



Clubs and Services Portfolio End of Year Report – 2015-2016

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The Clubs and Services portfolio is divided into two major portfolio areas – the administration of student groups and the management of the William Shatner University Centre. This entails supporting and working collaboratively with hundreds of student groups on campus (including over 240 Clubs, 15 Services, and 13 Independent Student Groups) and managing visioning, building projects, and tenant relations in the University Centre building.

Despite the challenges associated with understaffedness and financial constraints faced by the SSMU during the 2015-2016 year, the Clubs and Services portfolio saw substantial changes over the course of the year, with numerous initiatives to improve the administration and promotion of clubs, the revision of the SSMU Services structure, assessments of building sustainability, and general building related consultation were

Clubs

Starting the year, the expansion of Activities Night to include an outdoor portion of the event on McTavish Street was a huge success, which allowed for the accommodation of an additional 60 clubs on the street and brought in over 3,000 students to learn about opportunities for involvement over the course of the two-day event. The introduction of the [Activities Night website](#) also provided an opportunity for increased promotion of both the event and the hundreds of student groups affiliated with the SSMU.

Throughout the year, a variety of initiatives to provide additional support for clubs were introduced, including the introduction of SSMU-administered front desk ticket sales, the revision of the club bank account structure to allow for clubs to access online banking and ABM deposits, and the conversion of club office space on the fourth floor into generalized space for clubs, including additional meeting rooms and storage space.

With an expected cut to the SSMU allocation to the Club Fund, a Club Fund Fee was [proposed](#), [campaigned for](#), and passed in the Winter 2016 Referendum period, creating a secure source of funding for SSMU Clubs and doubling the amount of funding available in the Club Fund.

Efforts to expand the promotion of clubs were ongoing throughout the year, with the establishment of a portfolio presence on [Facebook](#) and on [Instagram](#) and the regular promotion of clubs through our “Student Group of the Week” initiative.

The framework and back-end development has also been created for an Interest Based Matching Survey, a web based software that will connect students with clubs that best match their interests based on a series of question and answers, and the hiring of a developer to code the final product over the summer will be the final step in the completion of this project.

Services

This year saw a major restructuring of SSMU Services, with a new long-term vision for SSMU Services established by the Services Review Committee and a change to the composition of a Service



institutionalized with the revision of the former Internal Regulations and the adoption of the new [Internal Regulations of Student Groups](#).

The Services Review Committee was active for the first time since 2011 and conducted comprehensive service reviews for the first time, producing a set of service reviews for the [Fall Semester](#) and a set of service reviews for the [Winter Semester](#) assessing the operations of each Service and suggesting improvements where necessary.

As a result of the service review process, six Services were re-structured into alternative affiliation statuses that better fit their operations, and [Elections SSMU](#), [the First Year Council](#), [the Savoy Society](#), [Players' Theatre](#), [Organic Campus](#), and [the McGill International Students' Network](#) as a result all no longer hold Service status. The SSMU also approved the addition of a new Service, with [the Peer Support Centre](#) moving from Club to Service status in the Winter semester.

Efforts to solicit feedback on SSMU Services will remain more consistent in the future, with a [SSMU Services Survey](#) remaining open for feedback submissions on any of the SSMU's 15 Services on a rolling basis.

Building

The 2015-2016 year saw the completion of large scale renovations in the building, namely through the construction of the student-run cafeteria on the second floor and the planning of renovations to the Lev Bukhman Room.

The Space Fee, an allocation of \$40,000 used to fund improvements in student space in the University Centre, was split between the much-needed purchase of a new stage for the Ballroom and the purchase of an entirely new set of furniture for the first floor Student Lounge following widespread student consultation on the best use of this fee.

The Building Committee, the committee responsible for allocating the Space Fee and the only Committee with a minority of student members and no members-at-large, was later merged with the Operations Management Committee, a move which will provide much more representation for students in decision making about the SSMU Building.

An environmental sustainability audit and an accessibility audit were also conducted on the building in order to generate recommendations for future projects, and the long-term vision of the University Centre building was re-assessed through the creation of the Space Committee and the resulting consultative survey on potential building projects conducted throughout February and March.

Miscellaneous

An Accessibility Policy was developed following consultation with students and campus groups, and was approved by the Legislative Council in April. The [Accessibility Policy](#) outlines the areas where the SSMU can improve the accessibility of its operations and improve its support for students with disabilities, through communications, event planning, advocacy, building improvements, and other areas.