



Report of the VP University Affairs to Executive Committee
February 7, 2012

Senate Caucus/Senate

- Last meeting, we had a relatively intense discussion about the presence of students dressed up like pirates during the Board of Governors meeting.
- I finished off my Senator Evaluations. Everyone was very open. I think it was a productive move that should be institutionalised every year. Senate Caucus this year has been absolutely incredible and I appreciate working with every one of them
- We have also worked on a couple questions to put forward at the next Senate meeting: One about inter-campus accessibility for Mac Campus and another about the QPIRG referenda questions.
- We will also be drafting an open letter to the McGill community in regards to recent events. We are still formulating ideas.
- Check out our new Senator's Corner – ssmu.mcgill.ca/senators
- Senate will be striking a committee to review whether or not it will stream Senate meetings or not.

By-Law Review Committee

- I am working with Dylan and Janina about Book 1 reform. I finished the first draft. Janina will work on revising my work but it looks like everything will be finished relatively soon.

Equity

- The last two weeks have been exceptionally equity heavy. We've had to deal with around 3 equity concerns/complaints.
- We put the finishing touches to Equity Policy and incorporated the changes recommended by our Lawyer. I am pleased with the final results!
- MCSS indicated that they may be interested in getting a similar policy in place for their campus.
- I heard news last week that our proposal for the Equity Award will likely be presented at next month's Senate meeting. I am pretty psyched about it! A lot of hardwork and collaboration went into the project. Let's see how it goes in Senate. I am optimistic. (<http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/senators/2012/02/equity-awards/>)
- I will be drafting up a formal submission in response to the Principal's Taskforce on Diversity, Excellence and Community Engagement.

Occupation

- So there is another Occupation happening as I type. I've been down a couple of times to check out things. Morale seems to be high. I have been hearing mixed things from students. We will see how things continue.

Social Justice Days



- I sent a contract to QPIRG for a possible automatic renewal for the next 5 years. I will ideally bring this to exec in the next week or so!
- They have planned out a great array of events. Drop by the office for one of their flyers. It's absolutely lovely. I am particularly excited about the workshop, "Building a people of colour centred student movement".

Teaching & Learning Services

- We had a great meeting with them last Friday to discuss future plans. One of the things we will do is start writing in the Teacher newsletter. It will be a good way to convey thoughts and ideas to professors.
- We are working on an interactive Senate meeting to discuss Teaching and Excellence.
- Murt is working on a survey on TA pedagogy with them!

Research

- By the end of the week, I will have 3 finalised research hires: Mentorship, Advising and Bilingualism. Although I may not be able to do much with this research, perhaps my successor will. Sam Gregory, the mentorship researcher has been proactive and incredible in his work. I see a lot of potential for him!

Quartier de L'Innovation

- I met with Lily, Maggie and Alex to draft preliminary thoughts on a memo in response to the QI. We are working finalising the memo.
- Alex and I checked out the site of the QI. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Course Evaluations

- I helped edit a document about course evaluations with Teaching & Learning Services

Meeting with Secretary General

- I attended a meeting to appoint a student rep to the committee to select the Dean of Students. We are looking into changing the terms of reference to standardise the procedure.

Library Improvement Fund Committee

- The Library Improvement Fund Committee has met consistently more this semester and there has been a lot of movement in this portfolio. They are currently soliciting ideas for the funds from a lot of different sources, including but not limited to, the VP Academics of all the faculties and clubs such as the Medievalists.

J-Board

- At Maggie's request, I have taken this under my portfolio. It's been a steep learning curve. I do feel that council made the right decision in the end. After the Council decision to suspend the Board, I have been in talks with the J-Board, our lawyer and the exec on how to best proceed.
- This has also gobbled up a lot of my time.



- Upon recommendation from the By-Law Review committee/Board of Directors, we have put forward different resolutions for reform. The process has been well planned out and I think the legal issues with the J-Board were dealt with efficiently. Great job team!

General Assembly

- The beast that is the General Assembly needs to be tamed or fed or something. Maggie has done a lot of work with outreach but the question still lingers, how do we make students feel like they have a stake in the issues and that particular form of direct governance?
- In any case, this Council should be fun with all the motions that passed after we lost Quorum.

Community Engagement Day

- Dropped by this initiative by SEDE for a bit. It seemed dynamic. Unfortunately, there didn't seem to be that large of a professor contingent.

Workgroup on Alternative Research Techniques

- WART is going well. Tom has been on the ball and I think we will have job descriptions posted in the next week or so. Corporate Campus will be a good initiative that will be able to grow after I leave. Further, the films should be a good way to reach out to students. I am optimistic about these initiatives.

Strategic Summit on Student Space

- Dropped by the Summit. Great job y'all! There was a nice integration of equity.

Lease

- We received an offer from McGill. There has been some movement on their end. We did meet with the Lease committee and there was a lot of contemplation and discussion. We will discuss more in confidential session.

Consultation Fair

- Overall, I do think that the Consultation Fair was a success. The format is effective and the outreach was a lot stronger this time. We saw a lot of new faces. However, more still could be done. There was also the issue of tension between some of the upper administration with some students. Since the fair has ended, I have met with the other organisers to debrief. I think once things are contextualised in terms of long term changes, it's easier to be optimistic.
- I am working with Janina to make a detailed exit report on this.

Respectfully submitted,

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