SENATE CAUCUS REPORT
MARCH 13-27, 2017

RENE IWO (SSMU UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS SECRETARY GENERAL)
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Senate Caucus
Senators attended the March 15 Senate Meeting.

Main points from Monday, March 13 Caucus Meeting:
- Discussed the shortcomings of mental health service provision for students on campus. This is planned to culminate in an open letter to Student Services.
- Discussed the revisions being proposed to the Charter of Students’ Rights, which was open for feedback on a webform.
- Discussed the McGill admin’s reaction to the Concordia University bomb threats.

Main points from Monday, March 20 Caucus Meeting:
- Discussed the demographics report that was just released by the Enrolment Services.
- Discussed the potential recommendations to come out from the Provost’s Taskforce on Indigenous Education, and how we can ensure that these recommendations are followed through.
- McGill managed to raise $1.4 million during McGill24 funding drive.

To read the minutes of each Senate Caucus meeting, please email me at uasecgen@ssmu.mcgill.ca. Other Senate Caucus Biweekly Reports are available on our website.

CASARINA HOCEVAR (ARTS SENATOR)
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Indigenous Affairs Work Group (IAWG)
- Met last Friday, March 17th
- The Task Force plans to release their final report on June 21st, on National Aboriginal Day; ongoing discussions on how to ensure the goals of the Task Force will continue post-June 21st
- New installation project happening in Cybertech to replace the old photos of random students with indigenous-centre activities/students; currently in search of potential photos which will be picked/voted on in May
• New target to increase indigenous students to 1000 over the next 5 years; recruitment, enrolment services, and student aid and scholarships have been working on different strategies (amongst other initiatives) over the last few years to improve the number of applicants - there has been improved, but there'll be a lot of work ahead should the university which to have 1000 indigenous students enrolled within 5 years.
• Next meeting sometime in May

AUS
• On March 8th, AUS Council did not meet quorum because of a boycott by female-identifying councillors in solidarity with #adaywithoutwomen on International Women’s Day. Thus, council on March 22nd was the first one since Reading Week.
• Our VP Finance, Deepak, had resigned on Monday, March 20th because he had taken up a new job off-campus. As a result the newly elected VP Finance for next year will commence his term early. Deepak has been helping with the transition and training process.
• Catherine Jeffery has been approved to enact as the third Arts Representative to SSMU for the remainder of the year, in replace of Igor, who had resigned a few weeks previously.
• On Tuesday, March 21st The TA and Teaching Awards Ceremony happened.
• FAC (Fine Arts Council) held their annual Nuit Blanche on Thursday, March 23rd; and on March 11th, the annual AUS & SUS Grad Ball happened, too. Both were successful events
• AUS Awards is happening Monday, April 3rd at 6 pm. Your lovely Arts Senators are planning on wearing matching outfits, lol.
• Next AUS Council will be April 5th at 6 pm.

Other
• Shannon and I have continued working on bringing different women* student leaders together, with the creation of a private fb group. The group continues to organically expand as members reach out to their friends and colleagues who are involved on campus. We have hosted discussion space on topic of responding to disclosures while in a position of power. And have also seen the space used by other members to organize different meet-ups and initiatives, including the female boycott of AUS Council on March 8th for International Women’s Day.

WILLIAM CLEVELAND (ARTS SENATOR)
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AUS
Casarina covered a lot of the big info above but a couple of clarification points:
• The new Arts Rep to SSMU to replace Igor Sadikov, is Catherine Jeffery, the incoming VP External of AUS
- The new VP Finance, who due to Deepak’s resignation has begun work in the portfolio now, is Noah Lew

**Committee for Student Services (CSS)**
No updates. The next meeting is April 10th.

**Subcommittee for Student Affairs Policy (SSAP)**
No updates

**CHARLES KEITA (ARTS SENATOR)**
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No report submitted.

**GUY ETTLIN (ARTS & SCIENCE SENATOR)**
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Nothing to report.

**AMANDA MONTAQUE (EDUCATION SENATOR)**
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Course Evaluations Advisory Group (CEAG) will meet on April 6.
No updates from Committee for Student Services (CSS) and Undergraduate Skills Program Advisory Group.

**ALEXANDER DOW (ENGINEERING SENATOR)**
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APC (Academic Policy Committee)
SQ. Next Meeting March 29th
(Looking for push the Major in Materials Engineering Non Co-Op Stream)

UTLWG (University Teaching Lab Working Group)
SQ. No meetings the rest of the year.
Working on projects for next year with Richard (Tre) Mansdoerfer, Raphael Zonis, and Katherine Duff
UHSC (University Health and Safety Committee)
SQ. Next Meeting May 1st
> Smoke-Free Campus Policy draft to be presented to the P7 (Group of administrators which make decisions that don’t require Board or Senate approval). Will either be sent to Board of Governors (McGill) for presentation, or EHS (McGill Environmental Health & Safety) will be given permission to begin writing the Policy. Goal is for September 2017 Implementation.

SLWG (Sustainable Lab Working Group)
SQ. Meeting April 6th

MASEC (McGill Alumni Student Engagement Council)
SQ. Meeting March 29th

SSMU - SSPN (Student Society Programming Network)
1. Graduation Frosh
   Beach Club - June 3rd - It’s lit

Business Arising:
FALL READING BREAK WORKING GROUP: SUSPENDED
WORKING GROUP ON EXAMS & ASSESSMENTS
Membership:
Dean of Engineering, of Science, of Students
Deputy Provost of Student Life and Learning
Director of Enrollment Services, Teaching and Learning Services

The meeting covered a variety of issues within the culture that is systemic to certain McGill Faculties and Departments, this also coincided with the McGill Fall Reading Break discussions. Having the Dean’s on board moves this discussion a level higher than where it previously was and that is something that’s new. We’re still aiming for a 2019 attempt for Fall Reading Break pilot project.

SHANNON SNOW (LAW SENATOR)
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No report submitted.

JOSHUA CHIN (MEDICINE SENATOR)
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**Addendum to report** (March 20-27, 2017)

**McGill Senate:** Meeting on Mar 22, 2017
- Discussion re: sale of lecture materials
- Discussion re: university enrolment
- Discussion re: honorary degrees

**SSMU Legislative Council:** Meeting on Mar 23, 2017
- Discussion re: Athletics Fee and referendum “no” campaign
- Vote re: undergraduate senator elections reform
- Confidential session discussion(s)

**MSS General Assembly:** Meeting on Mar 21, 2017
- Discussion and vote re: governance reforms
- Discussion and vote re: access to Lady Meredith Annex building

**MITCHEL RUSSO (MUSIC SENATOR)**

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**Subcommittee on Undergraduate Student Advising (SUSA):**
Nothing to report at this time. The committee has yet to meet since the last reporting on this subcommittee.

**Subcommittee on Teaching and Learning (STL):**
Nothing to report at this time. The next meeting is scheduled for April 4, 2017.

**Subcommittee on Queer People (SQP):**
The committee met on March 23 at 4pm with the following agenda items discussed:
- Queer Speaker Series:
  - Stemming off the Theological Thursdays occurring at the Newman Centre, the subcommittee is exploring the idea of having a speaker series consisting of LGBTQ+ guests. The event will begin as a bi-monthly event and with interest a monthly event. Anyone who has ideas for LGBTQ+ guests that would be interested (professors, researchers, students, activist, volunteers etc.) can get in contact with the co-chair Michael David Miller ([Michael.David.Miller@mcgill.ca](mailto:Michael.David.Miller@mcgill.ca))
- End of Term Event:
The subcommittee is interested in holding an end of term even where we can recognize the contributions of members who are graduating or moving on to start different chapters of their lives. It would be a nice send off, not necessarily attached to the subcommittee (open to all LGBTQ+ students interested, not just those associated with this subcommittee)

- Preferred Name Update:
  - The preferred names have been updated for students, but faculty and staff are projected for summer 2018. The subcommittee did explore the idea of filing a Human Rights grievance since the timelines were constantly being extended. During a meeting in Fall 2016, our other co-chair Lynn Kozak, decided it wouldn’t be worth it to file any grievances but rather continue to apply pressure through updates and emails. Angela Campbell has been very assisting in this issue, as well the SEDE website has been updated with information for faculty and staff before the McGill wide implementation. A temporary solution for faculty and staff is to email Angela Campbell (angela.campbell@mcgill.ca) and she’ll provide accommodations on an individual basis.
  - Our current plan moving forward is to obtain monthly updates from Angela and Human Resources and we’ll revisit this topic in the Fall.

- Mandatory Equity Training Update:
  - Unfortunately the other subcommittees haven’t been able to collaboratively meet to discuss the first module. When the meet (projected in the next few weeks) more information can be given.

SEAN TAYLOR (SCIENCE SENATOR)
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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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As a SSMU Executive, Erin Sobat reports to the SSMU Legislative Council every two weeks. The reports can be found among the other Council Meeting documents at this link.