SENATE CAUCUS REPORT
OCTOBER 24-NOVEMBER 4, 2016

RENE IWO (SSMU UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS SECRETARY GENERAL)
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Senate Caucus
Main points from Monday, October 24 Caucus Meeting:

- Associate Provost Angela Campbell and Provost Christopher Manfredi came in for a Q&A session to discuss the Policy against Sexual Violence and the Indigenous Education Taskforce:
  - We brought up concerns that were highlighted in SSMU/PGSS’s Consultation Report, and received responses from both Associate Provost Campbell and Provost Manfredi.
  - Discussed the pros and cons of possible models of the review process of policies and procedures in the University that relates to sexual violence, as promised in the Policy itself.
  - They claimed that the Office of Sexual Violence Response, Support, and Education should be up and running within about 2 months, if the policy passes according to the timeline in November.
  - Senators raised concerns about the lack of support resources on campus, especially given the predicted rise of disclosures that will take place after the adoption of this policy.
  - Senators also raised concerns regarding the territorial acknowledgment statement that was used by the Provost Taskforce on Indigenous Education, which was adopted without consultation with the Subcommittee on Indigenous Peoples. They claimed that the statement is only for the time being, and the taskforce itself is working towards improving the statement.
  - Discussed the Smoking Policy’s pros and cons, in the context of the Town Hall that took place on October 25.

Main points from Monday, October 31 Caucus Meeting:

- Senator Snow will be submitting a Senate Question about physical accessibility in the midst of construction for November Senate.
- Discussed and debriefed after the October Senate meeting.
- Checked-in with everyone’s goals after the first 2 months of their Senatorship role.
- Discussed the Redman mascot of McGill’s men’s sports teams, and McGill’s unwillingness to change the mascot despite its problematic reference to indigenous peoples.
Discussed the new changes in policy of getting urgent care in McGill’s Mental Health and Counselling Services, which made care inaccessible to students who don’t fall under very strict criteria of “safety appointments.” The discussions are reflected in these articles in the McGill Daily and McGill Tribune.

To read the minutes of each Senate Caucus meeting, please email me at uasecgen@ssmu.mcgill.ca.

Communications

- We sent out another listserv, which can be viewed here.
- We are continuously making improvements to the newly launched the University Affairs website. Check it out for the most up to date information regarding the Senators and committee representatives, as well as regular blog posts to bring you updates about affairs concerning academics, Senate, relations with Admin, library, equity, and research.

CASARINA HOCEVAR (ARTS SENATOR)

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Indigenous Affairs Working Group:

- Brainstormed ideas which we would like to see focused within the Task Force, in advance of the Task Force’s midterm report in January.
- Reviewed stats of incoming Indigenous applicants (this year has had a record number of applicants and enrollment by self-identified indigenous).
  - Possibility of including these stats in February’s Senate when an overview of the year’s stats are given.
- Mental Health Service is hiring, and considering hiring an indigenous professional (whether a psychologist, counsellor, etc.), and is accepting recommendations.

Arts Undergraduate Society:

- Council met Wed. Nov. 2nd at 6 pm.
- Budget was presented and approved; there was debate to increase Equity’s budget, with a final amendment to increase their budget to a total $500 for the year.
- A motion to endorse QPRIG was brought forward with lots of debate, and in the end was passed with a condition that AUS’ endorsement must clarify that the fee is opt-outable.
- Senate report: clarified a couple items from last Senate meeting, including that the Policy Against Sexual Violence had just its first reading and has not passed yet; reminded students that professors assigning their own work is a conflict-of-interest; and address the recent change in the mental health in-take procedure (Urgent Care > Safety Appointments).
- There is interest in drafting a collective letter to Mental Health to make a formal complaint, instead of individually submitting via their online form.
- Next AUS Council is Wed. Nov. 16th at 6 pm

**WILLIAM CLEVELAND (ARTS SENATOR)**

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**Committee on Student Services (CSS):**

Nothing to report.

**Subcommittee on Student Affairs Policy (SSAP):**

Nothing to report.

**Arts Undergraduate Society**

See Casarina’s report for an in-depth review of items addressed!

**SSMU University Affairs Committee (UAC)**

- Working on future campaigns for Know Your Rights
- Continued work on revamp of Know Your Rights website

**CHARLES KEITA (ARTS SENATOR)**

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**Subcommittee on Racialized and Ethnic Persons (SCREP)**

- Nothing to report

**Committee on Enrolment and Student Affairs (CESA)**

- Nothing to report

**Arts Library Partnership Committee**

- Nothing to report

**GUY ETTLIN (ARTS & SCIENCE SENATOR)**

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Nothing to report.

**AMANDA MONTAQUE (EDUCATION SENATOR)**

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Met with the Education Undergraduate Society; seems like their mobilization efforts is still in progress.

ALEXANDER DOW (ENGINEERING SENATOR)
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Academic Policy Committee (APC)
SQ. APC for October 27th cancelled, next meeting November 17th.

University Teaching Labs Working Group (UTLWG)
SQ. UTLWG for November 7th cancelled, next meeting December 15th, Call for proposals due on December 1st.

University Health and Safety Committee (UHSC)
Meeting on November 7th

- Update on University Laboratory Safety
  - Request from AMURE to have a representative on ULSC denied, all the unions plus student unions sit on UHSC, whereas faculty representatives comprise of the ULSC.
  - The MNI (Montreal Neurological Institute) use to be overseen by the MUHC, it currently has the largest source of radiation on campus and has met requirements on all levels for University Health and Safety Policies.
  - New and Old custodians cleaning laboratories will be required to undergo basic WHMIS and Safety Hazard training.

- Regulatory Agency Interventions
  - No new interventions to report for the past 6 months.

- IRS (internal responsibility systems) Working Group
  - Postponed due to Andre Costopolous’s departure, bringing Christopher Buddle up to speed.

- Smoking on Campus
  - No actual timeline in place. This will be reported to UHSC after analysis of feedback from the Town Hall meetings and online venues. (see more below for summary of Smoking Policy Town-Hall Meeting that happened on Campus)
  - MacDonald Campus advocated going fully-smoke free, further than what the Working Group originally recommended. John Abbott has also agreed to follow McGill’s policy and go Smoke-Free.
  - AMUSE and all unions are covered under current health insurance plans for up to $700/annum, which is one of the more generous plans in Canada, for resources to quit “smoking” (used as an umbrella term).

- Engineering Workshops for Fibre-Glass Cutting
New fibre-glass cutter has been put in place, last requirement is to hook into the FPS (Fire Prevention System). EHS (Environmental and Health Services) is satisfied with noise level and ventilation.

- Issues at McIntyre Medical Building
  - If anyone has any issues regarding security incidents please contact me urgently.

**Smoking Policy Town-Hall**

Occurred on October 25th - Redpath Museum Auditorium

- Because the policy would risk student’s safety by forcing them onto non-McGill property to use smoking products, universal access needs to be studied for key buildings on campus.
- Concerns raised the educational aspect of the policy could be misinterpreted into a political campaign against smoking; students at the meeting expressed the need to be sensitive about the wording.
- Quebec has required that McGill establish a more substantial policy by June 2017.

**Sustainable Lab Working Group (SLWG)**

SQ. Next meeting is December 1st.

- Must work with Senator Taylor to establish the subcommittee to investigate student training in sustainable lab management.

**SSMU - SSPN (Student Society Programming Network)**

- 4FLOORS: HUGE SUCCESS
- General Assembly: SSPN members staffed the General Assembly November 7th
  - General Assembly was a success, and ended early - however did not meet quota.
- Faculty Olympics: Co-Chairs and Committee to be formed November 13th
- Red and White Week: Complete Rebrand by University Advancement (UA) to “LIFE AFTER YOUR DEGREE: LAYD”

**New Business: MASEC (McGill Alumni Student Engagement Council)**

I’ve been asked to be one of the student representatives on the committee, I will be joining the committee. Two meetings for the academic year.

**EUS (Engineering Undergraduate Society) - COUNCIL Next is November 9th**

- Motion to be presented asking for EUS Endorsement to conduct the Engineering Senator Election through Engineering’s electoral system has passed through SSMU and will be held with the Election of the EUS Executives.
- Motions coming forth to November Council include Sustainability related (SEAM Bylaws and Sustainability Commissioner (new position)), and about Engineering Academic Competitions (MEC, and EngGames).
Will be examining future options of EUS Council’s involvement in governance and the future development of a Board of Governors of EUS.

SHANNON SNOW (LAW SENATOR)
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No report submitted.

ALEXANDRE PERRON (MANAGEMENT SENATOR)
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Advisory Committee for the Selection of VP Finance and Administration
Met Monday and Tuesday all day – Confidential.

Management Undergraduate Society
- Governance committee - reworking constitution as well as practically all policies, huge undertaking spearheaded by myself, board chairman, president and VP internal, VP finance.
- Board of Directors is working hard on establishing governance policies and fulfilling its original mandate of being the go to body for governance issues.
  - Establishing a working group structure where board members will call upon members at large to target specific issues which will then be implemented by our executive council
- MUS Council (Monthly) - Everything’s fine on our end, accepting new academic initiatives, Finances are good, events are good, etc. etc.

JOSHUA CHIN (MEDICINE SENATOR)
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Detailed report HERE.

Advisory Committee for the Selection of a Vice-Principal (Research & Innovation)
- SQ. Currently in the process of shortlisting candidates.
- Next meeting on Nov 7, 2016.

Academic Policy Committee (APC)
- SQ. Next meeting on Nov 17, 2016.

SSMU Legislative Council (as Senate Caucus Representative)
- Legislative Council meeting on Nov 3, 2016.
• Discussion re: role, activities, and mandate of Board of Directors.
• Presentation on AVEQ.

SSMU Finance Committee (as Senate Caucus Representative)
• SQ. No planned meeting to date.

Faculty-level student associations: MSS, NUS, POTUS, DSS, SWSA
• NUS General Council meeting on Oct 27, 2016.
• Discussion regarding financing of NUS council branded clothing (hoodie).
• Provided senate updates.

Varia
• Discussion with Senator Snow re: academic situation of constituent.
• Discussion with constituent in Medicine re: disclosure of academic information to third parties.

MITCHEL RUSSO (MUSIC SENATOR)

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Subcommittee on Undergraduate Student Advising (SUSA)
• Nothing new to report at this time
• Next committee meeting date is to be determined

Subcommittee on Teaching and Learning (STL)
• Nothing new to report at this time
• The next meeting which was to take place November 8 at 2pm, has been cancelled. The agenda items have been tabled until our February 2017 meeting

Subcommittee on Queer People (SQP)
• Nothing new to report at this time
• Next meeting will take place November 16 at 4pm

Music Undergraduate Student Association (MUSA)
• Nothing new to report at this time
• Next meeting will take place November 6 at 7pm

SEAN TAYLOR (SCIENCE SENATOR)

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Enrollment and Student Affairs Advisory Committee (ESAAC)
  • Nothing to report

Teaching and Learning Spaces Working Group (TLSWG)
  • Compiling all the results from the survey and will be submitting them by the November 8th deadline

Sustainability Labs Working Group (SLWG)
  • Will be working with Senator Dow on forming a student led training program for sustainable practices in labs

Senate
  • Nothing to report

Science Undergraduate Society
  • Nothing to report

JADE CORRIVEAU (MCSS/MACDONALD CAMPUS SENATOR)
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Renovation in the Ceilidh Pub Kitchen
  • Goal: have a viable food business added on Mac Campus
  • A survey indicates that 400 students would use this kitchen it each week
  • Discussion with an architect has begun for design suggestions

Mac Athletics Boathouse Project:
  • MAC Athletics is planning a boathouse project, the Mac Paddle Project
  • Meeting with Mac athletics to come

Public consultation on smoke free policy:
  • John Abbott College might be interested in joining
  • The plan for now is to create a smoke-free campus with some smoking zones

ERIN SOBAT (SSMU VP UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS)
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BEN VAN DER GER (SSMU PRESIDENT)
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As SSMU Executives, Erin Sobat and Ben van der Ger reports to the SSMU Legislative Council every two weeks. Their reports can be found among the other Council Meeting documents at this link.

The current newest report was published on November 3 and October 20 (for Ben). For Erin’s report, please click here. For Ben’s report, please click here.