



Summer Report of the VP University Affairs to Legislative Council
September 13, 2011

"I was making pancakes the other day and a fly flew into the kitchen. And that's when I realized that a spatula is a lot like a fly swatter. And a crushed fly is a lot like a blueberry. And a roommate is a lot like a fly eater" – Demetri Martin

Welcome

Hi all and welcome to my 2nd summer report. This one is considerably longer than the previous one as the year has picked up. I am excited for the upcoming year and the new team of Council and student staff is incredible! As per usual, please forgive any grammar or spelling errors – exhaustion has taken over my being!

And remember: always feel comfortable about shooting me an email with a suggestion or question at ua@ssmu.mcgill.ca.

Lots of love,

Emily

Representation & Governance

Senator Resignation

The process has been started to fill the two seats of Senators that have resigned.

Senate Caucus

We had our first Senate Caucus meeting last Tuesday! I think we have a really good crew this year. The full two hours was used effectively to lay out the plans for next year as well as to plan for the next Senate meeting. The Senators also worked with me to work on the MUNACA question that we submitted to Senate. It needed considerable rewrite to make it germane to the 'Academic' focus of Senate. It was a great learning experience for us all! Furthermore, we will all be summarising a Senate document each in order for quick reference.

Other big plans include a revamped Senator's Corner and Classroom Announcements! Also, for each meeting that we attend, we will be submitting summaries for quick reference in the future!

Meetings

I have been to so many meetings. For the university level committees, I have already begun to submit the summaries for Steering, Nominating & APC.

Steering

Prior to the first Steering Committee Meeting, I met up with Lily, the VP Academic of PGSS. I think we will do this prior to the majority of our meetings in order to have a unified student voice when possible. Other discussions include:



- The Principal mentioned that there will be an 'Academic' theme to this year's Senate, and this will be illustrated by different discussion topics each meeting. I have submitted 'Mentoring' as a topic and will be soliciting feedback from Senators for other ideas.
- During the Chair Remarks, the principal will be discussing Frosh, MUNACA and the recent McGill Rankings.
- The SSMU submitted question has been approved. I will be submitting a 2 sentence summary of the pre-amble to say in addition to the questions to ensure that Senators understand what is going on.
- The Policy on Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law will be presenting their annual report. This will be an important issue to discuss at Senate Caucus. I have contact SACOMSS for their feedback!
- Also of note, the Provost will be updating Senate on ASAP 2012.

Nominating

In the first Nominating Committee Meeting, we discussed multiple issues. Most significant include:

- The Dean of Engineering, Christophe Pierre has resigned for a position in Illinois. An Advisory Committee will be struck for the selection of a new Dean. The secretary of the committee will be contacting me for student appointments. I will defer to the selection and advice of the Engineering Undergraduate Society.
- There will be an Advisory Committee for the re-appointment of the Dean of Graduate Studies as well as Religious Studies. The secretary of the committee will be contacting me for student appointments. The PGSS VP Academic will likely take charge of the graduate appointments and I will defer to the selection and advice of the Religious Senator/Student Representative to Council.
- One of the more contentious discussion points was about the structure for the selection of the new Dean of Students. A few members questioned the validity of the position and whether or not the selection should go through Nominating. I agreed to talk to the Senators and the SSMU Exec about a structure that would best suit the selection of the next Dean of Students. Some considerations include:
 - External vs. Internal Selection
 - Composition (Students, faculty, etc.)
 - Role of Nominating Committee
 - General committee terms of reference

APC

This was the first meeting. It was interesting and productive. Haley and Max are well informed and learning quickly. There wasn't much of note other than there will be the introduction of a Liberal Arts Programme in 2014. The discussion brought up some interesting points and highlighted possible allies on Senate.

Interunion Council

I attended an InterUnion Council meeting with Joel & Maggie. I look forward to meeting more in the future.



SACOMSS

Maggie and I had a productive meeting with SACOMSS to discuss possible projects for the upcoming year. They will also be providing feedback for the next Senate meeting where we discuss the Harassment Policy.

First People's House

Alongside Maggie and Carol, I went to the launch of the Aboriginal Sustainability Project. It looks incredible! I talked to Paige and Shyam about the possibility of having easy access to the Indigenous resources from our website. This will likely occur!

By-Law Review

I have finished my initial draft of by-law revisions. I am attempting to integrate greater accountability for Student Representatives on Committees! This Joel and I worked further on the Policy and Resolution sections. We worked on making sure that the passing of policies and resolutions are as transparent as possible. Further we established that there should be a "Resolution Handbook" for people to see passed resolutions and current resolutions.

Equity Strategic Summit

I have invited different offices such as OSD, FPH and SEDE to be present. They are administration technically as well and could benefit from hearing student feedback!

Consultation Fair

A lot of the Consultation Fair will be informed by the Strategic Summit on Consultation. I met with Maggie, Ian Simmie and the UA Secretary General to discuss this further. If you want to get involved, let me know!

Administration Brochure

I redid the Administration Brochure! I think it looks much better now. I am contemplating doing another 'Senate' themed one as well.

Committee Allocation/Call-out

I have the initial committee allocation set out but am waiting for applications for members at large to fill the remaining seats.

Parents' Tent

It was great meeting all the different folks who were at the Parent' tent! Thank you to all who came out in support!

Vice President (University Affairs) Job Description

My job description was approved in Executive Committee. Please revise and let me know if you have any questions.

MUNACA strike

Since the strike, the Executive has been working to brainstorm ways in which students may be affected. We have been attempting to get the most information out to students as possible.



Additionally, we have met with the Deputy Provost and the Principal multiple times in an attempt to glean as much information as possible to relay to the student body. On a more practical sense, we have all been acting as a porter. It has made it clear how integral MUNACA folk are to the University.

Additionally, I have tried to drop by one of the picketline at least once a day! Let me know if any of you are interested in dropping by with me!

Frosh

I provided general support and troubleshooting assistance to Todd regarding Integrated Orientation organizing. During the event I ended up spending much of my time acting as a porter due to the MUNACA strike! (Stolen from Maggie's Report :P)

Aboriginal Awareness Week

It's Aboriginal Awareness Week! Drop by to any of their events! I saw one of the people I admire most, Jessica Yee. Check out her stuff!

Grievance Procedure

A graduate student came and discussed issues with the Grievance Procedure at McGill. I will be talking/working with PGSS and coordinating a working group to assess the procedure.

McGill Administration

Mentorship Programme

Dave, the new Sustainability Coordinator approached me with some innovative new ideas about the Mentorship Programme. Dave, Senator Leung and I met with the Dean of Students and she is very interested in the ideas presented. Senator Luke has been involved with the drafting of the following research project:

“McGill University, in its efforts to welcome diversity, seeks to foster a community of excellence as articulated in the recently released Principal's Taskforce on Diversity, Excellence and Community Engagement. Mentoring programs can contribute strongly to achieving these aims. Traditionally, student-staff mentoring programs are framed to directly benefit students involved by allowing them to learn valuable life skills and develop personal connections with staff. This can apply to students from various backgrounds. However, a specific study on how mentoring can develop an inclusive and supportive environment for underrepresented groups has yet to be undertaken at McGill. Mechanisms for making student-staff mentoring a “two-way street” where both individuals learn from the other are not well understood in this context either. Additionally, effectively communicating the purpose, details, and benefits of the program must be explored to ensure that the appropriate stakeholders are engaged.”

MOA/Lease

The SSMU's Memorandum of Agreement and Lease both expired on May 31, 2011. Throughout the summer, Maggie and I have spent a huge amount of time working through this.



We have worked hard to keep students represented while moving forward to the signing of the agreements as quickly as possible. We finally see the light at the end of the tunnel! Maggie and I have become pros in reading each other's mind through this process.

Deputy Provost

Maggie and I met with the Deputy Provost to discuss various topics including the Consultation Fair and the bylaw review that we will be implementing throughout next year.

Mendelson and Munroe-Blum

The Executive had a meeting with both of these administrators to discuss the possible implications of the MUNACA strike one day before the strike occurred. They provided us with preliminary information about the strike but were cautious about giving us too much information for legal reasons.

LinkedIn: DAR/CaPS

I met with both organisations to discuss a possible platform for students and alumni to network. It was decided that we will house this place on the CaPS LinkedIn. Gregg Blatchford, the Director of CaPS, is very student focused and will be a good ally throughout the next year.

Dean of Students: Security

In my meeting with Jane Everett, we discuss the night route that I went on with them prior to me leaving and the importance of safety messaging to students. She asked me to review the discussion with the Exec. Additionally, there has been a review of the Student Code of Conduct.

Dean of Students: Selection Committee Restructuring

As mentioned above in my report on Nominating Committee. Councillor Paterson and I will be meeting next week to toss some ideas around. Let me know if any of you are interested in participating.

Writing Centre

I met with Jana Luker and the Director of the McGill Writing Centre. This will provide a good project for one of the Senators to develop support for students in their academics. Additionally, there appears to be an opportunity to work well with OSD in terms of outreach and support. Senator Crawford had indicated that he was interested in getting more creative writing courses at McGill and this may be a good place to house them. I have put them in touch! (PS Jana is awesome!)

Principal's Taskforce on Diversity, Excellence and Community Engagement

I have met with John Galaty from the McGill Association of University Teachers and we will be working on a roundtable to discuss the Taskforce and to establish ways of implementing some of the main parts of the document.

Research & Human Resources

Public Art Research



This research will be to assess ways in which public art can be integrated at McGill. I am so excited for this research! It's short but I think will bring a good perspective to all this ~Cray~Cray~ University admin stuff. Joseph Henry has some great ideas and may even be willing to develop more of a visual research report, which is more amenable to fully conveying SSMU's ideas. He may be in touch with Carol about the possibility of a pilot project in SSMU!

Social Justice Days Coordinator

QPIRG wishes to extend the deadline for this until a better suited candidate is found.

LIFC

The LIFC is great and very proactive. He is looking into amending the by-laws and liaising with the faculties to ensure that their views are represented in the dissemination of the funds to the libraries.

UA Secretary General

Janina is incredible. I worship the ground she walks on. Not really but seriously, she's baller. We are already establishing a good baseline to remain organised for the year.

ARC

Salman just heard from a job offer and he may have to leave for Pakistan in October. We will need to hire another ARC. I will keep y'all updated.

Equity Team

I will be meeting with them on Friday to chart out plans for the upcoming year.

Archivist

It was agreed upon in Executive that the office is in dire need of hiring an archivist. Pauline and Marie-Elaine will be working on the job call-out.

Presentation of Goals for the Year to Staff

Each Executive compiled a list of our goals for the year and presented them to the SSMU staff. Pauline provided a sumptuous breakfast and we received a lot of positive feedback from many of the staff members!

Equity

Rad Frosh

The Equity Team facilitated a workshop on Racism in Canadian Universities; it brought about a lot of great ideas and was well received!

Equity Brochure

Done! And BEAUTIFUL! Thanks!

Equity Award

The draft for the Equity Award should be done for the beginning of October! We'll start moving the document through committees as soon as it has been finished.



Gerts

I have been in talks with Natasha, the Gerts Bar Manager and Pauline, the General Manager about ways to integrate equity into the bar and its events. They both are very enthusiastic. The Equity Team has been notified and we will be meeting on Thursday to discuss the ideas more thoroughly.

Awards of Distinction

Cheques

The recipients have all been contacted and the cheques have arrived. They are also getting a certificate for their award!

Miscellaneous

Council Retreat

Council retreat was this last weekend! It was great getting to know everyone who will be on council. Thank you for everyone who managed to come out! The Senators and I worked well and have laid some plans for next year for better outreach and clear projects! Councillor Stettin and I worked on a GA motion to "Support Workers in their Struggles with the McGill Administration" to parallel the motion from 2006 and to tailor it to our current context with the MUNACA strike.

Flood

As many of you may know, McTavish FLOODED! While *stuff* happens, it really showed how well the Executive managed to work together with our Head of Security, Wallace.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Clare
Vice President (University Affairs)