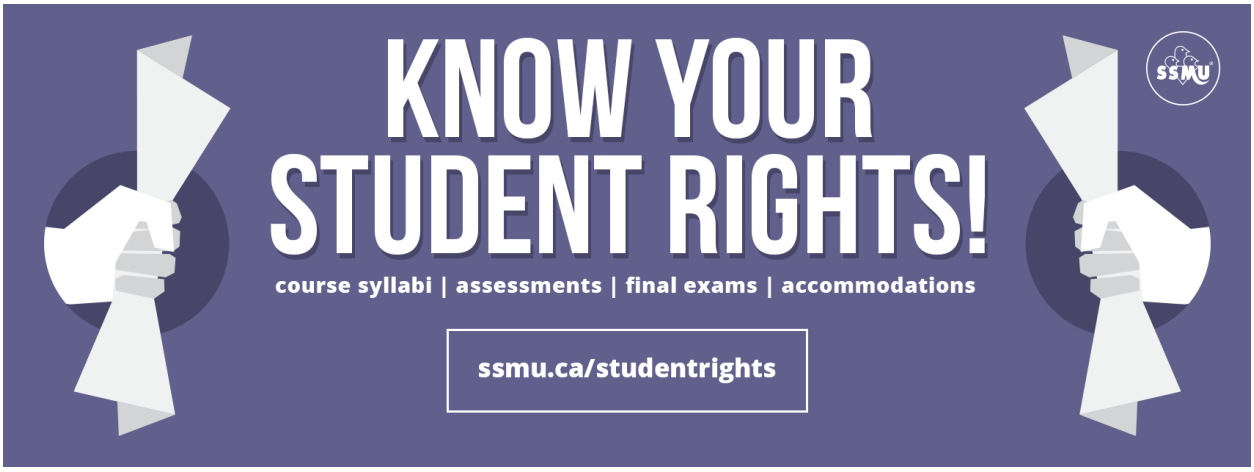
Office of the Vice-President (University Affairs)
Tel: (514) 398-6797 | ua@ssmu.mcgill.ca
3600 McTavish St., Suite 1200, Montréal, QC H3A 0G3
Located on unceded, Kanien'kehá:ka traditional territory

REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT (UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS)

DECEMBER 1, 2016



Interested in promoting student academic rights? We are looking for volunteers for our January Know Your Rights campaign! Participants should be available to table on at least 2-3 weekdays during the Add-Drop period (January 4-17). Training will be provided in early January. Sign up by December 9th here.

UNIVERSITY & ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

SENATE & UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Senate

- Senate met on Wednesday, November 23rd:
  - Discussed campus inaccessibility during construction, university regulation of unpaid internships, future of PhD studies & McGill sustainability initiatives
  - Unanimously approved new *Policy against Sexual Violence*!
- Provost Christopher Manfredi attended Senate Caucus on Monday, November 28th:
  - Discussed student fees, RVH, Indigenous Education Taskforce, course evaluations & more
- Next Senate meeting on Wednesday, December 7th:
  - Submitted question regarding Faculty internship programs (including credit courses & co-op models), discussing financial state of university & FY18 budget planning

University Committees

- Academic Policy Committee (APC) is meeting next Thursday, December 8th
- Enrolment & Student Affairs Advisory Committee (ESAAC) is meeting next Tuesday, December 6th to discuss faculty mental health training, medical notes & accommodation policies

Student Life & Learning

- Met with SLL staff & VP Operations on December 1st to discussing catering outside of building
- Next Undergraduate Skills Program Steering Committee on Thursday, December 15th
- Memorandum of Agreement negotiations will continue in January due to McGill delays

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Student Services

- Met with Interim Senior Director on Friday, November 25th to discuss wellness service integration, leadership transition, communications plan, student consultation, etc.
- Next Committee on Student Services (CSS) meeting on Friday, December 9th

Libraries

- Met with Director of MORSL on November 17th regarding meditation & prayer space in Library
- Met with SEDE on November 24th regarding Black History Month & family care proposals
- Library Improvement Fund Committee meeting December 6th to determine Fall allocations

ASSOCIATION RELATIONS

Faculty & Department Associations

- SQ – Next meeting to be held in January
- Working with Faculty associations on Know Your Rights campaign

Unions & Professional Associations

- AMUSE has reached a tentative agreement with McGill!
- McGill Communities Council met meeting next Tuesday, December 6th (SSMU hosting); discussing proposed Board of Governors reforms, 360-degree performance evaluations & 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~~

ADVOCACY & RESEARCH

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

McGill Policy against Sexual Violence

- Policy passed unanimously at Senate on November 23rd!
- Finalizing timeline of policy history & proposal for campus study of existing policies (next term)
- Sexual Violence Protocol Working Group meeting on December 13th
- Meeting with Associate Provost, Harm Reduction Coordinator, Dean of Students & PGSS Equity Commissioner on December 20th to discuss implementation priorities

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

- Met on Tuesday, November 29th to discuss fundamental rights section & begin revisions
- Next meeting TBD in mid-December

Unpaid Internships Policy

- Received response to Senate question regarding McGill regulation of unpaid internships on November 23rd; will be advocating for more consistent evaluation framework across McGill
- Submitted December Senate question regarding Faculty internship programs; advocating for elimination of course fees & introduction of academic credit for internship terms & co-ops
- Will now be bringing forward SSMU *Policy against Unpaid Internships* for consultation in January

Intellectual Property Policy

- Met with Co-President of Universities Allied for Essential Medicines (UAEM) regarding Global Access to Medicines Policy & strategy timeline for Intellectual Property Policy revisions
- Scheduling meeting with Associate Vice-Principal (Innovation) regarding IP Policy revisions

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Alternative Campus Histories

- SQ – Hope to have timeline content integrated into University Affairs website for January

First Generation Students

- SQ – Academic Research Commissioner is reviewing draft report for finalization & release

Students from Care

- Circulated survey on experiences & support needs of students from care
- Will be releasing research report & sharing with administrators before end of term

Harmful Military Technology

- Created new researcher position to fulfill mandates from *Policy for a Campus Free From Harmful Military Technology*; hope to conduct interviews before end of term

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Charter Case

- SQ – Academic Research Commissioner is finalizing for submission by end of term

Know Your Rights

- Finalizing Student Rights website updates for January
- Planning January campaign including volunteer recruitment, promotional materials, Faculty association collaborations & panel event on academic power dynamics & student rights

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

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EQUITY

SSMU EQUITY

Equity Policy

- SQ – Working with Equity Commissioners on policy revisions & consultation plan for January

Equity Committee

- Held closed *Race in the Academy* discussion & collaborated with PGSS Equity for *Bringing Justice Home: Talking Racial Politics with White Family*
- Currently organizing speaker series & main events for next term, including discussions on mixed race experiences, racialized dating, Black History month collaboration, & more
- Creating additional seat for Black Students' Network VP Academic & advocacy collaboration

Equity Network

- SQ – Evaluating January roundtable meeting of campus equity groups vs training & skill-sharing

Accessibility & Universal Design (UD) Advocacy

- #CalloutConstruction event + Senate question generated some improvements (including possible training for construction workers); will be following up on expanding adapted transport options
- Simone (Equity Commissioner) is collecting accessibility resources for University Affairs website, including relevant campus groups, guides, & funding opportunities

Racialized Student Support Resources

- Pilot mini-WRAP groups for POC students happening this week!
- Still evaluating formalization of racialized student mentorship network (may align with Sustainability Projects Fund application for dedicated POC Community Projects Manager)

INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Indigenous Solidarity Policy

- Attended Indigenous Education Task Force Open Forum on Tuesday, November 22nd; feedback on curriculum, research, recruitment, support, staffing, representation, racism, & more
- Met with Indigenous Affairs Commissioner & Hudson Meadwell (Task Force Co-Chair) on November 25th regarding funding opportunities & revised timeline for Indigenous art project
- Providing support on university advocacy priorities; policy implementation & revisions; student group resources; Solidarity Week planning, & more

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

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SSMU-WIDE

GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Board of Directors

- Met on Thursday, November 24th to welcome new Directors & conduct committee allocations
- Next meeting TBD before end of term

Governance Documents

- First Democratic Governance Review Committee meeting this Friday, December 2nd
- Replacing Conflict of Interest Policy with accessible resource guide & graphics
- Consulting on framework for SSMU *Equitable Hiring Policy*

Provincial Representation

- SQ – Acting as SSMU contact & resource for *Québec Contre les Violences Sexuelles* campaign
- Next AVEQ Members' Assembly scheduled for January 14-15

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

University Affairs Website & Social Media

- Broke 500 likes on the University Affairs Facebook page!
- Released listserv #4 (last of the term) on Wednesday, November 30th
- Working with UA Secretary General on website improvements for Winter (e.g. advocacy resources)

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)