



Office of the Vice-President (University Affairs)

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

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

Located on unceded, Kanien'kehá:ka traditional territory

SENATE CAUCUS REPORT

NOVEMBER 21-DECEMBER 5, 2016

RENE IWO (SSMU UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS SECRETARY GENERAL)

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Senate Caucus

The Senators attended the Senate Meeting on Wednesday, November 23. The **Policy Against Sexual Violence** was voted on and passed during this meeting.

Main points from Monday, November 21 Caucus Meeting:

- Discussed the [Campus Construction Campaign](#) that SSMU has just launched on Facebook. To voice your concerns, feel free to use the form [here](#) or email construction.feedback@mcgill.ca. Alternately, voice your concerns via the Office of Students with Disabilities (OSD) [here](#).
- Discussed governance reform at McGill, in light of the recently publicized SSMU [report](#) analyzing the McGill Board of Governors.
- Discussed issues with user-friendliness of the new Polling@McGill system.

Main points from Monday, November 28 Caucus Meeting:

- Provost Christopher Manfredi came for a Q&A session with the Senators. Topics that were covered include budgeting and student fees, the Indigenous Education Taskforce, RVH and Student Space planning, and Course Evaluations and Course Syllabus Online Repository (on MyCourses).
- Discussed the positive changes brought by the previous week's Senate Question on accessibility issues caused by construction around campus. Among the changes were training for construction workers about accessibility, as well as fixing some weird lips that hindered access for people with mobility challenges.
- Planned a public event for the Winter Term (mid to late January) to introduce the Senator Role and McGill Governance to the McGill student body at large.

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

CASARINA HOCEVAR (ARTS SENATOR)

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No report submitted.



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WILLIAM CLEVELAND (ARTS SENATOR)

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No report submitted.

CHARLES KEITA (ARTS SENATOR)

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No report submitted.

GUY ETTLIN (ARTS & SCIENCE SENATOR)

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No report submitted.

AMANDA MONTAQUE (EDUCATION SENATOR)

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Undergraduate Skills Program Advisory Committee (Subcommittee of Communications)

Nothing to report, still in the process of picking stock photos for the website.

Course Evaluations Advisory Group (CEAG)

Met on Thursday, December 1, 2016.

Goals for the approaching Winter semester is to increase overall visibility of policies and resources available to students, staff, instructors etc., as well as to develop alternate methods for collecting feedback from students.

New projects:

- It is now possible for students to provide Mercury testimonials for their instructors.
- New mechanism was introduced to remove hateful or discriminatory comments from instructor evaluations so that they do not remain permanent (last year there were 17 cases, none this year yet).

Additions to current resources (as of November 2016):

- Instructors can now see standard deviations of their score compared to other courses in their department.



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- Files are now readable in multiple formats (Excel, CSV, PDF, Graphs etc.).
- Live feedback for guest lecturers available to teachers now.
- Mid-term evaluations can be run by Student Associations.

Questions for the next Student Leader Meeting concerning redevelopment of Mercury system: What would you like to see added to the system? What would be the course evaluation system of your dreams? What types of questions would you like to see on the teacher evaluation?

I asked about course evaluation periods being extended... In short, I was told that this was not necessarily something that could be done across the board (i.e. in all faculties/departments).

I was told that $\frac{2}{3}$ of the faculties have switched to the default period for course evaluations; however, there is still $\frac{1}{3}$ of faculties/departments which have chosen to use a condensed period.

If there is enough support or pressure from students and student associations to change their individual faculty or department's status from condensed to default this can be done. However, the faculty can change from term to term and opt in to the condensed period or vice versa. The Faculty of Law for example has changed their status over the last 2 years. They changed from condensed to default back to condensed.

ALEXANDER DOW (ENGINEERING SENATOR)

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Academic Policy Committee (APC)

ALL ITEMS PROPOSED ABOUT ENGINEERING FRIENDLY

Concerns: The partnership-exchange approval with the School of Architecture.

The student and departmental advisor decide what has equivalency, a standard should be set rather than based on the whim of an advisor.

UTLWG (University Teaching Lab Working Group)

SQ. Next meeting December 15th;

Call for proposals closed. None submitted by students

UHSC (University Health and Safety Committee)

SQ. Next Meeting December 19th 2016.

SLWG (Sustainable Lab Working Group) Next meeting January 12th.

Meeting is December 1st:

- Large part of the meeting surrounded starting up the Student Training for Sustainable Lab Management which I'm working on with Senator Taylor. I will be piloting the project with



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ChESS (Chemical Engineering) and MEUS (Materials Engineering) since their laboratories are centralized to the Wong Building.

- See Senator Taylor's report regarding developments in Science
- Kathleen Ng emailed both senators on the committee with the checklist regarding

MASEC (McGill Alumni Student Engagement Council) *Next meeting TBD*

Meeting Wednesday November 30th.

I could not attend. EUS President and EUS Alumni Director went in my stead.

SSMU - SSPN (Student Society Programming Network)

1. Faculty Olympics

SQ. Creative Directorship going well, I'm also the Head Coordinator for Closing Ceremonies

2. LAYD (Life After Your Degree)

SQ. Had good attendance at recent events.

New Business:

Meeting with the Exam Office regarding conflict exams booked for January 10th 2017. Got topics on exams let me know!

Relations repaired between EUS President and EUS VP Academic, meetings with MESC scheduled in the very near future to convince Engineering to approve of a Fall Reading Week, scheduled for early January.

EUS (Engineering Undergraduate Society) - *Next meeting TBD*

SQ. Cyclical Review Unit on the Review of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics occurring, no new business to report.

- Looking for external company to help analyze the data from the Mental Health & Wellness Survey. Looking to make it official and usable as evidence against Faculty of Engineering claims.

SHANNON SNOW (LAW SENATOR)

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No report submitted.

ALEXANDRE PERRON (MANAGEMENT SENATOR)

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No report submitted.



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JOSHUA CHIN (MEDICINE SENATOR)

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No report submitted.

MITCHEL RUSSO (MUSIC SENATOR)

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Subcommittee on Undergraduate Student Advising:

- Nothing to report at this time. The next and final meeting of the semester will take place December 13 in James 301.

Subcommittee on Teaching and Learning:

- Nothing to report at this time. The committee has adjourned for the semester; next meeting will occur in early 2017.

Subcommittee on Queer People:

- Nothing to report at this time. The next, and final meeting of the semester will take place on December 7th in Leacock 738.

SEAN TAYLOR (SCIENCE SENATOR)

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Enrollment and Student Affairs Advisory Committee (ESAAC)

Meeting for December 6th cancelled, January meeting will take place as planned

Teaching and Learning Spaces Working Group (TLSWG)

- Final list of projects approved for the year
- Pre-Design and Design projects selected as well
- Lastly, A/V updates for classrooms has a tentative list that may be re-examined

Sustainability Labs Working Group (SLWG)

Working with Senator Dow to prepare a pilot program for sustainability training at the student level; will be looking for funding at some point in the future

Senate

Upcoming meeting on November 7th



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Science Undergraduate Society (SUS)

Nothing to Report

JADE CORRIVEAU (MCSS/MACDONALD CAMPUS SENATOR)

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No report submitted.

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 December 1.

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