



**Report of the VP University Affairs to Legislative Council**  
October 9, 2011

*Personal Note:*

I met up with my sister last weekend. We didn't do much other than chat and play cards. It was nice. Y'all should go visit Valleyfield but not when it is raining. This weekend was a lot of fun with cornfields, turkey and Nicholas Hoult.

*Senator Resignation*

I have had to trouble shoot with Medicine/Nursing & Dentistry to make sure that they understood the process and the exact template of the application process for Senators. We'll be finalising the selection of a Medicine Senator on Tuesday. Unfortunately, we didn't receive any applications from Dentistry. I think there were too many time conflicts with the clinical. In any case, I have notified Education that they are the next in line to fill the empty Senator position and we should have a full set of Senators in time for the next Senate meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

*Senate Caucus*

There was a good showing of Senators at the "Meet Your Representatives" wine & cheese, Fill the Stadium & the Strategic Summit on Tuition Hikes. They are also working on blog posts and Tom is finishing up with logistics of the blogs. Additionally, I met up with Usman and Lily from PGSS to draft an Academic Amnesty policy.

*Academic Amnesty*

We've made some progress here. As mentioned above, I met with Usman and Lily and hammered out this resolution for Senate. We have consulted with McGill Academic Round Table, Senate Caucus, Councillors, Faculties, etc. and there has been almost unanimous support for the resolution in spirit. They have provided substantial support to improving the resolution. I have also researched other schools such as Carleton about their experience with the process of implementing Academic Amnesty. As an FYI, the Senate Secretary General wants to call me this weekend. I will update orally at Council if necessary.

*Senator Outreach*

We have reached out to specific Senators to lobby support for the Resolution. On Friday, I had a productive meeting with the McGill University Non-Academic Staff Association (MUNASA). So far, working with the PGSS closely has been extremely productive. I want to branch out and work with MUNASA and Mac Campus as well.

*Vulcan Survey*

I met up with Michael Shortt and he detailed the history of the Vulcan Survey. He started it! In any case, he will be done his report in about a week and will also do a mini report on Advising. We are also going to try and shop the survey around the country to other schools. It could be a great way for us to restructure the way University rankings are done. The Vulcan Survey is made by students for students and provides a great way for students to access the needs of their university as well as the needs of students looking to enrol in a University. He will also likely be



doing a presentation at the Consultation Fair about how surveys work and the implication of their use.

#### *Councillor Burnett*

Councillor Burnett approached me with the idea of a curriculum review committee. I presented the idea to MART. We'll see how this goes.

#### *Libraries Photoshoot*

This was funny. I was photographed for an outreach pamphlet to help fundraise money for the libraries.

#### *SSMU Steering*

Steering was extremely efficient this week.

#### *Maggie*

Maggie was gone on the other side of the world. I think a little of me died on the inside, but she's back so I am filled with life.

#### *SACOMSS*

I met with SACOMSS and debriefed on Senate. We'll see how things go from here.

#### *Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)*

Shyam and I have been going to MOA negotiations throughout the week. More progress has been made but there needs to be more done. We have MOA negotiations scheduled for next week.

#### *Strategic Summit on Tuition Hikes*

I helped Joel facilitate the Strategic Summit. I think it went well. There was a constant flow and ebb of participants. It really allowed for new perspectives to come forward. One of the strongest aspects about the Strategic Summit is that it creates a safe environment for all forms of dialogue. Before they start, we always brainstorm ways to ensure that people feel safe to vocalise any opinion (as long as it is respectful) and ask questions. The formula isn't perfect but there is a lot of room for improvement.

#### *Consultation Fair*

The planning continues. We have started the poster & advertising aspects of this. I hope it is a success. The graphic designer, Austin is pretty awesome and knows what he is doing. The term 'Consultation Fair' is very dry but he has managed to conceptualise ways to make the framing of the event more interesting and appealing to students. We will try and get a presentation by Michael Shortt about the Vulcan Survey.

#### *Opt-outs*

Carol and I received troubling email from a student which indicated that students' accounts were being hacked and students were being forced to opt-out of QPIRG while incapacitated due to alcohol, etc. Carol & I will be following up on this.



### *Research*

A bulk of the summer research will be finished and done by the end of next week!

### *International Student Research*

I met with Juhi and she has done incredible work. She is finalising her work as we speak and will be presenting a 30+ document plus appendices. Her survey yielded many interesting ideas for reform in terms of international students. I will look over her work once it has been submitted and report back.

### *McGill Academic Round Table*

This meeting went really well and we got some good feedback on how it should be run! We are going to be looking into a comprehensive consultation process for SSMU and the faculties.

### *Library Improvement Fund Coordinator*

He has provided me with a few by-law reviews. I am asking Pauline & the Speakers to review them before continuing. We will be putting a call-out for members at large soon!

### *CTV*

I did a short interview for CTV news. Awkward – I hate being filmed.

### *The Link*

I provided The Link some information about the Board of Governors. There has been some serious restructuring going on at Concordia!

### *Mentorship Programme Research*

A job callout has been placed.

### *Academic Research Coordinator*

We will be meeting people throughout the week. There are a lot of great applicants! I am confident that we will find an awesome candidate.

### *Social Justice Days*

A callout has been placed.

### *Policy on Harassment*

I have been in talks with Marie-Elaine, the General Manager and the Executive about developing an internal SSMU policy about harassment and Executives. Currently, there is a procedure for staff if they are being harassed by another staff member but nothing specific about what can be done if an Executive is the perpetrator. There needs to be a way to ensure that the Executive Committee cannot abuse its power and suppress these issues if they are raised.

### *Resolution on Executive Transparency*



After discussing the policy on Harassment, I thought it be best that I put forward the motion that is on the table. If Executive Committee is to be a committee of Council it should start acting that way.

*Equity Focus Groups*

I had a wonderful meeting with Lisa Spanierman and her team. She will be developing a series of focus groups which will assess how different racialised groups experience discrimination at McGill. It will be based on qualitative evidence and will instrumental at combating the systemic racism that many students experience on a daily basis. Prof. Mendelson has been great in his support of this project.

*PGSS Council*

I dropped by PGSS Council last week with Nida. I couldn't stay as long as I would have like but it was great to touch base with Lily (VP Academic) and a few other folks.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Clare  
VP University Affairs