



SENATE CAUCUS REPORT

NOVEMBER 7-21, 2016

RENE IWO (SSMU UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS SECRETARY GENERAL)

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Senate Caucus

The Senators attended the Annual Joint Board-Senate Meeting on November 10, with the topic of “McGill’s Sustainability Plans and Initiatives.”

Main points from Tuesday, November 8 Caucus Meeting:

- Discussed the usage of for-cost course assessment software in some McGill classes, despite the new Polling@McGill system that was recently made available to all students for free.
- Discussed the results from the Smoking Policy Town Halls that were held in both downtown and Mac campuses.
- Discussed the current situation at McGill Counselling and Mental Health Services (CAMH), in which students who need urgent service might not be able to access it, due to not falling into the strict category of a “Safety Appointment.”
- Discussed a few documents that were sent in preparation for the Joint Board-Senate Meeting regarding sustainability.

Main points from Monday, November 14 Caucus Meeting:

- Discussed the poor communication from Enrolment Services regarding the new exam deferral pilot project. This has since been addressed on their webpage, with updated and clearer information: <http://mcgill.ca/students/exams/dates/supdefer>.
- Discussed the preferred first name policy: There is now an Associate Registrar that is assigned to ensure the proper implementation of this policy across multiple platforms. If you know of anyone who is encountering problems regarding their preferred first name, please contact heidi.emami@mcgill.ca.
- Discussed the Student Services funding situation: Student Services Innovation Fund will not continue in the next year.
- Debriefed after the previous week’s Joint Board-Senate Meeting. The Senators felt that the meeting lacked clear goals, and were unsure as to how the recommendations from this meeting would be used.

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



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CASARINA HOCEVAR (ARTS SENATOR)

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Nothing to report

WILLIAM CLEVELAND (ARTS SENATOR)

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Subcommittee on Student Affairs Policy (SSAP)

- Choosing dates for next semester

AUS

- Supported Menstrual Products Referendum.
- If you or someone you know is interested in speaking out on an issue that is important to you please email communications.aus@mail.mcgill.ca.
 - From classes to the Admin, email with what topic you are interested in talking about.

Committee on Student Services (CSS)

- Student Services Budget-Presented by Ollivier Dyens (Deputy Provost of Student Life and Learning).
 - Predicts fewer overhead costs moving forward in relation to student services.
 - Claims cuts to Student Services are due to budget cuts from Quebec forced upon McGill.
 - Sees improvements moving forward; points to reinvest beginning this year.
- New Interim Senior Director of Student Services: 2016-2017 Plans
 - Wellness Hub
 - Stepped-care model
 - Building capacity as well
 - Client Care Clinician (CCC)
 - Renovation of health services for new common intake
 - Undergraduate Skillset development
- Preferred name policy has moved up in priority for the administration.

CHARLES KEITA (ARTS SENATOR)

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Nothing to report

GUY ETLIN (ARTS & SCIENCE SENATOR)

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Subcommittee on Courses and Teaching Programs (SCTP):

Reports received from: Schulich School of Music, Enrolment Services - no further business arising.

AMANDA MONTAQUE (EDUCATION SENATOR)

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Committee on Student Services (CSS)

Absent

Undergraduate Skills Development Communications Committee - Steering Committee

- Discussion of website look and feel.
- Established that there should be more visuals, as well as interactive buttons/ links to useful pages. Other additions include proper drop down menus.
- Searching for more stock photos - I will be helping to choose photos.
- Still in search for branding, shapes, and colour schemes that stay true to McGill as well as will stand the test of time.
- Discussion of cross communication between advisors and undergraduate skills committee directly.

ALEXANDER DOW (ENGINEERING SENATOR)

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Academic Policy Committee (APC)

Next Meeting December 8th (*Cannot Attend*)

Meeting November 17th Recap:

- Approval of a number of agenda items from SCTP.
- Nothing super controversial, new programs approved in the Faculty of Education and Medicine.

University Teaching Lab Working Group (UTLWG)

SQ. Next meeting December 15th.



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Call for proposals due on December 1st.

University Health and Safety Committee (UHSC)

Next Meeting December 19th.

- Arising Business since meeting: Security in North-West portion of Campus
- If anyone has any issues regarding security incidents, please contact me urgently or McGill Security's director: Pierre Barbarie (pierre.barbarie@mcgill.ca).
- There have been consistent issues since September in the upper north-west areas of campus from Dr. Penfield Avenue and McIntyre Medical Building - these are being addressed by increased security presence and a reallocation of resources to maximize patrols. As well as promotion of walk safe services provided by SSMU and McGill Security.

Sustainable Lab Working Group (SLWG)

SQ. Next meeting is December 1st.

- Holding open forum office hours November 23rd from 10:00am to 12:00 (noon) in the EUS office regarding Sustainable Lab Management Teaching Initiatives that can be worked upon. Will bring tangible results to the meeting for presentation from Engineering.

McGill Alumni Student Engagement Council (MASEC)

SQ. Meeting tentatively booked Wednesday November 30th, 5:30-7:00pm

I cannot attend due to academic conflicts.

SSMU Student Society Programming Network (SSPN)

Faculty Olympics: I am Creative Director for Faculty Olympics. Proposed Dates March 6-10.

Other Business

Meeting with the Exam Office regarding conflict exams, booked for January 10th 2017 with Kathleen Massey and Nadine Lassard. Will be discussing the addition of 5 exams in 5 days (consecutive) to the list of conflicts.

Meeting arranged with EUS VP Academic and MESC Coordinator to hopefully get Engineering in favour of a Fall Reading Week, scheduled for early December.

Question to Senate has been responded to, although the answer is very bland and just states what they've been telling us every time there is a publication. Looking to counter with a question with regards to if we (the students) could receive more information about when pathways across McTavish and Dr. Penfield move (since they do so daily).



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EUS (Engineering Undergraduate Society) - Council Nov. 23rd (last for the Fall Semester)

CEAB (Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board) has been visiting from November 14th - Nov 17th. Have been assisting the VP Academic with this matter, as well I've been working with the Cyclical Review Unit on the Review of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

SHANNON SNOW (LAW SENATOR)

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No report submitted.

ALEXANDRE PERRON (MANAGEMENT SENATOR)

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No report submitted.

JOSHUA CHIN (MEDICINE SENATOR)

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Detailed report [HERE](#).

Advisory Committee for the Selection of a Vice-Principal (Research & Innovation)

- SQ. Nov 7, 2016 meeting cancelled. Currently inviting shortlisted candidates for interview.
- Next meeting on Nov 21, 2016.

Academic Policy Committee (APC)

- Meeting on Nov 17, 2016. Approval of Subcommittee on Courses and Teaching Programs (SCTP) reports and updated membership.
- Next meeting on Dec 8, 2016.

SSMU Legislative Council (as Senate Caucus Representative)

- Legislative Council meeting on Nov 17, 2016. Approval of General Assembly motions.
- Next meeting on Dec 1, 2016.

SSMU Committees (as Senate Caucus Representative)

- **Finance Committee:** SQ. No planned meeting to date.

Faculty-level student associations: MSS, NUS, POTUS, DSS, SWSA



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- DSS: Met with DSS President on Nov 14, 2016 to discuss current academic and mistreatment policies in Faculty of Dentistry.
- Meeting with Dentistry administration pending.

McGill Journal of Medicine (MJM) Board of Directors

- First meeting on Nov 15, 2016. Absent with regrets, awaiting meeting minutes.

MITCHEL RUSSO (MUSIC SENATOR)

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Subcommittee on Undergraduate Student Advising (SUSA)

The Committee met on November 8th in James 301 to discuss the following:

- Deferred Exam Policy Pilot
 - The Deferred Exam Policy Pilot for **first time** deferring students has been updated on the [Exam Website](#).
 - A question of authenticity was brought up, how can advisors ensure that students are deferring for medical, mental health or extenuating circumstances and not for a vacation. The posed answer is that advisors should be following up with the student and if information is disclosed that the request is for a non-valid reason it's up to faculty discretion about whether to approve or deny the request.
 - Concurrent Students in the Bachelor of Music/Bachelor of Education still would not apply under this policy as their home faculty is Music, and the Music Faculty has not opted into this pilot program.
 - Students should consult the Deferred and Supplemental Exams website for any questions they may have regarding this new policy, any further questions can be address to their respective Student Affairs Office.
- Dean of Students Award Process (2016-2017)
 - The subcommittee would like to see more student representation for both the letters submitted for this award as well as on the selection committee.
 - The committee is still mulling over a timespan for the award process and possible dates will be brought to the next meeting for discussions.
 - One suggestion to the criteria of the nomination letter was to include “recent accomplishments, community involvement recent history” so that achievements or extra community involvement can be taken into consideration.
- Update on Counseling and Mental Health Services
 - Two representatives from Counseling and Mental Health Services joined the subcommittee to discuss the changes occurring in the Counseling and Mental Health Services.



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- Feedback from advisors is pivotal in midst of the transition and launch of the new system.
- A question was posed by one of the committee members in regards to documentation for extensions or missed classes/evaluations given the current wait times. The posed solution was for the student to speak to the advisor, book at appointment at Counseling and Mental Health Services, email both the advisor and professor advising them they've made an appointment at Counseling and Mental Health Services and inform them of the current wait time. The advisor will be able to vouch for student to the professor regarding the situation.
- Representatives from Counselling and Mental Health services informed committee members that although there's still two separate doors (once for counselling services, and the other for mental health services) if an advisor takes a student to either door, they'll receive the help they need as these two offices have merged together. The two separate doors will lead to the same outcome.

Subcommittee on Teaching and Learning (STL)

Nothing to report at this time.

Next meeting will occur in February 2017.

Subcommittee on Queer People (SQP)

The committee met on November 16th in Leacock 738. I unfortunately was unable to attend the meeting due to a conflict but the items on the agenda were:

- Return to the Rainbow Update
- Preferred Names Update
- Health Services Update
- Mandatory Equity Training Update
- Queer Issues Forum Update & Agenda Setting
- Proposal for Committee Positions

The subcommittee has nominated a Co-Chair, Mr. Michael David Miller, who will assist Dr. Lynn Kozak and take on a more active role in running the subcommittee while Dr. Kozak is on sabbatical for the Winter 2017 and 2018 terms.

Music Undergraduate Student Association (MUSA)

The council met on November 6th in Elizabeth Wirth Building A-832 to discuss the following:

- Music Therapy Initiative
 - The proposed Music Therapy Outreach Program (discussed earlier in the semester) has officially taken off! Our first excursion will be Sunday, November 20th from 1-5pm.



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- The goal is for solo or small ensemble performances from Schulich School of Music Students to perform for the residents of a local Montreal long-term care facility.
- It's a great opportunity to not only practice for upcoming recitals, juries etc., but also to provide some pleasure for the residents and engage in community outreach.
- Marvin Duchow Music Library Water Fountain Proposal
 - I am personally working on an initiative to install water fountains in the Marvin Duchow Music Library on all three floors. The head librarian, Cynthia Leive, is on board with the proposal and the Building Director has added this project to his list of projects to discuss with the Dean of Music
 - External funding opportunities are currently being explored to help offset the cost of this project

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)

Results of survey were compiled and sent to the TLSWG for consideration.

Sustainability Labs Working Group (SLWG)

Nothing to Report.

Senate

Sexual Violence Policy will be voted on at upcoming meeting, Nov 28.

SUS

Will be bringing the Senator elections under the SUS voting structure instead of the SSMU elections period due to increased turnout amongst science students for SUS elections than SSMU elections.

JADE CORRIVEAU (MCSS/MACDONALD CAMPUS SENATOR)

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No report submitted.



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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 17.

For Erin's report, please click [here](#). For Ben's report, please click [here](#).