SENATE CAUCUS REPORT
JANUARY 4-23, 2016

RENE IWO (SSMU UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS SECRETARY GENERAL)
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Senate Caucus
The Senators attended the Senate Meeting on Wednesday, January 19.

Main points from Monday, January 9 Caucus Meeting:
• Discussed the feedback we got from the SSMU Senators regarding Senate Caucus meetings and their own experience being a Senator for the past semester.
• Discussed preliminary figures from the deferred exams pilot project: it turns out that there are no major spikes in deferrals observed compared to before the pilot.
• Discussed final exam conflicts, and what the Exams Office can do or have planned to do to reduce this number in the future.

Main points from Monday, January 16 Caucus Meeting:
• Discussed progress Senators made in terms of advocating for a Fall Reading Break.
• Discussed issues that SSMU sees with the way the McGill Board of Governors operate, in relation to the Senate Question regarding University Governance Best Practices that was submitted for the January 2017 Senate meeting.

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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AUS
Last council met on Jan. 11th. This was the first council meeting of 2017, and was fairly short. Motion to hold a winter general election was passed. For the full agenda and minutes, and their corresponding reports can be found here.

Next Meeting will be Jan. 25th at 6 pm.

Committees
Scholarships and Student Aid Advisory Board is arranging its next meeting time.
I was unable to attend the most recent Indigenous Affairs Working Group meeting nor the last
Enrollment and Student Affairs Advisory Committee.

Miscellaneous
Myself, along with my fellow female senators, are arranging an event to discuss the role of women and
non-male identifying colleagues have in student politics at McGill, and the barriers we in recruitment.

WILLIAM CLEVELAND (ARTS SENATOR)
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Nothing to report outside of the AUS report given by Casarina.

CHARLES KEITA (ARTS SENATOR)
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Committee on Enrollment and Student Affairs (CESA)
• Did not meet on January 17 due to lack of agenda items

Subcommittee on Racialized and Ethnic Persons (JBSCE REP)
• The approval of the SPF (Sustainable Project Fund) request that looks to hire a community
projects manager that will between the SEDE office, Student Services, and Student
Enrollment to attack some of the issues concerning racialized students on campus. The
current mandate of the position is for a year but with hopes that it becomes an
institutionalized position within Student Service. If there are any thoughts as what this role
should be attacking, I'll be more than willing to set up a meeting. Lastly, while someone has
already been hired for the position, the name has not been made public but the job is set to
start in early February.
• There is an event taking place for Black History Month which will be found on SEDE's
Facebook page here
  ○ Opening Ceremony Feb 1, 2017, 18h-21h, Thomson House Ballroom

Miscellaneous: Working Group on Fall Reading Break
• Discussed the problems halting the progress of a fall reading break such as faculty
accreditation, a long final exam period (11 days instead of 10 this semester), and the cost of
starting the fall semester earlier. The McGill calendar is set until 2019 but the hope is to have
plan ready for implementation of a fall reading break by then.
GUY ETTLIN (ARTS & SCIENCE SENATOR)
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Nothing to report.

AMANDA MONTAQUE (EDUCATION SENATOR)
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Nothing to report.

ALEXANDER DOW (ENGINEERING SENATOR)
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Academic Policy Committee (APC) Next meeting February 9th
Meeting January 19th
• Concerns still not answered by Olivier Dynes: The partnership-exchange approval with the School of Architecture (that passed); emailed twice, have not received an answer from Dynes or his office.
• The student and departmental advisor decide what has equivalency, a standard should be set rather than based on the whim of an advisor and student to ensure fairness for everyone involved.
• Provost at January 19th meeting mentioned to Erin he’s moving forward on the side of APC with a new working group that will require student assistance - timeline is still up in the air.

University Teaching Labs Working Group (UTLWG) Next meeting January 24th
SQ. Meeting December 15th cancelled.
Call for proposals closed. None submitted by students.

University Health and Safety Committee (UHSC) Next meeting January 23rd
Meeting December 19th 2016
• The Smoking Policy was postponed to the January 23rd meeting due to lack of description surrounding marijuana usage on campus. A plethora of changes were made as a result of the town halls which is great. I moved this at the January 23rd and it was passed for moving to Senate in March.
• ULSC (University Laboratory Safety Committee) - Annual Biosafety Report – was excellent. Need to get the U15 together to Lobby the Minister of Health because we’re not getting through to the CFIA.
• Daycares were tested for Radon contamination and the SSMU Daycare passed as well as all daycares on the downtown campus. The MacDonald Campus Daycare did reach Radon levels that required action and the university has taken aggressive action and the testing has come back positive (down from their initial readings)

**Sustainable Labs Working Group (SLWG)** *Next meeting February.*
Meeting January 12th
- Sustainable Labs checklist done with laboratory inspections is functioning well so far with only minor hiccups; loopholes to be closed and revisions sent to UHSC for approval.
- Sustainable Lab Management Project - Sean and I are working on is getting heavy backing from MOOS through Vision 2020, although had to confront the facts and tell SLWG the project needs the right stakeholders to coalesce. If the execution can’t happen, then it’s a waste to spend time on the administrative bulk that is SPF projects. Moreover, the pilot project aims to deal directly with the differences between faculties and for some faculties it may not work properly.
- Engineering is kinda fruitless because there is no problem to solve so it’s been shelved indefinitely.
- Office of Sustainability is looking for a student for a 6-7 month (paid) position to help draft McGill’s future Waste Management policies. Compiling also waste collection suppliers and stakeholders of the project.
- **VISION 2020 UPDATE** - Report (to be released shortly, still not approved).
  - Video Release: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=blf9NG9rLWw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=blf9NG9rLWw)

**McGill Alumni Student Engagement Council (MASEC)** *Next meeting TBD*
Meeting Wednesday November 30th
Facebook group for communications has been set up by Kia (VP External AUS). Things looking up for the group. Likely Thursday February 2nd.

**SSMU - SSPN (Student Society Programming Network)**
1. **Faculty Olympics**
   SQ. Back from break, things are heating up. Interest event is out, if you’re interested talk to me and I’ll add you!
2. **Gerts Committee**
   Have met and looking forward to bringing together new initiatives with Gerts.

**New Business:**
*Meeting with the Exam Office went super well.*
McGill’s exam programming software schedules 84,000 exams, of which only 261 conflicts
EUS (Engineering Undergraduate Society) Next Meeting January 24th
January 9th 2017
• Presentation to be made about Fall Reading Break at next Council
• BUSS (Bioengineering Undergraduate Student Society) constitution finalized.
• EUS Constitution Overhaul beginning before MoA negotiations kick in.

SHANNON SNOW (LAW SENATOR)
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Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity’s Subcommittee on First Peoples (SCFP)
Met on Tuesday, January 17th.
• The Committee on Equity is putting together an Equity Education Model for students and staff, of which the SCFP will contribute indigenous content. The idea is to create a module on MyCourses like that of the Academic Integrity module (details TBD).
• Student representation on the SCFP will pen an open letter to the Provost requesting that changes be made to the current territory statement, which current reads:

  McGill University is on land which long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabeg nations. We acknowledge and thank the diverse Indigenous people whose footsteps have marked this territory on which peoples of the world now gather.

• The SCFP is also writing an official list of recommendations to the Provost’s Task Force, which it hopes to submit by the end of January, in line with the Provost’s request prior to his budgeting.
• The SCFP will be recommending that a modest fund be created to hire a summer student to assist with community consultations on improving the traditional territory statement of McGill.

Mental Health Services Advisory Board (MHSAB)
Upcoming meeting: January 25th.
• Last meeting (in October) we were provided an update on the merger of MHS with the Counselling Centre. If any student has comments or feedback to provide, please contact me and I will bring it to the next meeting.
• Two members of the Advisory Board were suggested to join the Joint Advisory Board overseeing the merger.

ALEXANDRE PERRON (MANAGEMENT SENATOR)
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Nothing to report.
JOSHUA CHIN (MEDICINE SENATOR)

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Full report available here (includes previous biweekly report as well).

Notice: I am on hiatus for most of January 2017 for academic reasons and frequent out-of-town travelling.

Nothing to report since the start of January 2017.

MITCHEL RUSSO (MUSIC SENATOR)

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Subcommittee on Undergraduate Student Advising

The Committee met on December 13th in James 301 to discuss the following:

- Update on Deferred Exam Policy
  - Thus far advisors are not noticing a major spike in the number of deferred exams
  - Many of the comments for deferral are “mental health reasons” or “health issues”
- Indigenous Education from an Advising Perspective
  - The subcommittee’s First People’s House representative provided an update on two conferences she attended in regards to Indigenous Education
  - She provided information about how advisors can assist students indigenous students in their faculties (i.e. Peer Support, Mental Health etc.)
  - Brought up the topic of “community themes” which are strategies to restore culture in the community (McGill community as well as the community at large)

Subcommittee on Teaching and Learning

Nothing to report at this time. The next meeting will occur on January 24 in McLennan Library Room MS-74

Subcommittee on Queer People

- New Co-Chair
  - The Joint-Board Senate Committee on Equity along with the Subcommittee on Queer People have approved a co-chair in light of the current chair, Lynn Kozak, who is on sabbatical for the winter term 2017 and 2018
- Preferred Name Policy
  - It has been confirmed that as of Summer 2017 we will have consistency across all McGill Platforms for Students (Student Identification Cards, Emails, Grad Photos, IT...
Portals). We are waiting to hear from Angela Campbell regarding the preferred names on Transcripts.

- The update to Staff members will not be occurring until 2018. Both legal and dead names will still occur in Banner as there is no place of preferred names.
- We’ve received two different dates since they’re two different platforms.
- Collectively the subcommittee has decided we’re not happy with the dates expressed to us, and moving forward we will be filing a grievance against Human Resources, Student Services, and IT Services. We have stuck a working group within our subcommittee to begin drafting a grievance. **Any student input on this issue or any barriers you’ve faced would be immensely helpful and can be submitted anonymously to the subcommittee or myself.**

- Health Services
  - Administration of hormones at McGill has been going well and there is new training in place for health services staff members (the main goal is harm-reduction)
  - The biggest challenge at this time is providing ongoing support during and after the administration of hormones

- Equity Subcommittee on Family Care
  - The subcommittee would like to see more diversity on the web page. As it stands right now it seems very “cis, white, able bodied, hetronormative.” Referring to other university website (such as that of the University of Toronto’s Family Care website) they have a specific section dedication to LGBTQ Families and resources.

- Mandatory Equity Training
  - The subcommittee has struck a working group on this topic as well to draft clear equity goals we would like to see included.
  - Queer and Trans issues are a topic we would specifically like to see included in this training

**Music Undergraduate Student Association**

- Nothing to report at this time. The next meeting will occur on January 31 (room TBC)

**SEAN TAYLOR (SCIENCE SENATOR)**

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**Enrollment and Student Affairs Advisory Committee**

Missed the January meeting due to class as well as still not being on the committee’s mailing list

**Teaching and Learning Spaces Working Group**

- January meeting cancelled, February meeting will proceed as planned
• After meeting with other student members of the committee, we will be asking about how accessibility is taken into consideration when renovating classrooms

**Sustainability Labs Working Group**
Working with Biology and Biochemistry student representatives to develop a pilot project for addressing sustainability concerns in teaching labs

**Senate**
- Motion from the floor failed at the January 18th meeting
- Heard reports on Research and Innovation as well as on the open meetings in response to the CAMSR report

**Science Undergraduate Society**
Elections are coming up soon, with nominations opening on the 30th of January

**JADE CORRIVEAU (MCSS/MACDONALD CAMPUS SENATOR)**
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Nothing to report.

**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 January 12.
For Erin's report, please click [here](#). For Ben's report, please click [here](#).