



REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT (UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS)

FEBRUARY 23, 2017

UNIVERSITY & ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

SENATE & UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Senate

- Senate met on Wednesday, February 15th:
 - Approved motion regarding formal annual recognition of Black History Month
 - Discussed impact of US Executive Order, graduate student teaching, Provost's Strategic Plan, Staffing Report & more
- Drafting March Senate question regarding diversity in student enrolment & support resources

University Committees

- Next Academic Policy Committee (APC) meeting this Thursday, February 23rd
- Next Enrolment & Student Affairs Advisory Committee (ESAAC) meeting on Wednesday, March 15th

Student Life & Learning

- Met with Deputy Provost (Student Life & Learning) on February 9th regarding mental health literacy, ancillary fees & other issues
- Received new draft Memorandum of Agreement & met with SLL to review on February 16th
- Drafted new [Policy Against Ancillary Fee Increases](#) for Winter General Assembly on February 20th

Student Services

- Committee on Student Services (CSS) meeting this Tuesday, February 21st to discuss Student Services budget, Innovation Fund applications, committee role & more
- Meetings to discuss promotional strategies for student-self help tools as well as targeted support resources for different populations on Tuesday, February 21st

Libraries

- Met with Library Improvement Fund Commissioner on February 16th to discuss revised application timeline; Library Improvement Fund Committee meeting this Thursday, February 23rd
- We are still accepting [project proposals](#) until Monday, March 6th!

ASSOCIATION RELATIONS

Faculty & Department Associations

- Next McGill Academic Roundtable (MART) meeting scheduled for this Wednesday, February 22nd

Unions & Professional Associations

- SQ – Next McGill Communities Council (MCC) meeting on Tuesday, March 7th to discuss priority issues for Board of Governors meeting & advocacy

Provincial Representation

- SQ – Awaiting updates on QC sexual violence legislation; next congress on April 22-23 in Montreal



University & Academic Affairs Goals – Winter 2017

- ~~Host student senator information session~~
- Pass policy on academic amnesty for General Assemblies
- Pass policy against ancillary & overhead fee increases
- Memorandum of Agreement signed
- Strike Board of Governors reform committee
- Make final Library Improvement Fund allocations
- Submit question or motion at every Senate meeting

ADVOCACY & RESEARCH

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

McGill Policy against Sexual Violence

- New Sexual Violence Response Advisor has been hired! Communications regarding the new office & implementation committees should go out soon

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

- Met on Thursday, February 16th to review new Charter organization; currently finalizing last sections & preparing for consultation in early March (will bring for Senate approval in Spring)

Unpaid Internships Policy

- Bringing motion to adopt *SSMU Policy against Unpaid Internships* to this week's Council meeting!

Intellectual Property Policy

- Senate approval has been pushed back until April; still in communication with Associate Vice-Principal (Innovation & Partnerships) to include a humanitarian licensing framework

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Alternative Campus Histories

- SQ – Academic Research Commissioner is coordinating integration into UA website

Targeted Support Resources

- Met with Campus Life & Engagement on February 10th regarding new student transition programs; meeting with Executive Director of Student Services on February 21st regarding overall strategies
- Should be releasing research report on students coming from foster care sometime this week!

Harmful Military Technology

- SQ – Researcher is progressing well on documents with limited supervision

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Charter of Student Rights Submission

- Submitting to the Advisory Council on the Charter of Student Rights this week!
- Met with Dean of Students on February 13th regarding plans for accommodation policy changes

Know Your Rights

- SQ – University Affairs Committee making further web edits & improvements throughout term



- Advocacy & Research Goals – Winter 2017**
- ~~Host Add-Drop “Know Your Rights” campaign~~
 - ~~Submit charter case on academic accommodations~~
 - ~~Release first generation students research report~~
 - ~~Release foster care students research report~~
 - Release alternative histories timeline on UA website
 - Launch sexual violence policy committee & campus study
 - Unpaid Internships Policy approved at Legislative Council
 - Fall Reading Break approved at Senate (for 2018-2019)
 - Charter of Student Rights revisions approved at Senate
 - Launch online advocacy resources on UA website

EQUITY

SSMU EQUITY

Equity Policy

- Bringing *Motion Regarding Revisions to Equity Policy* to SSMU Legislative Council this week!

Equity Committee

- Currently finalizing Hari Kondabalu comedy night for March 20th; Facebook event coming soon!

Accessibility & Universal Design (UD) Advocacy

- SQ – Collecting accessibility resources for UA website (related groups, funding sources, etc)
- Rescheduled Director of OSD for Senate Caucus to discuss Universal Design for Learning (UDL)

Racialized Student Support Resources

- New Community Projects Manager (Racialized & Ethnic Students) has been hired; will be fleshing out SSMU collaboration (e.g. student mentorship network) over remainder of term

INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Indigenous Solidarity Policy

- *Motion Regarding Revisions to Indigenous Solidarity Policy* coming to Legislative Council this week
- Confirmed limited funding availability for Univeristy Centre Indigenous art project; may not be able to proceed with acquisition this term

- Equity Goals – Winter 2017**
- Equity Policy revisions approved at Legislative Council
 - Implement UD standards in capital funding committees
 - Launch Accessibility webpage on UA website
 - Indigenous Solidarity Policy revisions approved
 - Launch University Centre Indigenous art project
 - ~~Initiate Indigenous course content advocacy~~
 - Develop framework for McGill diversity enrolment plan



SSMU-WIDE

GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Board of Directors

- Met on February 13th to discuss *Motion Regarding the Removal of Director Sadikov*, however the proposal was voted down & the Board voted to censure the Director instead

Governance Documents

- Conducted councillor info session regarding Internal Regulations of Governance on February 16th
- Consulted legal counsel on Internal Regulations of Governance & constitutional amendments
- Met with Human Resources Manager on February 14th to discuss equitable hiring changes

Executive Transition

- SQ – Will be working on University Affairs exit report, transition scheduling & revised mandate letter over coming weeks

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

University Affairs Communications

- Currently finalizing new UA website content, including advocacy, research & equity resources
- Next University Affairs listserv will be released following Reading Week

SSMU-Wide Goals – Winter 2017

- Formalize SSMU *Equitable Hiring Policy*
- Launch University Affairs staff hiring
- Send monthly University Affairs listservs
- Prepare transition documents & training schedule
- ~~Develop long-term student staffing plan~~

Cheers,

Erin Sobat

Vice-President (University Affairs)