SENATE CAUCUS REPORT
JANUARY 23-FEBRUARY 6, 2016

RENE IWO (SSMU UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS SECRETARY GENERAL)
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Senate Caucus
Main points from Monday, January 23 Caucus Meeting:

- Chris Buddle (Dean of Student) came to the Senate Caucus meeting to discuss certain topics, namely: academic accommodations, implementation of the Policy against Sexual Violence, the definition of the “McGill Context” as it relates to the application of the Student Code of Conduct in off-campus events, resources and training for students in difficulty.
- The Wellness Hub Student Stakeholder Group is finally set up, and students can apply to sit on it by filling out this form.

Main points from Monday, January 30 Caucus Meeting:

- Laura Winer (Director of the Teaching and Learning Services/TLS) came to the Senate Caucus meeting to discuss measures to address the noise disturbance in Leacock, Course Syllabus Online Repository, Undergraduate Skills Program, usage of electronics in class, and Course Evaluations.
  - TLS is working hard to engage students and professors to help promote course evaluations.
  - TLS tried to address noise complaints in Leacock due to the construction on McTavish and Penfield. Most classes were successfully moved to a different room. However, some classes were too large to move, and students were not in favour of the solution proposed (moving the class online). TLS could not find a viable off-campus space to accommodate this.
- We discussed the response to the US’ Executive Order banning immigration from several countries. Law students have started mobilizing on many fronts, and Senate Caucus tried to find ways to contribute to these efforts as well.

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

- Election period has commenced (nominations).
- Last Council meeting a motion passed to have an oversight/advisory committee for SNAX, which is now in the process of being formed.
- The second Accountability Committee meeting will be on Monday, Feb. 6th.
- Next council meeting is Wed. Feb. 8th at 6 pm.

Senate Projects

- Women in Student Leadership Positions event is having its first organizing session on Tuesday Feb. 7th. Shannon and I met with Shanice from SEDE to discuss ways to efficiently organized in order to be as accessible as possible.

Enrolment and Student Affairs Advisory Committee (ESAAC)

- February 7th’s meeting has been cancelled, the next meeting is scheduled for early March.
- There has been no explanation for the cancellation of this meeting.

Indigenous Affairs Working Group (IAWG)

- Nothing to report.
- Next meeting is March 17th.

Scholarships and Student Aid Office (SSAO) Advisory Board

- Nothing to report.
- The second meeting will be Monday, Feb. 13th at 3 pm.

WILLIAM CLEVELAND (ARTS SENATOR)

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No report submitted.

CHARLES KEITA (ARTS SENATOR)

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Nothing to report.

GUY ETTLIN (ARTS & SCIENCE SENATOR)

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Nothing to report.
AMANDA MONTAQUE (EDUCATION SENATOR)
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Undergraduate Skills Program Advisory Committee – Sub-Committee Communications
Met on February 2nd 2017 11am. There was an undergraduate skills meeting earlier today that I was unable to attend however these were the subjects they covered.

- They discussed the website soft launch - website overview and comments
- Want to conduct awareness sessions
- Program content was still up for discussion
- Further work needs to be done concerning the branding of the site (focused on target audiences and brand positioning)
- There’s a desire to do a branding contest

Committee on Student Services (CSS) Nothing to Report

Course Evaluations Advisory Group (CEAG) Student leader meeting next week Tuesday

ALEXANDER DOW (ENGINEERING SENATOR)
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Academic Policy Committee (APC) Next meeting February 9th CANCELLED
SQ. Until Next meeting February 23rd.

- Concerns still not answered by Olivier Dynes. Pester him at this point is fruitless via email, will try to bring up in person out of query.
- Student taskforce set up by the Provost Vice-Principal’s office to reimagine the route to a McGill Degree - this was brought up at MASEC as well.

University Teaching Lab Working Group (UTLWG) Next Meeting May 16th.
Meeting January 24th.
Approved $2,175,000 in Laboratory Renovations and $725,000 in Equipment Purchases for FY18-19 and moved $690,000 forward to FY19-20

University Health and Safety Committee (UHSC) Next March 6th.
SQ. Meeting January 23rd.
Working with EH&O on developing the Smoking Policy to bring to Senate in March or April. Expected implementation for September 2017.
Sustainable Lab Working Group (SLWG) Next meeting February 23.
SQ. Last Meeting is January 12th:
  • VISION 2020 UPDATE - Report (to be released shortly, still not approved).
  • Video Release: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=blf9NG9rLNw
    Had a quick meeting on Amelia (MOoS) and Science Senator Sean to discuss the initiative and how moving forward the project of Sustainable Labs would require collaboration from Waste Disposal Services and EHS.

MASEC (McGill Alumni Student Engagement Council)
Meeting February 2nd
  • MCGILL24: March 15, 2017
  • Discussed a variety of projects students are doing and how University Advancement can help.
    Things talked about was how to get information to graduating students: Grad Frosh and Faculty Olympics (or Carnival and E-Week) were recommended as good advertising spots. Can’t send out physical mailings because of legal issues and those surrounding home addresses constantly changing.
  • McGillConnect.ca Also discussed and it’s ability to help students that are looking to connect with Alumni.
  • Taskforce on reimagining pathway to a degree was brought up and trying to seek feedback from alumni was mentioned.

SSMU - SSPN (Student Society Programming Network)
1. Faculty Olympics
   Scavenger Hunt is underway, teams have been formed.
2. Gerts Committee
   Have met three times and looking forward to bringing together new initiatives with Gerts.
3. Grad Frosh
   To meet with Daniel to begin conversations over conceptualization

Business Arising:
Meeting with the Exam Office; Office of the Dean of Students is willing to investigate with myself and the Exams Office how to re-invent Science and Engineering testing methods.

EUS: Elections underway, EUS Senator is unopposed despite significant interest by 5-7 people for the position: Tre Mansdoerfer is the only candidate.

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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Full report available here.

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

SSMU Legislative Council (as Senate Caucus Representative)
  • Meeting on Jan 26, 2017: Discussion regarding SSMU governance (incl. Notice of Motion)

Nothing to report since the start of January 2017, with the exception of the above.

MITCHEL RUSSO (MUSIC SENATOR)
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Subcommittee on Undergraduate Student Advising (SUSA)
Nothing to report at this time, the next committee meeting will occur February 14 in Brown 5001

Subcommittee on Teaching and Learning (STL)
The committee met on January 24th but due to a class conflict I was unable to attend. Notes from the meeting will be obtained when possible and included in a future report.

Subcommittee on Queer People (SQP)
Nothing to report at this time, the meeting times for the current semester are still TBD.

Music Undergraduate Student Association (MUSA)
  • The Community Music Therapy initiative is in full swing and receiving lots positive feedback
  • A new communication method of Whiteboards have been installed (one currently outside the Music Cafeteria). Only MUSA executive have the authority to post information on these whiteboards but the council is finding this is a very effective way to communicate with the
Schulich School of Music Community. This is one initiative the council has taken in being more transparent and present in the school!

SEAN TAYLOR (SCIENCE SENATOR)

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Enrollment and Student Affairs Advisory Committee (ESAAC)
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 (TLSWG)
February meeting will have some directed questions on accessibility and its consideration when renovating rooms.

Sustainability Labs Working Group (SLWG)
Still working with Biology and Biochemistry student representatives to develop a pilot project for addressing sustainability concerns in teaching labs.

Senate
Submitted motion to ask Board of Governors to reconsider concerns raised during the community meetings in reaction to the CAMSR report.

Science Undergraduate Society
- Nominations are still open for positions on the SUS.
- SUS Operating budget revisions were approved at last council meeting.

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 January 26.
For Erin’s report, please click here. For Ben’s report, please click here.