



*It's not enough that we do our best; sometimes we have to do what's required.
Sir Winston Churchill (1874 - 1965)*

Report of the President to Council November 12th, 2009

Men's Rugby: Dominated Bishops for their 4th Consecutive Provincial title. While the whole team was spectacular, I'd like to recognize 2nd year man Sam Skulsky for making some of the biggest plays early in the game.

Elections / Referenda: Considering that the referendum period is over (as of Thursday), it is not surprising that there is a good deal to report on

Polling Stations in Residences: Despite several ridiculous and unnecessary obstacles, our CEO was finally able to secure polling stations in residences. We will know Thursday how successful they were.

Candidates Meeting + Debates: I attended both, no problems to report. Elections McGill distributed very thorough information packages, but this did not avoid many preventable infractions and misunderstandings. There was a decent turnout for those interested in First Year elections, but attendance was meagre for those interested in the referendum questions. We may consider a different time for the debates, but the reality is that the Fall Referendum Period does not attract as much interest, and without any 'NO' committees formed, there was very little debate.

Online Voting System: Shortly before the advance polls were scheduled to open, CEO Mike Vallo informed me that the polling stations he planned to operate would not function properly unless we updated the software. Faced with the prospect of ineffective polling stations, we decided to replace it. The cost was insignificant (\$400), and work was completed the same day. We now have a superior system in place for the faculties and any other group that would like to use the OVS.

Participation: Because we didn't hit quorum last Fall, the Executive made a concerted effort to make sure that turnout was as high as possible. Most of this was done through handbilling and talking to students in high traffic areas on campus. We also made classroom announcements. Councillors were asked to promote voting within their faculties.

Results: Unknown to me at this time, will be reported on at the meeting. The CEO will be delivering his post-election report for ratification, and will provide an analysis of the results in two weeks time.

Council: I would like to remind everyone that this is our second to last meeting of the semester, with our final meeting happening in two weeks. Time flies! That said, there are only so many opportunities for Councillors to have a positive impact on the student body. At the end of my report, you will find the Council Goals that were discussed at Gault at the beginning of October. Have another look, and ask yourself if you are doing enough (or anything at all) to accomplish them.



Sustainability Working Group: This is a McGill committee with a variety of interested parties from all around McGill. One of the principal topics of discussion was how a 'culture of sustainability' could be brought to McGill and implemented. Big picture goals aside, the tangible projects included:

- Green Awards: For clubs, and other non-student groups who hold events on campus. I really liked this because it would be recognition from McGill for our groups
- Sustainability Fellows: Through TLS, similar initiatives have been implemented in other schools. These people would work with Professors and integrate different modules into various classes.
- Benchmarking Initiatives: Apparently there are going to be Sustainability Ratings for schools, and McGill would be compared against its competitors. Further, Princeton Review has now included a section on this in their rankings. This was an important point because this is one way that it will become a priority for the Senior Administration.

Presidential Affairs Committee: We had our first meeting to discuss our member at large applications. We decided to have another meeting Tuesday with the interested parties to finalize the membership. It should be noted that Billi Wun will be replaced by the incoming FYC VP External. By Thursday, we will have finished the membership, and set a rough work schedule for the year.

Visit from Canadian Student Association Executives: Following 4Floors, SSMU was surprised by executive from UBC, University of Alberta and the University of Regina. We gave them a tour of our building and compared operating conditions across campuses in Canada. This has encouraged me to do more research into the services that are provided at other Universities to see if some of these concepts can be applied here. So far, I have focused on Governance structures and reporting mechanisms, more to come.

Five Year Plan (FYP) for Sustainability: Yet another area where there has been significant activity recently. I will highlight the good (and occasionally bad)

FYP Portfolio Coordinator: I had my first meeting with Allison. We discussed priorities for the year. A big part of my responsibilities was the creation and hiring of the Green Events and Green Building Coordinator positions. We looked at recycling signage, and discussed the status of the Plate Club.

GEC and GBC: And now to the aforementioned coordinator positions. Our Green Events Coordinator is hard at work, but our Green Building Coordinator can no longer take on the position. This is disappointing, and I will be discussing how best to handle the situation with the environment commissioners and the FYP group.

Work-Study Position: I have put in an application for a work-study position to be created here at SSMU. The person would work in the cafeteria to ensure proper composting and recycling. Depending on the workload, we could also have them supervise other green initiatives in the building in lieu of the recently departed GBC.



Research Policy: As VP Dooley has almost certainly already mentioned, the revised Research Policy came to the last Senate meeting, and the Associate Provost is now soliciting comments and submissions via e-mail. SSMU will be compiling a document and sending it.

Board of Governors Retreat: Is happening this Friday at 8AM – 1PM. This will be opportunity for the administration to present strategic goals for the year. Should be very enlightening, no matter what time it is at.

Presentation of the Master Plan: I have been invited along with Daniel Simeone to be presented with the revised criteria for the implementation of the Master Plan. This will be happening November 19th. It will be a good opportunity to see how our renovation efforts can complement McGill's. VP Olle will tag along.

Past Meetings

4th Pre-Senate with MAUT
4th Senate
5th Natalie Fohl
5th FYP Coordinator Allison Cooper
5th Candidate Debates
6th Presidential Affairs Committee
10th PAC Members at large
11th Dick Pound – Chancellor Emeritus Reception
12th SCPD

Future

13th Board Retreat
17th Deputy Provost
19th Master Plan Presentation
20th Alcohol Policy Consultant
23rd Board of Governors
24th Presidential Roundtable

Respectfully Submitted,

Ivan Neilson, President 2009-2010



Goals from Council Retreat 2009

1. Communication/ Outreach

- a. Be specific**
- b. On the ground**
- c. Beyond listservs**
 - i. Using new media (Facebook etc.)**
 - ii. Word of Mouth**
- d. Quality over Quantity**
- e. Council more accessible**
 - i. Different media (video)**
 - ii. Other factual publications**

2. Transparency

- a. Website materials**
 - i. Meeting times, documents**
- b. Financial matters**
 - i. Oversight**

3. Campus Life, Activities on Campus

- a. As important as advocacy/representation**
- b. Councillors need to promote SSMU/McGill events**
- c. Be leaders in student engagement**
- d. Simple events to involve the whole campus**
- e. Events that target a variety of small groups**

4. Collaboration with other Universities

- a. Look at what other student associations are doing**
- b. Learning from mistakes**
 - ie student-run food service**
 - i. learning about the trends**

5. Council Issues

- a. Investment policy**
- b. Make sure SSMU – Faculty link is strong**
- c. Long Term Capital Expenditures**

6. SSMU Resources = Visible/Available

- a. Let people know what funds are available and can be applied for**
- b. Delegate tasks for visibility among faculties/constituency**