SENATE CAUCUS REPORT
FEBRUARY 6-20, 2017

RENE IWO (SSMU UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS SECRETARY GENERAL)
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Senate Caucus
Senators attended the February 15 Senate Meeting, during which a motion to officially recognize Black History Month (submitted by Arts Senator Charles Keita) was unanimously passed.

Main points from Monday, February 6 Caucus Meeting:
- Discussed further the implications of the U.S. Travel and Refugee Ban.
- SSMU Senators booked a table in the library on February 6, during which Senators Casarina Hocevar (Arts) and Sean Taylor (Science) hosted a letter writing campaign to MPs regarding this issue.
- Discussed the plans for Black History Month on campus, and how McGill Admin is supporting or not supporting it.

Main points from Monday, February 13 Caucus Meeting:
- Discussed the Strategic Academic Plan (2017-2022) that was an item for open discussion at the February 2017 Senate. Senators questioned whether the new plan has incorporated feedback based on the evaluation of the previous Strategic Academic Plan (2012-2017).
- Discussed classroom A/V equipment across McGill: all wireless microphones on campus must be replaced in the near future at a cost of $400,000 due to the present equipment’s frequency range being bought out by a different company recently.

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 voting! Senator position is a hot spot, same with Arts Rep.
- AUS/SUS Grad Ball has had unprecedented popularity this year, and each tier of tickets sold out within the hour (well, dinner/dance tickets within 3 minutes). This has cause a little bit of a fuss, but as noted in Council and on the event page, this has never been the case before.
• The newly formed SNAX committee is looking for members to join Becky (President) and Deepak (VP Finance).
• The last Accountability Committee meeting will be on Monday, Feb. 6th. Went smoothly, and we took time to edit a draft for AUS’ first HR policy.
• Next council meeting will also receive a motion in regards to Igor’s resignation. Departmental associations are expected to be in consultation with their constituents over the weekend in preparation. However, there have been ongoing complaints by students that the polling has been unclear in language and/or prompted by leading questions.
  • In relation to the previous point, I’ve personally have heard from numerous constituents about the frustration with the University’s administration in interfering with student governance and/or their selective commentary (i.e. what issues they choose to issue statements on).
• Next council meeting is Wed. Feb. 22th at 6 pm.

Senate Projects:
• Women* in Student Leadership Positions project has been planned for Tuesday, Feb. 21st from 5.45 - 8 pm. The event is called: “Rant & Love Sesh | McGill Women/GenderNB/NC folks in Leadership.” If you know anyone who would like to come / was not able to but would like to connect with us, feel free to shoot me or Shannon a message on Facebook.

Enrolment and Student Affairs Advisory Committee (ESAAC):
• Nothing to report.
• Next meeting is scheduled for early March.

Indigenous Affairs Working Group (IAWG):
• Nothing to report.
• Next meeting is March 17th.

Scholarships and Student Aid Office Advisory Board (SSAO):
• Last meeting was Monday, Feb. 13th at 3 pm.
• Unfortunately there were only 3 students reps (so we didn’t even have parity with the administration)...
• Most of the meeting was spent discussing the status of admission offers / scholarship offers. Due to the travel restriction from EO across the border, and McGill’s (along with other universities’) extended deadlines, SSAO is a bit behind on sending out scholarship offers / general office work. However, on a positive note, McGill has received an increase in applicants this year (which also makes it more competitive for students).
• McGill’s refugee sponsorship program is going well, too. (I plan to find out more concrete details on this).
I also requested a follow up on implementing more support for transfer students / creating a landing page on their website for transfer students, as the information for student aid is very unclear currently.

Next meeting shall take place close to the last week of classes / beginning of exams.

WILLIAM CLEVELAND (ARTS SENATOR)
artssenator2@ssmu.mcgill.ca

No report submitted.

CHARLES KEITA (ARTS SENATOR)
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No report submitted.

GUY ETTLIN (ARTS & SCIENCE SENATOR)
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Completed a comprehensive list of academic rights and student rights complaints brought forward against Prof. Velk. Submitted to the Associate Dean via AUS VP Academic.

AMANDA MONTAQUE (EDUCATION SENATOR)
educationsenator@ssmu.mcgill.ca

No report submitted.

ALEXANDER DOW (ENGINEERING SENATOR)
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Academic Policy Committee (APC) Next meeting February 23.
SQ.

University Teaching Lab Working Group (UTLWG) Next Meeting May 16.
SQ.
Meeting with Katherine Duff and Adam Finkelstein Friday Feb. 17th discussed how TLSWG and UTLWG communicate with undergraduate funds - this way we can maximize undergraduate resources. Meeting was productive for both EUS and Admin, hoping this can translate into action on the SSMU level by having a Student-Wide template for future academic funds, this way student funds are all
harmonious in nature.

**University Health and Safety Committee (UHSC)** *Next March 6.*

SQ.

**Sustainable Lab Working Group (SLWG)** *Next meeting February 23.*

SQ.

**MASEC (McGill Alumni Student Engagement Council)** *No more meetings for Academic Year 16/17.*

Meeting February 2

- MCGILL24: March 15, 2017
- Promote [mcgillconnect.ca](http://mcgillconnect.ca)
- Need to find/recommend a replacement to MASEC, if you have someone in mind please let me know!

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

1. **Faculty Olympics**

   - Teams formed and paid for and filled all Rosters. Total participants: ~800
   - Equity Trainings are in full swing for February 21st and 22nd
   - Captains package to be released Feb 21st or 22nd

2. **Grad Frosh**

   - Met with Daniel, to make a contribution on behalf of MASEC

**Business Arising:**

EUS: Elections results public.

1. EUS Senator 2017-2018 is **Ricahrd (Tre) Mansdoerfer** (Highest Approval of any Candidate)

   82.58% **YES** 17.42% **NO**

2. President 2017-2018 is **Jessica McAvoy** (Lowest Approval of any Candidate)

   52.79% **YES** 47.20% **NO**

   Recommending **Louis Bernardi**, EUS IT Director 2016-2017 for IT Subcommittee of the Building and Property Committee (BPC).

**SHANNON SNOW (LAW SENATOR)**

[lawsenator@ssmu.mcgill.ca](mailto:lawsenator@ssmu.mcgill.ca)

*No report submitted.*
ALEXANDRE PERRON (MANAGEMENT SENATOR)
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No report submitted.

JOSHUA CHIN (MEDICINE SENATOR)
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Full report here (with updated watermark!).

McGill Senate
• Meeting on Feb 15, 2017.
  • Next meeting on Mar 22, 2017.

Senate Committees
• Academic Policy Committee (APC)
  • Meeting on Feb 9, 2017 cancelled.
  • Next meeting on Feb 23, 2017.
• Selection Committee for the Principal’s Prize for Outstanding Emerging Researchers
  • First meeting scheduled on Mar 13, 2017.

SSMU Legislative Council (as Senate Caucus Representative)
• Meeting on Feb 9, 2017.
  • Discussion re: notice of motion for the Athletics Fee increase.
  • Discussion re: recent events surrounding Councillor Sadikov.
  • Discussion re: amendments to the Governance IRs and other notices of motion.
  • Next meeting on Feb 23, 2017.

MITCHEL RUSSO (MUSIC SENATOR)
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Subcommittee on Undergraduate Student Advising:
The committee was scheduled to meet in Brown 5001 on February 14, but due to a “sparse agenda” the meeting was cancelled and rescheduled to March 28th from 11:00-12:30. During this next meeting we will be welcoming Martine Gauthier, the new Senior Director of Student Services. She’ll be introducing herself, speaking about her plans and answering various questions from the group.
If you have any questions for Martine Gauthier, please feel free to email me (music senator@ssmu.mcgill.ca) and I will try my best to get them answered.

Subcommittee on Teaching and Learning:
Nothing to report at this time. Previous meeting documents are not yet available.

Subcommittee on Queer People:
The committee met on February 2nd in the Blackader-Lauterman Seminar Room of the Humanities and Social Sciences Library. The following topics were on the agenda for discussion:

- Faculty/Department Equity Committees:
  - The subcommittee is interested in finding out what other types of faculty equity committees exist and perhaps liaising with them. We are also considering publishing a list of these equity committees to raise awareness.
  - As of right now the committee is aware of the equity committees in the following faculties/departments:
    - Arts (Governance and Equity)
    - Education (Faculty level committee)
    - Nursing (Graduate Student Equity committee)
    - Medicine (“Social Accountability and Community Engagement Committee”)
    - STEM (Equity Committee at the student level)

- Preferred Name Update:
  - An email regarding this change was announced by Enrolment Services to over 7000 current students. As of February 15 Kathleen Massey (University Registrar) announced that preferred first names on record will automatically update a student’s Display Name in Outlook and Office 365. Over the of the next few months, McGill will also be updating the functional changes to myFuture and MyCourses as to display your preferred first name.
  - On investigation it appears that process is occurring, IT Services is hiring a person to focus to preferred names. Lynn Kozak has talked to Angela Campbell stating that the committee is not satisfied with the timelines; Angela responded that there is progress and work being done.
    - As of right now, Angela Campbell is the designated contact person for preferred name issues
    - A tab will be added to the Human Resources page for trans employees by September
  - On the advice of our Co-Chair, Lynn, instead of filing a grievance will be continuing to apply pressure in other ways (constant updates of progress, contact directly with HR, publication of dates etc.)
More information regarding preferred name at the student level can be found at: http://www.mcgill.ca/students/records/address/preferred/faq/.

- Family Care:
  - The subcommittee has forwarded their comments regarding the website (currently it portrays a cis, heterosexual, abled bodied message). There has been no response to our comments, but we will be following up.

- Employment Equity:
  - Our SEDE representative has informed the committee that there have been questions regarding sexual and gender identity added to the employment equity survey. There is however an issue with employees who’ve submitted the survey previous to the addition of these questions. Hopefully the issue will be fixed!

The next meeting of the subcommittee is scheduled for March 23, 2017.

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)
university-affairs.mcss@mail.mcgill.ca
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 report 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 February 9. For Erin’s report, please click here. Ben was out of office for the week of the Council Meeting, hence his report is pending.