



## Report of the VP University Affairs to Legislative Council

November 16, 2011

### *Nov.10/Riot Police on Campus*

- I don't know how much detail I should go into the events of November 10<sup>th</sup>. It was rough. There were a lot of things that went down and I am trying to balancing conflicting emotions and understand all the different perspectives that I am hearing. It feels like I am in Rashomon. In sum, I was out there throughout the whole event. I managed to come out unscathed but still have a ton to process.
- As soon as the riot police left, I went back to the office and started planning with the Executive on how to support students. SACOMSS, MSERT and Nightline have been especially supportive. We also planned a Tea & Discussion session for students. A couple students came out.
- I have been receiving testimonials from students. We want to be able to have a platform to air their experiences. I have been coordinating with them if they desired that I forward their testimonials to Dean Jutras (in charge of the internal investigation) and to the informal student group that is working to compile experiences.
- We had meetings with Mendelson, Jim Nicell & Louise Savard to discuss different aspects of Thursday.
- Jana Luker, Dean Everett, and Kathleen Massey have all reached out to support us through this time. I am working with Dean Everett and Maggie to coordinate a place where students can file incidence reports against the police.
- We are all McGill was a great success! Thanks to all who showed up.

### *Senate*

- Senate was an interesting experience. The students spoke out about their experiences on November 10th. Honestly, I was surprised that more professors did not talk out during the 1 hour discussion of committee. Nonetheless, it was good that it was streamed out to the McGill community.
  - I read out the testimonial of a student that had been sent in.
- Senate Caucus will be thinking about a couple of things in the days to come. We have a few plans a foot. Come talk to me if you want to hear.
- Next Senate Caucus, I will be stepping out of the meeting for awhile so that they can critique the way I work with Senate Caucus.

### *MUNACA/Services*

- I have been in contact with Jana Luker. We will be having a Service Townhall next Thursday. The Directors of the different student services will be present to discuss the limitations put on them due to the strike.

### *HR*

- It was nice to hear everyone talk about their jobs during the Cake & Discussion organised by Marie-Elaine.



- Our Comptroller will be leaving us! I wish him the best of luck with his new wife!

#### *Equity*

- The Strategic Summit on Equity & Diversity went well! We even got an article in the McGill Daily. There were a lot of different folks who showed up from the admin as well as different students. It was refreshing to see that students who normally don't participate came out to this one!
  - I am shocked at how little some of the administrators know. I was talking to one of them about how alienating classes can be for students for marginalised backgrounds and she was blown away.
- I have been meeting with First Peoples' House, the Office for Students with Disabilities, SEDE and Ryan from Equity to discuss the possible implementation of an 'Equity Blurb' either on syllabi or on MyMcGill. This is the follow through on discussions that were brought up during the Consultation Fair.
- I have been meeting with First Peoples' House, the Office for Students with Disabilities, We have also been working on a Gender Neutral statement for the Student Code of Discipline. We will be getting it undersigned by different members of different groups, including but not limited to SEDE,
- Cassandra has submitted timelines for all her tasks and will be reporting at Council in December.

#### *Library Improvement Fund*

- I met up with the LIF Commissioner and we selected members of the committee. He has been thorough and together, we decided that we would have a secondary committee which would be used to more actively solicit information for the LIF Committee.
- He has also submitted By-Law revisions. I will be submitting these to the By-Law Review Committee.

#### *Arts General Assembly*

- The Arts General Assembly was a great success. Good work on all of our Arts colleagues for their ability to pull things together. I think there are many things that the SSMU GA can learn from. The only dark cloud is that I felt that debate was shut down way too quickly.

#### *General Assembly Town Hall*

- I had the opportunity to drop by both Town Halls where the GA was discussed. It was nice to see people talk about the ideas but sad to see that the majority of people who attending were members of the media or Councillors.

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

- In light of the new information that was discovered and the subsequent decision of Council to sign the MoA but not the lease, Maggie and I have been in contact with the Administration. Vilma was extremely shocked at the news.



- The Ad-Hoc Lease Committee is doing well and will be a standing meeting every Sunday until decided otherwise. The Councillors are extremely energetic and engaged with the whole conversation. It is nice to have their support.
- We have talked to Lampros (our Lawyer) about our decision and he supports Council's choice.
- Maggie and I have been giving interviews to the campus press about this. In the Trib, they made us seem like we were one creature.
- We have also signed the MoA. We are working on finalising our letter to the Board of Governors.

#### *Consultation Fair*

- I met with Robyn and Ian to discuss the fair. We were all pleased with the outcome and will be having a second event on the last Wednesday of January. Likely this will focus on one topic like student assessment and examine the different aspects of it. This may tie in with a Senate meeting.
- We have established that we will meet every other Monday to discuss ideas and plan this secondary fair.
- There will likely be a website launched that will be more accessible for students than accessing consultation resources on the Deputy Provost, Student Life & Learning.

#### *Senate Caucus*

- I will draft a policy in regards to Senate and the way in which it supports student associations in the solicitation of student representatives. I have been in contact with MCSS and they are interested in working on this with us.
- Ian and Annie's questions went through Senate Steering without a hitch.

#### *Senate Steering*

- The Principal addressed the concerns of students in regards to the claims of overcapacity. Base on my experience with Gerts and the fluctuating capacity, I recommended that they get Leacock 232 reassessed. Hopefully, this will ensure that every student who wishes to be present at Senate may!

#### *Joint Board-Senate Session on Undergraduate Research*

- Students should be more involved with the planning of these meetings. The Administration tends to cherry pick students that may not represent the experience of the average McGill Student or students that struggle academically, socially, etc.
- Otherwise, it was well received and proved to be a good platform for students to interact with the Board and different members of senate.
- It would also have been beneficial to have more notice and information going into the meeting.
- Max Luke and I drafted a letter thanking Teaching & Learning Services for their organisation of the meeting. We hope to meet with them for a working lunch sometime soon.



*AGSEM letter*

- AGSEM was pleased at how quickly their letter was passed through council. There was little to no debate. Councillors who felt that they were ill prepared abstained.

*MUNACA*

- Murt has been compiling and sorting out the blurbs from the MUNACA survey. I predict that this should go live by the end of the week! Additionally, the VP Academics have been forwarding people to the form on their faculty listservs.

*Grievance*

- Matt and I met to discuss the procedure of review. He has finished drafting the Committee Terms of Reference. I will be reviewing these and the committee should meet soon!

*Red Path Tours*

- Maggie, Dave & I failed to go because the event was so popular that it filled up mighty fast!

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Clare  
VP University Affairs