



“The secret of life is to have no fear.”
- Stokely Carmichael

October 13th, 2011

Report to the Legislative Council

For your information

Community relations:

Milton-Park affairs:

I met with Jane Everett and Hélène Brisson. We discussed ways to reform Frosh in order to minimize the impact on the community.

External affairs:

TaCEQ:

- We met via Skype to discuss logistics of October 22nd and November 10th student demonstrations. The first will take place in Quebec City, the second will be in Montreal. Both are taking the best common denominator in the student movement: against the tuition hikes that would start in 2012. Both will include the participation of Quebec's major student associations, which is a positive sign, but the devil's in the details: negotiations over how the November 10th demonstration will be organized are advancing but it can be hard to come to a consensus.

Mobilization/campus affairs:

MUNACA:

- As you may already know, McGill has obtained a court injunction limiting MUNACA's ability to organize strike pickets near entrances to McGill campus on October 3rd. In the week after the injunction came into effect, there were no less than 3 demonstrations on campus, one of which was organized by MFLAG, the other two by Mob Squad. The injunction was renewed.
- From what I can gather there is very little progress in negotiations between MUNACA and McGill. I get the sense the strike may last quite a bit longer, i.e. although the situation could change very quickly.
- I was invited by MUNACA to provide a student point of view on the effects of the MUNACA strike lasting so long at a press conference last Friday. The president of MUNACA, the president of PSAC (largest union federation in Canada, so I am told) and one of the 13 biology professors who signed a statement on the dire situation in their research labs as a result of the prolonged absence of lab techs, were also there.
- A 'Parents' Day' is being organized by the inter-union council on October 20th (incidentally, my birthday). The idea will be to create a space where parents in the McGill Community can bring their kids, and host age-appropriate discussions about the strike, labour issues, etc.



- The McGill inter-union council is currently organizing an “All McGill Assembly”, tentatively scheduled on October 27th, which would bring together any members of the McGill community, including support staff (who would not picket that day in order to attend), to discuss how to reform the university given the current situation. I am tremendously excited about this project and think it is a very positive step to building a more inclusive community of people at McGill. More details to come as rooms get booked.
- Parallel to this, some councillors at SSMU are organizing something they have tentatively called the “McGill Community Project”, which could gather steam from the “All McGill Assembly”.

Strategic Summit on Tuition hikes:

It was a great success! Discussions were very fruitful, and I will be posting a summary of discussions on tuitiontruth.ca shortly if it hasn't already happened.

Other:

COOPSCO:

- I had a conference call with two representatives from COOPSCO regarding their way of operating (they basically help student associations form cooperatives in order to run bookstores and/or cafeterias and/or cafés).

Upcoming

- Demonstration on October 22nd in Quebec City against tuition increases. Promotional material is on the way.
- Hosting classroom-based discussions on MUNACA and tuition hikes
- Community Engagement Committee Meeting next Monday.

Respectfully submitted,

Joël Pedneault VP (External)