



I was always taught to respect my elders and I've now reached the age when I don't have anybody to respect.

George Burns (1896 - 1996)

Summer Report of the President September 17th, 2009

A busy and productive summer to say the least! I will outline everything that I have worked on, and elaborate less on projects covered by other executives.

Daycare: As required by the Government, our daycare needed board members. They had to be Canadian citizens, so that left me and VP Ronderos-Morgan. We met over the summer periodically to review the financials, and any issues arising. We will likely need a Council member to fill this spot – more details to follow.

The nursery is doing well, and all of the spots were filled for most if not all of the summer. The daycare is doing fine, but there are many graduate students. We will once again look into collecting money from PGSS for guaranteed spots.

At the end of August, we approved our financials and sent in our audit to the government, and subsequently ended the suspension of our subsidy.

Green Projects:

1. McGill Food Systems Project (MFSP). I have been helping them get set up and established. They were incredible this summer, so impressed with how much they got done.
2. Gorilla Composting. We secured funding, but McGill HR obstacles have stalled the project. David Gray-Donald will continue to work on this.
3. Sustainability Fee. VP Dooley will have more information on this.
4. Environment Commissioners have been hired; Maggie Knight will be returning, Arielle Jaffe is the other.
5. Met with CSU executives, and they would be open to a collaborative project. They have similar fee levies, and we might split the cost of a downtown initiative.
6. Bottled Water for sale is being phased out of the building. All vending machines should be done, and the tenants should be able to comply by 2010.

Hiring:

1. Francophone Commissioners
Sarah Marsolais-Richard, Alexandre Forest
2. Environment Commissioners
Arielle Jaffe, Maggie Knight



3. Elections McGill
Michael Vallo (CEO), Ken Wang (DCEO), Christina Outerbridge & Gily Nadan (ECs)
4. Speaker of Council
Lauren Hudak, Zach Newburgh
5. J-Board Justices
Ishan Singh, Daniel Mayer, Ashlyn O'Mara
6. Campaign Coordinator / GA Officer
TBD

'Break-Out' Room: We have currently opened a project with McGill facilities to transform the section of the cafeteria directly adjacent to the Lev Bukhman Council Room. Ideally, serve as additional space for students to book and host events.

Shatner Building Lease: Our lease expires at the end of next year (2011). It is also scheduled to expire at the same time as our Memorandum of Agreement with the University. To make this process easier, I have already started this conversation with the Deputy Provost. He is open to the idea, and we will try and negotiate a lease longer than five years, which will allow us to comfortably take on long-term projects.

Tribune Independence: Yet another conversation with the Deputy Provost. The Tribune would need to have a separate MoA with the University, which we are trying to secure. Prof. Mendelson feels it should go to referendum.

Internal Audit of the Committees of Council: To be completed and approved by the end of the year. An ambitious project that hopes to make this channel of Council more effective, and more open to students at large. A memo has been circulated to all councillors, the project will be handled by the Presidential Affairs Committee.

Executive Retreat: At the end of July, the Executives ventured to my home in Tadoussac, QC. Goals and strategic planning were the principal topics of discussion.

Councillor Handbook: We re-released it, and hopefully you find it useful. We included significantly more information about SSMU, the internal structure, an introduction to how the finances work.

Controversial Events Town Hall: Prof. Mendelson suggested we hold a forum. I think it is a terrific idea, and would like as many different students to attend as possible. I believe the community should determine what is mutually acceptable for everyone.

Work with Alumni, Campus Community Committee: I have met several times over the summer with various branches of Development and Alumni Relations (DAR). They have the potential to help us out a lot, so it's good to have a relationship with them. They are responsible for getting the library and bursary funds from the MUSF matched by the University.



LSA MoA: We renegotiated our agreement with the Law Students Association to continue supporting some of the clubs based out of their faculty. This was done quickly and with little interruption of services.

Softball: SSMU cruised to a hard-fought 2-9 record. A strong recruiting class should improve our record next year.

Meetings

1. Vaughn Dowie – Executive Head of Public Affairs
2. Sylvia Franke – CIO
3. Mathieu Laperle – Food & Dining Services
4. CSU Executive

Referenda (09-10):

1. McGill Legal Information Clinic
2. Green Fee
3. Ancillary Fees
4. Tribune Independence
5. Cultural Services Fee
6. SSMU Ambassador Fund
7. Plebiscites! I'd like to start these up again on policy issues of significance

By Portfolio

External: Accompanied Sebastian to Ottawa, met with several MPs, hopefully made some good contacts for the future. In addition, I coordinated with Boris Savoie-Doyer, our Legal and Political Affairs Coordinator when Sebastian was out of the office to ensure our continued representation at the newly-formed TaCEQ. I also met briefly with a coalition opposing the new governance bill, project de loi 38.

Internal: With the other execs, helping Alex during all orientation activities (including Frosh). Despite some isolated incidents, the week went well. Most administrators I have spoken with were satisfied with our efforts, but there is always room for improvement.

Finance & Operations: I have been attending Haven Meetings and keeping up with the general state of affairs. I want to make sure there is as much executive oversight as it needs. I have also been monitoring how this portfolio interacts with the permanent staff, a concern raised by ex-VP Finance & Operations Tobias Silverstein. So far, the interaction has been positive, and should remain functional for the year.

Clubs & Services: I have been consulting with Sarah on Building matters, and needs for student space. She has also been involved in matters concerning our lease, and improvements/ renovations for the building. We have also been working on how SSMU



should interact with Independent Student Groups (ISGs), and how we can work most efficiently with them.

University Affairs: Typically, the President and UA work closely on most matters in this portfolio. This year has been no exception. At the forefront was the sudden and unexpected resignation of the Secretary General. I have been helping to sort through the chaos, and devise a strategy going forward. Our partners from other groups on campus – MUNASA, MAUT may be able to help

Meeting Schedule for the year (as of right now)

SEPT

15th Board of Governors Building & Properties Committee
15th Board of Governors
22nd Presidents' Council
29th Deputy Provost & Principal
30th McGill Alumni Association Board of Directors

OCT

2-4th Council Retreat
8th Controversial Events Town Hall
15th-16th McGill Leadership Summit
21st General Assembly
26th Board of Governors Executive Committee
26th Joint Senate Board of Governors
27th Presidents' Council

NOV

5th Provost
9th Referendum Week
17th Deputy Provost
23rd Board of Governors
24th Board of Governors Building & Properties Committee

DEC

7th Board of Governors Executive Committee

JAN

12th Deputy Provost
25th Board of Governors Executive Committee
27th MAA Board of Directors

FEB

3rd Provost
15th Board of Governors
17th Deputy Provost



MAR

16th Board of Governors Building & Properties Committee
22nd Joint Board of Governors Executive Committee / Senate Steering
31st MAA Board of Directors

APR

7th Deputy Provost
22-25th G13 Student Association Conference
12th Board of Governors

MAY

4th Board of Governors Building & Properties Committee
25th Board of Governors

Respectfully Submitted,

Ivan Neilson, President 2009-2010