Office of the Vice-President (University Affairs)
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3600 McTavish St., Suite 1200, Montréal, QC H3A 0G3
Haudenosaunee & Anishinaabeg traditional territories

REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT (UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS)

MARCH 23, 2017

SSMU is hiring for 2017-2018! Work in the University Affairs portfolio or another area at SSMU. Available positions include University Affairs Secretary General, Equity Commissioner, and much more. Previous experience in student politics is not required. Check out www.ssmu.ca/jobs and apply by March 31, 2017.

UNIVERSITY & ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

SENATE & UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Senate

- Next Senate meeting this Wednesday, March 22nd:
  - Discussing budget plan & proposed revisions to *Policy on Intellectual Property*
  - Receiving student aid & Strategic Enrolment Management reports
- Senate Caucus Representatives are proposing revisions to the Internal Regulations of Representation & Advocacy to automatically delegate senator elections to Faculty associations
- Will be submitting April Senate questions on diversity in enrolment & islamophobia on campus

University Committees

- Enrolment & Student Affairs Advisory Committee (ESAAC) meeting on March 15th cancelled; next meeting on Tuesday, April 4th ; hope to discuss continuation of final exam deferral pilot project
- Academic Policy Committee (APC) meeting on March 16th cancelled; next meeting on March 29th
- Vision 2020 Education Action Team meeting this Thursday, March 23rd

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Student Life & Learning

- Student Assessment Policy subcommittee tentatively scheduled for this Tuesday, March 21st
- Fall Reading Break Working Group meeting this Friday, March 24th
- Next Undergraduate Skills Program Steering Committee meeting on Tuesday, March 28th
- Currently awaiting clean draft of Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for final review & approval

Student Services

- Committee on Student Services meeting on March 15th cancelled; next meeting on Monday, April 10th to follow-up on budget, Innovation Fund applications & committee role
- Attended feedback session for cyclical review of McGill Writing Centre on Tuesday, March 14th
- Currently planning open letter regarding concerns with Counselling and Mental Health Services

Libraries

- Library Improvement Fund Committee met on Thursday, March 16th to begin reviewing proposals
- Final allocations will be reported to Legislative Council meeting on Thursday, April 6th

ASSOCIATION RELATIONS

Faculty & Department Associations

- Final McGill Academic Roundtable (MART) meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 28th

Unions & Professional Associations

- Could not attend Inter-Union Council meeting on Thursday, March 16th due to election results
- Next McGill Communities Council (MCC) meeting on Tuesday, April 4th to finalize agenda topics for May meeting with Chair of Board of Governors

Provincial Representation

- Next AVEQ Congress April 21-23 at Concordia to elect 2017-2018 executive; electoral timelines can be found at www.aveq-nous.ca/en/elections-2017/!
- Sitting on the Research Committee; Political Campaigns Coordinators are now sitting on the Community Action Fund & Mobilization Committees

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
- Create Board of Governors reform committee
- Make final Library Improvement Fund allocations
- Submit question or motion at every Senate meeting

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ADVOCACY & RESEARCH

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

McGill Policy against Sexual Violence

- Administration has announced the chairs of the implementation & campus review committees; currently working with SACOMSS to ensure effective student representation on each group

McGill Ad-Hoc Committee to Review the Charter of Students' Rights

- Next meeting to review community feedback TBD; Charter will come to Senate for information in April & approval in May

McGill Policy on Intellectual Property

- Met with Associate Vice-Principal (Innovation & Partnerships) on Thursday, March 16th regarding guiding principles for commercialization (including humanitarian licensing principles)
- Policy draft coming to Senate for information this month; principles will follow later

SSMU Policy against Unpaid Internships

- Motion to adopt *Policy against Unpaid Internships* approved at March 9th Legislative Council
- Will be following up on relevant mandates with the administration & AVEQ

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Alternative Campus Histories

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

Targeted Support Resources

- Planning Café Collab consultation session with SEDE for students with limited familial support
- Registration working group meeting on Wednesday, April 5th to review admissions diversity data, suggest improvements & discuss implementation of retention-tracking software
- Working to allocate several dedicated bursaries for first generation/foster care students & to organize Student Life & Learning policy hack-a-thon for Fall 2017

Harmful Military Technology

- Researcher has completed review of initial ATI documents & is now investigating further cases

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Academic Accommodations

- Finalizing submission to the Advisory Council on the Charter of Students' Rights
- Meeting with Dean of Students & Associate Deans on Monday, March 20th regarding centralization of academic accommodations in additional Faculties

Know Your Rights

- SQ – University Affairs Committee making further web edits & improvements throughout term
- Working with graphic designer to create flowchart poster on academic accommodations

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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~~
- Humanitarian Licensing Framework approved at Senate
- Charter of Student Rights revisions approved at Senate
- Fall Reading Break approved at Senate (for 2019-2020)
- Form committee on academic accommodation policies
- Launch online advocacy resources on UA website

EQUITY

SSMU EQUITY

Equity Policy

- *Motion Regarding Revisions to Equity Policy* postponed to this week's Legislative Council meeting

Equity Committee

- Social Justice Comedy Night with Hari Kondabalu happening this Monday, March 20th!
- Rescheduling campus conversation on Unpacking Love: Racialized Dating Preferences & planning final conversation on diasporic family experiences

Accessibility & Universal Design (UD) Advocacy

- SQ – Collecting accessibility resources for UA website (related groups, funding sources, etc.)
- Awaiting postponed launch of online Universal Design for Learning (UDL) toolkit

Racialized Student Support Resources

- SQ – 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

Indigeneity & Solidarity Week

- Provide social media, promotional & logistical support for successful event series featuring Kahen'to:kon Hemlock, Cindy Blackstock, Kyle Mays & more

Indigenous Solidarity Policy

- *Motion Regarding Revisions to Indigenous Solidarity Policy* approved at March 9th Council meeting
- Awaiting updates on preliminary report of the Indigenous Education Taskforce & 2017-18 budget allocations at March 22nd Senate meeting
- Will be meeting with IA Commissioner & incoming VP External regarding transition & remaining term priorities (e.g. Indigenous Affairs guide for student groups, course content advocacy)

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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~~
- ~~Create Indigenous course content advocacy plan~~
- Develop Indigenous Affairs guide for student groups
- Develop framework for McGill diversity enrolment plan

SSMU-WIDE

GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION

SSMU Governance & Documents

- Stepped down from seat as a Director at meeting on Monday, March 13th
- Will continue to take direction from Board on developing improved prevention, reporting & response measures for sexual violence & other issues

Staff Hiring

- Finalizing improved employment equity statement & manager training; will be developing formalized policy & reviewing all job descriptions into summer months
- Currently hiring for University Affairs Secretary General & Equity Commissioner positions!
- Also supporting Indigenous Affairs Commissioner & Community Affairs Commissioner hiring

Executive Transition

- SQ – Working on University Affairs exit report, transition schedule & revised mandate letter
- Also assisting with development of External Affairs transition & training materials

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

University Affairs & External Affairs Communications

- Sent out University Affairs listserv on March 10th; last edition will be in early April
- Still finalizing new UA website content (i.e. additional advocacy, research & equity resources)

SSMU-Wide Goals – Winter 2017

- ~~Approve Internal Regulations for Board of Directors~~
- Formalize SSMU equitable hiring procedures
- ~~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)