



**Office of Vice-President (University Affairs)**

Tel: (514) 398-6797 | [ua@ssmu.mcgill.ca](mailto:ua@ssmu.mcgill.ca)

3600 McTavish St., Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

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# SENATE CAUCUS REPORT

## OCTOBER 9- OCTOBER 22, 2018

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## MADELINE WILSON (ARTS SENATOR)

[artssenator1@ssmu.ca](mailto:artssenator1@ssmu.ca)

Committee Work:
<p>N/A - have not met            Still haven't heard from Subcommittee on Undergraduate Student Advising</p>
Faculty Updates :
<p>AUS Council met 10/3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Passed policy that puts Arts Senator positions on AUS Executive Work Study Contract for next two years while SSMU looks into making all positions WS-eligible</li> <li>- Passed new constitution for Caribbean and Latin American Studies and Hispanic Studies Association (CLASHSA) and World Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies Students' Association (WIMESSA)</li> <li>- Approved all election dates for 2018-19 year (referendums, executive elections, etc.)</li> <li>- Approved fee for summer course</li> <li>- Replaced financial and accountability bylaws</li> </ul>
Personal Project Updates :
<p>Open Educational Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lots of confusion meeting with Library, planned for next week</li> <li>- Will hopefully be providing guidance to students hired by Library Improvement Fund(ing) who will develop OERs for at least 3 classes by Fall 2019</li> <li>- Looking at               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Arts: PSYC 100, ECON 208, POLI 200, POLI 210, RELG 204/7</li> <li>- Science: PHYS 101/2, BIOL 215, BIOL 202, COMP 202, MATH 203</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Created fact sheet for professors explaining what OERs are, their benefits to students and prof, and how they can get involved with our project</li> </ul> <p>Waitlists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Drafted Faculty of Arts Policy on Waitlists in accordance with motion that recently passed</li> <li>- Currently securing way for administrators to ask questions to other administrators</li> <li>- Assembling package to send out to administrators by early November announcing the decision/policy and guidance on implementing</li> <li>- Developing slides for profs to display that provide information to students about how to interpret spots on waitlists, etc.</li> </ul>



## **OMMU-KULSOOM ABDUL-RAHAMAN (ARTS SENATOR)**

[artssenator2@ssmu.ca](mailto:artssenator2@ssmu.ca)

### **Committee Work:**

The Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee met on the 16th of October

- There is an increase in attendance for the Faculty of Engineering and the Faculty of Science, they are looking into having to add another graduation ceremony for these faculties or splitting them in two
- The feedback from 2018 Spring convocation was very positive and the administration were very pleased
- Regarding the Honorary Degrees part, I cannot disclose what was discussed the reasoning behind those who were dropped, deferred or approved because it is confidential however at the upcoming senate meeting a report will be presented on this topic and senate will vote on the new candidates added to the list

### **Faculty Updates :**

- The AUS budget was approved at our Legislative Council last week
- Frosh bylaws were amended to change the bylaw from allocating financial surpluses from Frosh going to the AUS' Event Planning and Implementation Committee to being allocated to the VP Social portfolio for a total up to 5000\$. If it exceeds 5000\$ then any amount past the it goes to the AUS operating budget.

### **Personal Project Updates :**

- I have started working on a survey for all AFRI majors, minors that will be sent out next week to collect student opinions on what courses they would like to see added to the minor and what areas have been lacking.
  - A discussion group or committee will also be formed to discuss what students would like to see changed
  - Happening this Thursday
- I will also be meeting with Professor Blackett from the Law Faculty who spearheaded the need for more diverse hires within her faculty, to discuss how the methods she used can be applied to the Faculty of Arts. Waiting for her response on when she would be available to meet this week.

### **Miscellaneous Updates:**

- Met with Tomas, SSMU Indigenous Affairs Commissioner, on Thursday and we discussed how I can support his campaign for the Varsity Redmen name change. Since I sit on MARAB we discussed having the name change added to the agenda for our first meeting on November 7th (or bring it up in the other business section). The reason why is that McGill Athletics has currently not had to directly state their position or engage the question because all inquiries



have been directed to be answered by a McGill Administration person so we are hoping to get them to answer it directly.

- I spoke with Alison, SSMU Sustainability Commissioner, regarding an agreement made with the Athletics department regarding making their spaces more accessible for marginalized groups such as women, non-binary folks, lgbtq+. She applied for SSMU funding and was given 15,000\$ to put towards her project in Athletics to make the personal workout pods be advertised for these groups however Athletics changed their minds about this and decided to not follow through with that and have not been answering her emails for the past few weeks. However, when she sent an email asking where she should drop off the cheque they immediately responded.
  - She has not given them the cheque
  - Has requested a meeting with Perry, I am CCed on the email along with SSMU Equity Commissioners
  - She is still waiting on a reply
  - Will all be meeting this week to go over how this should be approached and they will be attending my MARAB committee meeting to discuss the issue if McGill Athletics directors continue to be unresponsive

**BRYAN BURAGA (ARTS & SCIENCE SENATOR)**

[artsscisenator@ssmu.ca](mailto:artsscisenator@ssmu.ca)

<b>Committee Work:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Attended Steering Committee on October 7th</li> <li>- Attended the SSMU Legislative Council meeting on October 11th           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Question I sent in re: Conflict of Interest Policy were answered               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tldr SSMU does not have a conflict of interest policy</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Passage of SSMU Gendered and Sexual Violence Policy</li> <li>- Sending of fee levies to Referendum: GSVP, ASN, Plate Club, Charity, Environment</li> <li>- Motion on changing SSMU Internal Regulations on Society Strikes did not pass</li> <li>- Motion on creating a legal defence fund did not pass</li> <li>- Motion on responsible representation and others were tabled to meeting on October 18th due to time constraints</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Faculty Updates :</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Attended BASiC meeting on October 2nd           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fielded input for meeting with Dean of Students</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Personal Project Updates :</b>



- Fall Reading Break:
  - Met with VP Communications for MCSS about running a Referendum question on Fall Reading Break at Mac Campus
  - Still looking for members to fill committee, getting prelim work done on background

#### **Miscellaneous Updates:**

- Still have Office Hours!
  - Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1-2 PM in the Arts Lounge (Leacock Basement)
  - Also by appointment
- Met with VP External Cupido prior to their resignation
- Met with former GSVP implementation coordinator on GSVP policy prior to Legislative Council meeting on October 11th
- Met with Dean Buddle on October 5th
  - Talked re: Fall Reading Break
  - Assessment Policy
  - Generally supportive, but is at capacity with work

## **ZI HUANG (EDUCATION SENATOR)**

[educationsenator@ssmu.ca](mailto:educationsenator@ssmu.ca)

#### **Committee Work :**

##### **Subcommittee on Teaching and Learning – STL**

- EdUS's next event will be about mental health awareness/active listening. We will meet with SKILLS21 to see if we can get attendees some CCRs
- Next meeting Nov. 6

#### **Faculty Updates :**

- Construction done in Oct/Nov
- Teacher Education Program to be re-evaluated in Nov. 2019. We are expecting reforms following this. Lisa Starr is already dedicated to these reforms and evaluating our current program
- Water issue – negotiating getting new water fountains?
- Missing audits blocking 40% of our funds (back from 2015....)
- Elections went well

#### **Personal Project Updates :**



Nothing to report.

**COLIN DONAHOE (MANAGEMENT SENATOR)**

[managementsenator@ssmu.ca](mailto:managementsenator@ssmu.ca)

**Committee Work:**

- Committee on Enrolment and Student Affairs (CESA) met October 16, 2018
  - Approval of recognition of Bilingual Certificate in Professional Communication
  - Continued discussion of award preferences and restrictions
  - Draft revision to be presented before next meeting by Interim Deputy Provost (SLL)
- Subcommittee on Student Affairs Policy (SSAP) has not met

**Faculty Updates :**

- MUS working on an Involvement Restriction Policy

**Personal Project Updates :**

- Nothing to report

**SARIM MALIK (ENGINEERING SENATOR)**

[engineeringsenator@ssmu.ca](mailto:engineeringsenator@ssmu.ca)

**Committee Work:**

- No meetings have happened since the last Caucus
- Upcoming meeting for Committee on Enrolment & Student Affairs (CESA) on 16<sup>th</sup> October
- Received correspondence regarding Scholarship and Student Aid Office (SSAO) Advisory Board meetings, first meeting will be at the end of October

**Faculty Updates:**

- Couldn't attend the Engineering Undergraduate Society (EUS) Council meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> October due to clash with a class



- Planning to vest my vote to **Jeremy Garneau**, an Engineering student and member of the Engineering Board of Governors, for the rest of this semester
- He will be presenting reports and voting on my behalf
- I will be replacing him by the start of the next semester
- Upcoming Engineering Board of Governors budget review meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> October

#### Personal Project Updates:

- Scholarship Renewal Policy
  - Communicated with **Cara Piperni (Director, Scholarships & Student)** regarding entrance scholarship statistics
    - The most recent stats are in the last published Report on Scholarships & Student Aid to Senate. Page 10 provides with the numbers relating to Major (renewable) entrance scholarships along with the renewal rate.
    - [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/10\\_d17-56\\_scholarships\\_and\\_student\\_aid\\_annual\\_report.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/10_d17-56_scholarships_and_student_aid_annual_report.pdf)
    - This document gives a 10-year comparison of scholarship statistics
    - Unfortunately, this data is not faculty specific
  - Met up with **Myrosia Cap (Scholarships Manager)** to gain access to faculty specific entrance scholarship statistics
    - She explained how the department hasn't compiled said data since all the scholarships are open and students often select their faculty of choice after they receive scholarships
    - Discussed the option of offering a probationary semester to ALL scholarship students
    - She argued that in her experience most students continue the same performance trend as their first year
    - She agreed to compile the statistics for four major faculties (Eng, Science, Arts and Management)
    - The data will include:
      - a. How many students annually got entrance scholarships per faculty
      - b. How many got theirs renewed
      - c. How many appealed
      - d. How many appeals were successful
      - e. What was their GPA progression from then on and if they showed signs of improving
    - Potentially, she'll pass the data to me by the end of November
- Fall Reading Week
  - I have volunteered to be Senate Caucus rep on the Ad-hoc Leg Council Committee

#### Miscellaneous Updates:

- Met up with Umema Rajput, candidate for Associate Senator
- Still looking for an Engineering Associate Senator



## REGINAL LABONTE (LAW SENATOR)

[lawsenator@ssmu.ca](mailto:lawsenator@ssmu.ca)

<b>Committee Work:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSS Meeting on October 24th was cancelled - too many time conflicts. New meeting day and time TBD.</li> </ul>
<b>Faculty Updates :</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First LSA Council on October 12th - the next one will be on November 2nd.</li> <li>• Law Focus Week (Oct. 15th to Oct. 19th)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No classes during that week. You can either take a 1 credit intensive class (12 hours) or have a week off. Most take the week off but the classes are actually very interesting.</li> <li>○ It started last year, part of the 2016 Curriculum Renewal.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Personal Project Updates :</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NA.</li> </ul>
<b>Miscellaneous Updates:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I met Professor Gold on October 9th             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pretty good community building meeting.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Looking to message or talk very soon to Professor Colleen Sheppard , Chair of the Equity Committee at the Faculty of Law re: Redmen renaming campaign.</li> </ul>

## ANDRE LAMETTI (MEDICINE SENATOR)

[medicinesenator@ssmu.ca](mailto:medicinesenator@ssmu.ca)

<b>Committee Work:</b>
Health Advisory board meeting 2018-10-18 was apparently rescheduled.
<b>Faculty Updates :</b>
<p>No progress on the McGill-MSS MOA front for now.</p> <p>I am working with the MSS Government Affairs and Advocacy Committee regarding the issue of unpaid internships, especially mandatory stages in the context of a growing movement in some professional faculties of Quebec.</p>
<b>Personal Project Updates :</b>





A newsletter item regarding copyright violations was sent out to medical students which seemed to imply that all reproduction of copyrighted works was illegal, ignoring fair dealing dispositions that are relevant to students. The statement was retracted after I complained, and an updated statement will be issued later.

McGill's copyright policies have long been baffling to me and this may be a good subject for a question.

**Miscellaneous Updates:**

Today is my birthday, and sadly I will be spending my evening in the psychiatric emergency room.

**MONIQUE MORIN (SCIENCE SENATOR)**

[sciencesenator1@ssmu.ca](mailto:sciencesenator1@ssmu.ca)

**Committee Work:**

University Teaching Working Lab Group

- The budget has increased from \$3 million to \$5 million
- At the end of last year, after the Physics lab renos - all first year science labs were officially up to date
- Many major lab renovations - microbiology and anatomy, are depending on new building space to supply the funding for their renovations
- Math lab in Burnside has been completed
- McGill is looking into purchasing another site called the Powell site - from my understanding majority of this budget is coming from a donor. Awaiting approval from the government

Committee on Undergraduate Student Advising

- Have yet to hear from them

**Faculty Updates :**

VP External has quit - will be hosting elections soon for this position

**Personal Project Updates :**

OERs

- A lot of scheduling conflicts in meeting with library admin, meeting rescheduled for this Thursday
  - Meeting will clarify how to use students with the Library Improvement Fund, once that is clarified we will start to reach out to profs
- Currently focusing on Science and Arts classes

Pre-professional school advisor

- If anyone has an in with advising admin let me know! Nicole Allard or Jane Hawes
- Might start reaching out to other faculty directors for student advising, since Science is being unresponsive



## SOFIA GADBOIS (MUSIC SENATOR)

[musicsenator@ssmu.ca](mailto:musicsenator@ssmu.ca)

<b>Committee Work:</b>
Course Evaluation meeting November 8
<b>Faculty Updates :</b>
MUSA endorsement of <a href="#">code of conduct</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To publicly endorse at Faculty Council</li> <li>- Dean has not officially adopted</li> </ul> Jazz Area Equity Ad Hoc <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Looking for representative</li> </ul>
<b>Personal Project Updates :</b>
Nothing to report
<b>Miscellaneous Updates:</b>
MUSA endorsement of Redman Campaign <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shared event and petition</li> <li>- To be added to music listserv</li> </ul>

## ANNALISE PATZER (NURSING SENATOR)

[nursingsenator@ssmu.ca](mailto:nursingsenator@ssmu.ca)

<b>Committee Work:</b>
CSAB has not yet met, and they have not scheduled any meeting dates yet. Next UHSC meeting is 29 October.
<b>Faculty Updates :</b>
None. I was supposed to bring the Redmen name change to the nursing faculty but had to miss the meeting due to a conflict with my class (I normally have class until the last ~35 minutes of the meeting so I usually miss everything and need to read notes, but this week there was a project I had to finish). I'm going to personally bring up this issue with the President because it is imperative that NUS be able to show support, especially with upcoming demonstration. However, am including demonstration and petition signing on Listserv. Update: NUS will be drafting a letter of support as President herself is indigenous and nursing can have great impact on indigenous populations. Additionally, ISoN is starting a program to promote nursing among indigenous youth - nursing students will partner with indigenous students and act as mentors.
<b>Personal Project Updates :</b>
Meeting with Concordia STI clinic worker regarding their implementation and how it helped/affected their own health clinic is this Thursday. I think this will give me clarity based on what my next steps will be, because right now the new Wellness Hub isn't really clear on how it will impact the clinic and



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availabilities. I want to be able to come to the Hub and the clinic with concrete steps and how a mobile clinic fits within this new context.

**Miscellaneous Updates:**

I actually had a migraine this past week (started happening in caucus this past week) and so I ended up having to cancel my meeting with Wayne Wood (EHS Director) about N95 respirator fittings (for nursing students and possibly other schools), and meeting with nursing faculty (rescheduling for this week to discuss possibility of upper-year nursing students volunteering at STI clinic)

**JACOB SHAPIRO (SSMU VP UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS)**

[ua@ssmu.ca](mailto:ua@ssmu.ca)

**TRE MANSDOERFER (SSMU PRESIDENT)**

[president@ssmu.ca](mailto:president@ssmu.ca)

As SSMU Executives, Isabelle Oke and Muna Tojiboeva reports to the SSMU Legislative Council every two weeks. Their reports can be found among the other Council Meeting documents at this link

<https://ssmu.ca/governance/ssmu-legislative-council/>