



Students' Society of McGill University

Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

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Office of the Vice-President (University Affairs)

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Bureau du Vice-président (affaires universitaires)

## Report of the VP University Affairs to Legislative Council

December 1, 2011

*Note:* I had a good burst of productivity! I also have written tons of emails and have tons of meetings to attend.

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

- After November 10<sup>th</sup>, I became further disillusioned with the power of students within the McGill system. To put it bluntly, Senate very much destroyed me. I am struggling with finding concrete ways to have change.
- We worked with Dean Everett to get a resource blurb out onto the listserv about who to contact within McGill and with the Police.
- There was a bed-in last night in the Lounge and Ballroom. A lot of folks came and it seemed really great. I left around midnight to get some shut eye in my own bed.

### *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.
- I submitted a question on the restructuring of the McGill Governance. Senator Shahid submitted one on renaming James Square.
- Also, SO MANY COMMITTEES HAVE BEEN CANCELLED!

### *Secretariat*

- I met with the Secretariat alongside Murt and Prof. Jonsson from math to discuss the appointment of another ex-officio member to Senate. Murt will be following up with some more research. After talking to Stephen Strople, he has agreed to delay bringing this motion to Senate until next semester in order for us to do more research on the implications of more non-elected members on Senate.
- I have also decided to put a hold on developing a policy on student representation until January. There are a couple things that will need to play out that will help with the formulation of the policy.

### *Research*

- Shaina has given in her research! I will go over it and get it back to her ASAP!



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- We have decided to let go several of the researchers if they fail to fulfill a brief timeline. It's been TOO long and I have emails that I have sent to prove that they either haven't been responding to emails.

#### *MART*

- We're having another meeting today.

#### *MUNACA/Services*

- I have been in contact with Jana Luker. We planned a service townhall and had many of the directors of different services come and talked about the issues surrounding the strike and the dissemination of services. It was a cornucopia of information. Most notably:
  - o The nurse from Mental Health who supports students with eating disorders is on strike.
  - o Tutorial services are non-operational.
- Thanks to Carol for helping with the outreach on this!
- I also finally managed to get the first two set of student testimonials about the effects of the strike on students up!
- Further, I have been talking off the record with members of different units at McGill. They have articulated the fear that they have about talking against the administration and the internal conflicts that they have felt due to their job and the MUNACA workers.

#### *Equity*

- We had a workshop on intersectionalism. It was well attended and Zina did an admirable job. We had targeted mob squad kids and a good number of folks from there attended.
- We have been contacted by students in social work who want to have a strategic summit on systemic racism at McGill. I am so excited for this one.
- I will be working with SEDE to draft a short document about how the strike affects marginalised folks.
- We will be having a policy revision session in a couple weeks.
- I will be meeting with folks to discuss a revision of the Sexual Harassment Policy!

#### *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.
- We also had our first meeting. It was great and energetic. The Dean of Libraries was present and she is very student oriented. The group seems keen to do good in the world. Funny thing though, a dude from conservative McGill was sitting right across from one of the occupiers and they had no idea from what I could tell.

#### *Leadership for Life*



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- This weekend, I tabled while Maggie was talking about how awesome she is as a leader. :D It was fun meeting first years and doing more outreach. We should do this more often. I was paranoid about people taking too much for some reason. We saw a lot of folks with changed signs due to the MoA.

#### *General Assembly Town Hall*

- I went to another GA Town Hall!

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

- We got our Money! Money money money!!!
- We resume talks with Vilma this week about the Lease.
- Apparently, Old Navy is making t-shirts with the McGill trademark. I emailed Vilma and she responded, "thx."
- Maggie and I have been drafting a memo which outlines our stances on the lease and articulates why the SSMU feels that it is necessary to move further on this again.

#### *Chambre de Commerce*

- Alongside Maggie, Joel and different members of the PGSS, we attended HMB's presentation to the Chambre de Commerce. Throughout the lunch, various MUNACA supporters interrupted her speech.
- Some of the stuff that she said was highly problematic! Joel and I are writing a commentary piece about this so stay tuned!

#### *Consultation Fair*

- We have started planning our second Consultation Fair. I think it will be about Security and Safety at McGill. This can range from creating a safe space to referring to the events of November 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### *Teaching & Learning Services*

- We will be meeting with TLS for a working lunch. We will likely talk about the forum on undergraduate education. Our topic will likely be Sustainability and its three pillars: environment, economic, and social! SEDE has an expressed an interest about getting involved! I would love to see the Aboriginal Sustainability Project there!

#### *Executive*

- I love my executive. Nuff said.
- Also, we had a good 'moving forward' discussion. There is a lot more work to do but we need to have several more talks before everything is crystallised.

#### *MACES*

- I have tried to get in contact with the Continuing Education student society for ages. Finally, I ran over there and managed to meet someone who was running for one of the



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Exec positions. It seems like some weird stuff is going on there. We'll see. I also don't have anything confirmed which doesn't help my general confusion with MACES.

*SSMU/Provost/Deputy Provost Meeting*

- How many times do we need to be lectured?

*Email from Student*

- I received an email from a student who was concerned about her professor not grading her work until next semester. I met with Neil, the VP Academic from Science only to discover that her class was on Macdonald campus so under the jurisdiction of MCSS. I forwarded the email to Kerry and will follow-up with this soon!

*Meeting with the Principal*

- Carol, Maggie and I met with the Principal, the Provost and the Deputy Provost, and the executives from all the different faculties. She let us talk and Marie-Eve was the facilitator. I think this was a great idea. She could steer the conversation.
- The Principal took a lot of notes and did listen. Additionally, later in the day, the Principal did send a message that seemed a lot more compassionate than previous messages. She's nervous and finally is realising that she needs to listen to us.

*Budget*

- I sat down with Simon to go through the budget. Very interesting! I will go through the word document and highlight all my questions and comments. It looks great now.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Clare  
VP University Affairs