



Students' Society of McGill University
Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Office of the Speakers
Bureau de Présidents du Conseil

SSMU Legislative Council – Councillor Reports

The following Councillor reports were received by the Speakers of Council for the October 13, 2011 Council meeting, and have been compiled into a single document. Reports are arranged by the date and time received, with the earliest received appearing first in the document.

Isabelle Bi – Arts Representative

I. AUS Legislative Council: October 5th, 2011

Last Wednesday, the AUS Legislative Council went along briskly. Some points of interest to SSMU:

- CKUT Referendum Question: The notice of CKUT referendum question was included in my councillor report to AUS for discussion. After an introduction to the issue, we took two straw poles: first, if a person would vote as is (passed), and second, if a person would amend the resolution (no, but there were about 6/32 who voted for an amendment).
- More Arts-centric issues to be brought to SSMU and Vice Versa: The Legislative Council voiced their opinion on getting more Arts-centric ideas raised between the two councils. Although this depends on the supply and demand of motions, as Arts Councillors, we will try to find mutually beneficial initiatives for SSMU and AUS.
- BASiC Report on Support for MUNACA: The Bachelor of Arts and Science integrated Council, BASiC, had polled their students on support for MUNACA workers. I was really impressed with this initiative. With an entire population of roughly 500-600, they had received a feedback from over one hundred students (roughly 12%). Initially, the polling simply asked a “Yes” or “No” answer but students had emailed in wishing to have an option of “Neutral”. With the changes, the final polling resulted in a majority wishing to stay neutral. I requested a copy of the polling and invite anyone to see them.

II. Library Course Packs & Textbooks Reserve

In short, this idea is to secure funding and provide more textbooks on reserve for classes that exceed four hundred (400) enrolment. This pet project of mine is still very much in its infancy but I hope to see a trial by next semester.

III. Consultation with Arts Student

At AUS, all three councillors have been working avidly - office hours, random sampling, begging - to speak with more Arts students. Despite our best efforts, we are only able to reach a fraction of our over seven thousand constituents. One idea is to institutionalize polling for students, but the logistics and the funding - because Survey Monkey will not do - has stumped me. Any help would be greatly appreciated

IV. PGSS Legislative Council: October 5th, 2011

This was a very eye-opening experience: with over 150 representatives, the room worked surprisingly well and decorum was held. I highly recommend everyone to visit the PGSS legislative Council - the first Wednesday of the month.



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V. Personal

I was away last weekend to New York City for a delegation trip at Columbia Model UN. However, since I am writing this report before I leave, I hope to have positive (and shiny) news when I return. Happy (belated) Thanksgiving everyone!

Julia Kryluk – Science Representative

Attended SUS GC meeting. Voted on controversial phone plan issue.
Discussed problems specific to science students regarding the impact of the MUNACA strike.

Haley Dinel – Senate Caucus Representative

Weeks between September 16 and 29

- FERC met up and divvied up responsibilities. I am responsible for research on sustainable companies and ethical investment.

Week of October 1-7

- Discussed with the speakers of council as to performance each council. Some T Swift and Adele are in order.

In General

- Doing Senate duties such as committee meetings and engaging in discussions on MUNACA and academic amnesty.

Billi Wun – Clubs & Services Representative

- Held office hours
- Attended IGC meeting
- Tried to attend the CS Wine and Cheese but it was cancelled and nobody told me
- Spoke to a few clubs and services execs about their view on SSMU

Jim Niu – Science Representative

Personal: I was really sad when I couldn't attend the last meeting/wine and cheese for meet the representatives. I really wanted to go but I was going to a soccer tournament in Ottawa. Otherwise I've been busy writing applications for med school, which I am starting to believe are the offspring of Cerberus and the mother of all banshees.

SUS/SSMU: Meetings for Library Improvement Fund are being determined. Yonatan is putting out a call for members at large and suggestions are highly encouraged. SUS recently had a large debate over buying iphones for the SUS executives through revenue generated by SUS. This motion was contested over the issue of whether the expense was justified for its purpose, and also if there was evidence that the iphones would be beneficial.



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Ian Clarke – Law Representative

It has been a fairly busy two weeks on my end. I sat down with the Law Students' Association's (LSA) VP-Finance and VP-Clubs & Services to begin drafting up a new Memorandum of Understanding for joint SSMU-LSA funding for law faculty clubs and services. MUNACA continues to be discussed at LSA Executive meetings as we prepare to vote on the issue at LSA Council and potentially at our General Assembly.

However, tuition will become the focus for the next few months in preparation for the student demonstration on November 10th. I attended the SSMU's tuition discussion on September 30th to gain more insight on the matter before hosting the LSA Town Hall on Tuition October 7th. Twenty incredibly bright students articulated very nuanced and complex views regarding university accessibility, quality, and funding. This discussion will go a long way to helping the LSA create a policy statement regarding the proposed tuition hikes.

This upcoming week, I will continue to solicit opinions from students regarding a possible academic amnesty policy passed through Senate as well as approach faculty senators for support. I'll also begin to look at the SSMU's financial bylaws as per my involvement in the Ad-hoc Bylaw Review Committee.

Dylan Doyle – Arts Representative

Graduate and Professional Schools Fair

I've been finalizing details for the 19th Annual AUS Graduate and Professional Schools Fair Program, happening on Monday October 17th, from 10AM – 3PM in the Shatner Ballroom. I'm expecting 32 schools from across the globe, and have started promotions (class lectures, poster, etc.)

Inter-Faculty/Cross Promotional Clubs Events

I've been working with the AUS VP Events, Jason Karmody, on interesting partnerships with certain groups and clubs on campus (SAMA, Spread the Net, etc.), as well as an AUS equivalent to the highly successful CASCO Apartment Crawl, which would take place sometime in November and would work to hype an inter-departmental competition event AUS is planning for second semester, as well as AUS' week-long philanthropic event, Charity Week.

Ad-Hoc By-Law Review Committee

I've been working on reviewing By-Law Book 1, in an effort to minimize contradictions and keep it in accordance with the SSMU Constitution.

AUS Council

Took place last week, on Tuesday October 4th, 2011. On the agenda was a resolution for AUS to fund an ARIA Award for the Arts Internship Office, and a change to the financial by-laws with regards to an increase in departmental allocations, following last year's referenda to increase the Arts Undergraduate Society's Student Fee.



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Office Hours

I've been hosting office hours in the AUS Office from 10AM-12:30 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Sahil Chaini – Clubs & Services Representative

Clubs and Services

In the past few weeks, I have been working to let people know about funding opportunities, especially the Club Fund (deadline was October 1st). Billi, Adam, and I have established office hours on Tuesdays from 1-3 pm. It has been advertising it but we're in the process of making signs for tabling so we're more visible.

I helped a couple clubs start their application and gave them advice as to how they should fill it out and to make sure their budget is sound. During our office hours, I went around on 4th floor and introduced myself to some of the club executives and let them know about their C&S Reps.

Committees

I sit on three committees: SSMU Envirocomm, Funding committee, and Interest Group committee. So far, it has been great sitting on these committees and finding about all the things going on around campus. I am more informed about the way funding and interest group works so I've been able to help students learn more about how they can get involved or apply for funding for their clubs.

SSMU Envirocomm has been very interesting so far! We are just getting started with projects for the year. The first few meetings mainly provided an introduction to the committee and how it works as well as discussion about possible projects to tackle for the semester. There was a Sustainability Fair on September 23rd where students brainstormed project ideas, which were condensed into 6 major projects. These ideas were then voted on by the SSMU Envirocomm and the three projects with the most number of votes were chosen to be tackled first.

Funding committee has been a great experience! I have really enjoyed learning about the way funding works and making decisions about funding allocation. We have had some big decisions to make so it has been very important that we all stay well-informed. The last meeting was the first time where we had one of the members at large participate in the committee. This brought an interesting dynamic as they are usually not as informed about the way things work at SSMU.

Interest group committee is one of those committees that I didn't know too much about before I sat on it. It is a fairly challenging committee as we have to approve or reject students applying to start new clubs or become full status clubs. It is sometimes difficult to assess whether clubs overlap with others and if they contribute to the undergraduate community.



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Anna Kourilova – Management Representative

MUS Board of Directors Meeting (Sept. 28th)

- Informed Board and executives on current SSMU happenings, there was discussion regarding GA and motions, as well as the by-law review committee
- *Faculty update*: 5 year strategic plan finished, discussion about the Desautels Faculty Development Plan
- *Faculty update*: Various program revisions in the works, entrepreneurship/strategy, labor management/organizational behavior, finance. Waste/sustainability audit in progress, as well as a first year engagement initiative (street team)
- Encouraged input about how MUNACA is affecting students, and working on spreading the word about the Oct. 26th consultation fair and online survey.
- MUS Proposal for SSMU Restructuring, Daily article released
<http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2011/10/student-presidents-discuss-restructuring-ssmu/>

Financial Ethics Research Committee

- First meeting held on Sept. 28th
- Currently working on researching ethical investments and compiling all pertinent information for next meeting, as well as providing input on the purchasing policy
- Collaborative effort to make this committee significantly more active compared to last year

Committee on Student Services

- Orientation session held on October 3rd
- Approval of CSS report to Senate 2010-2011
- Background information provided, objectives discussed, as well as the current state of student services. Overall, this committee for the purposes of advisory and governance; holding an accountability and oversight role
- Deputy provost has requested that the committee select an appropriate co-chair, however has not yet sent out the position description nor circulated the committee members' email addresses

Faculty initiatives:

- Constitution review and referendum in the works, drafting of articles (should be finished by end of October)
- Release of faculty SSMU Satisfaction Survey
- Publicity/awareness of SSMU funds to faculty
- More visibility, transparency to student body about representative updates (include on faculty website)?



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James Burnett – Arts Representative

SSMU Strategic Summits

I've attended both SSMU Strategic Summits and found both quite interesting and quite useful. The Summit on Student Consultation was valuable both as a student representative, because so much of the conversation addressed ways to better bring students into our own governing processes; and as a student, because there was also substantial and meaningful debate about ways to make the university itself more democratic. The Summit on tuition hikes allowed broad conversations about tuition fees and their effects, the social priorities represented by different education policies, what our collective concerns were and how to move forward. This summit was especially relevant for the work I will be involved in as a member of the External Affairs Committee.

Community Engagement Committee

The Community Engagement Committee is beginning its work this year. We are presently in the process of reaching out to different organizations in Montreal and throughout the world with which we might like to build student partnerships. Suggestions would be much appreciated.

Constituency Work

I've been continuing work with small Arts faculty programs, such as Women's Studies and African studies, to discuss various shared concerns they have and ways that the AUS and SSMU might be able to help address them. Budget is a common concern. In many area studies programs (African studies, East Asian studies etc.), programs are given funding based on their numbers of registered majors and minors, but language classes offered to all students are regularly overcapacity. Work on this will be ongoing. As this is a new project, I would very much appreciate any feedback.