on November 10th regarding US election results, Library inter-faith prayer space, Royal Vic site & course equivalency policies
- Undergraduate Skills Program Committee meeting regarding curriculum competencies this Thursday, November 16th

Student Services

- International Health Insurance Advisory Committee met on Monday, November 7th; discussed plan coverage, communications, discrepancies & exceptions
- Met with Interim Senior Director & Directors of Counselling & Mental Health Services on Tuesday, November 8th regarding changes to medical note policies
- Committee on Student Services (CSS meeting last Wednesday, November 9th; discussed budget, cyclical review recommendation working groups & wellness service integration

Libraries

- Library Improvement Fund Committee met on Wednesday, November 9th to review consultation period results; meeting next Wednesday, November 23rd to decide Fall allocations
- Still working to have LIF Commissioner & ancillary financed from Library Improvement Fund

ASSOCIATION RELATIONS

Faculty & Department Associations

- McGill Academic Roundtable (MART) met on Wednesday, November 16th; discussed Faculty association updates & Know Your Rights campaign collaborations

Unions & Professional Associations

- Next McGill Communities Council met on Tuesday, November 1st; endorsed AMUSE strike & discussed draft *Policy Against Sexual Violence*, Board of Governors reform & more
- Meeting with President of AMUSE this Thursday, November 17th to discuss bargaining updates, cyclical review process, *Policy Against Sexual Violence* & more

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

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ADVOCACY & RESEARCH

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

McGill Policy against Sexual Violence

- Attended roundtable meetings with Parker P Consulting & Partners Meeting for major SSHRC research project addressing sexual violence on university campuses (November 3rd & 4th)
- Met with Associate Provost to discuss final policy revisions on Monday, November 14th
- Policy will be presented to Senate for approval on Wednesday, November 23rd; now looking towards implementation plans & proposal for comprehensive review of existing policies

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 Tuesday, November 29th to continue discussing revisions

Unpaid Internships Policy

- Awaiting response from Provost to Senate question regarding McGill regulation of unpaid internship postings (next Wednesday, November 23rd)
- Delayed in drafting process due to loss of student researcher; currently recruiting councillors to assist with policy-writing (aiming to have approved by end of January)

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Alternative Campus Histories

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

First Generation Students Support

- SQ – Academic Research Commissioner is reviewing draft report for release this month

Students from Care Support

- Met with interested student regarding programming, support, & funding possibilities around McGill students coming from foster and state care backgrounds
- Presentation at Legislative Council this week, to be followed by outreach & advocacy efforts

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Charter Case

- Drafting case for submission by end of month; also incorporated relevant comments into feedback for cyclical review of Enrolment Services (November 9th-11th)

Know Your Rights

- University Affairs Committee (UAC) still enhancing Student Rights website with added details on academic accommodations, Faculty-specific policies, administrator contacts, etc.
- Developing promotional materials, volunteer recruitment, & Faculty association collaborations for January outreach campaign (including possible panel event on academic rights)
- Collaborating with Faculty associations on assessment policy inventory (summarizing existing procedures, identifying gaps, sharing policy examples, & training on advocacy strategies)

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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

- Review meetings with Equity Commissioners cancelled due to personal reasons; currently rescheduling for later this month in order to submit revised policy for January at the latest

Equity Committee

- Organized Post-Election Solidarity self-care event on Thursday, November 10th; received some feedback about inaccessibility for trans & POC students
- Hosting closed Race in the Academy discussion on Thursday. November 24th
- Collaborating with PGSS on workshop for "Talking to Your Racist Uncle Over the Holidays"™

Equity Roundtable

- Planning on January meeting of campus equity groups (opportunity to discuss potential support needs & shared advocacy priorities)

Accessibility & Universal Design (UD) Advocacy

- Rescheduling Equity Commissioner meeting regarding follow-ups from student rep meeting as well as Accessibility Policy implementation priorities

Racialized Student Support Resources

- Mini-Wellness Recovery Action Planning (WRAP) groups for POC students will launch for Winter!
- May still organize meeting to discuss formal racialized student mentorship program

INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Indigenous Solidarity Policy

- Helped draft public statement regarding Titleholders motion at Fall General Assembly
- Indigenous Education Task Force hosting Open Forum on Tuesday, November 22nd (3:00-5:00pm)
- Providing support on university advocacy priorities; policy implementation & revisions; distributing resources to student groups; University Centre art project; Solidarity Week planning

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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

- May replace Conflict of Interest Policy with resources guide & accessible graphics
- Will be advising Democratic Governance Review Committee as-needed
- Beginning initial consultations on SSMU Equitable Hiring Policy framework

Provincial Representation

- SQ – Acting as SSMU contact & resource for *Québec Contres les Violences Sexuelles* campaign
- Next AVEQ Members' Assembly currently being scheduled for mid-January

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

University Affairs Website & Social Media

- SQ – Cross-posting regular blog updates, articles, surveys & reports
- Working with University Affairs Secretary General (and possibly University Affairs Committee) on website improvements (e.g. advocacy resources page)

Student Experience Survey

- SQ – Pushing back to at least January; identified some additional consultation areas

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)