



Report of the VP University Affairs to Legislative Council
November 1, 2011

Senate

Last senate was rather intense. I do think that the student senators did a laudable job! Check out the articles in the Trib, Daily and McGill reporter. (<http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2011/10/senate-rejects-academic-amnesty/>) They knew their stuff and spoke clearly and well. There has been significant support from students and different members of the McGill community. I think we built a lot of bridges even though the motion failed. Already different senators have started approaching us with ideas of how to move forward.

I am considering asking a couple questions/motions:

1. The right of students on campus/disciplinary measures and the right to freedom of expression
2. The consideration of having elected administrators. I will likely get Murtaza, the new Academic research commissioner to do initial research
3. There has been a strange trend of having more and more ex-officios become voting members of Senate. I will likely be asking a question about what precedent this sets.

Senator Appointment

We have two new Senators: Mahmoud Almasri from medicine who won by interview and Kady Paterson who won by acclamation. I am excited to work with them throughout the year.

Senator Outreach

Throughout our build-up to Senate, we all met with different members of Senate to lobby support for the meeting. Prof. Janda and Gregg Blatchford are important allies for every UA. They speak well and considerately. Mark Michaud from MUNASA has been great. He came with us for beers after Senate.

Academic Amnesty

Some of the Student Senators have indicated that they may continue pursuing Academic Amnesty at a faculty level. This could be an interesting way of opening the room for academic amnesty in 5-10 years.

Media

I gave interviews for the Trib, Daily and Gazette. The Gazette reporter K Seidman was a little strange. I was interviewing about Academic Amnesty and she asked me a couple questions about the strike. The next day there was no article about Academic Amnesty but one about the strike. I was fine with answering the questions but it was definitely somewhat underhanded.

Oktoberhaus

I dropped by with Maggie, some Senators and Dave. It was cool but having a 1 litre gin & tonic was certainly a special experience.

Bookfair



The books got moved! Yey! We'll see what Shyam does with this.

Equity Team

I touched base with them on Friday and talked things out with Cassandra. I believe things are going well. She has completed some of the work that was required of her and will have submitted clear timelines by Thursday.

Culture Shock

I dropped by a workshop on racism in universities, with special reference to East Asians. It was great! It was hosted by Ryan from Equity.

4 Floors

A student contacted me with concerns about the possibility of racist costumes at 4 Floors. I have touched base with Todd.

Costumes for 4 Floors

I love that we are dressing up as Clue! Ms. Scarlett is totally the best one ever!

Quebec Demo

It was great to go to Quebec City with Joel and some other folks! We ended up wandering around a bit. Molly Swain is great!

Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

Maggie and I are in the process of wrapping things up and prepping for our official Council meeting this week. We are currently writing a Council Brief to circulate! We will be sure to have a comprehensive exit report prepared. Biggest news is that we have managed to negotiate more money for the name change process and open it up to all of our clubs and not just services. We have agreed to \$25,000 - \$5,000 more.

Panic Button

After much prodding and support from Vilma, we have finally managed to get a panic button for Student Advocacy. They had been trying to get this for the last couple of years. They are very happy!

Strategic Summit on Equity

The planning has started and preliminary invites have gone out.

Consultation Fair

I think the fair went really well. There were sufficient amounts of people and good dialogue was created. Mendelson came down for drinks after the Fair. I think it met and exceeded all of our expectations. Honestly, I do feel the administration benefited from the whole experience more than the other way around but in any case, it was productive!

Occupy Montreal



I slept out this weekend. It was interesting but certainly not mind blowing. I need to write a Senator Blog Post!

AGSEM letter

I finished drafting the letter that was mandated by Council. It has been sent. Additionally, AGSEM requested that we co-sign a letter in support that they plan to send to Masi. I brought this to Council Steering and we will vote on it at Council this week.

Academic Research Coordinator

We have hired Murtaza Shambhoora! He's great! I think he will offer an important perspective!

Policy on Harassment

I met with Anais and Lily to discuss how we want to proceed. I want to debrief with Anais before I report on anything else.

MART

MART was good and they actively participated in the meeting. We talked about ASAP and about the strike. Yey!

Grievance

Matt and I met to discuss the procedure of review. He is going to be drafting the Committee Terms of reference and then we will start contacting folks!

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Clare
VP University Affairs