



Success in business requires training and discipline and hard work. But if you're not frightened by these things, the opportunities are just as great today as they ever were.

David Rockefeller (1915 -)

Report of the President to Council January 7th, 2010

Welcome back Councillors. We are officially halfway done. If your tenure ended today, think about how would you be remembered. The Executive Team has big plans for this semester, and needs every member to participate.

Men's Hockey: Continues to dominate, going out west and defeating UBC 6-4 January 2nd. Guillaume Doucet, a 3rd year player out of Anjou picked up a hat trick, while specials teams produced 3 Power Play and goals and 1 Shorthanded strike.

Women's Basketball: The Martlets secured a Bronze Medal in a Manitoba tournament over the break.

Hiring: Two positions were filled in December-

1. To replace the departed Environment Commissioner (Arielle Jaffe), I have selected Toby Davine. She has already done excellent work with the environment committee this year, and has already demonstrated her ability to work with the larger sustainability community.
2. For the Cafeteria composting / recycling project, I have hired Christian Scott. He already has experience creating similar programs, and will be very capable. He will also serve as additional help for the plate club.

Meeting with AVP Jim Nicell + Building Tour: In December VP Olle and I met with Associate Vice-Principal (University Services) to discuss issues relating to the Shatner building. Topics included were the heating & cooling infrastructure, signage, and renovation plans.

He has offered to tour the building with the Director of Campus and Space Planning (Chuck Adler) and suggest potential improvements. As they are very familiar with the campus, and McGill buildings in general, their expertise is invaluable.

Daycare: The Daycare Board met in December to review the Financials and discuss a potential agreement with PGSS. As you will recall, our daycare is supported by Undergraduate students, but is used by a decent number of Graduate students as well. An agreement between SSMU and PGSS would see them contribute to part of the cost of running the daycare in exchange for (x) secured spots for their members.

The reaction has been very positive so far. I hope to have an agreement to send to their Council by February.

Meeting with the Provost: We discussed several topics. As you may or may not know, he is a stubborn, confrontational character, so progress was limited. He did answer most of our questions, although we generally didn't like the answers. The biggest discussion points surrounded the elimination of smaller classes as a cost-saving initiative, and administrative



overhead charges for self-funding (read: student supported) departments like Student Services and Athletics. This is important in the context of ancillary fees, and the cost of providing these services.

Ancillary Fees: Speaking of, I have requested information from the Deputy Provost and have received nothing to date. I will report when I have more information. What we have been looking to do this year is get more detailed budgets, and put more questions to students, where possible. It is also important to allow small increases for costs which cannot be controlled due to McGill Salary Policy.

Also on this note, PGSS is committed towards eliminating fee differentials for Student Services as it provides too much of an administrative headache to try and provide differential services, I believe this is a step in the right direction. I would like to explore the possibility of having SSMU and PGSS coordinate on fee increases for all student supported departments.

Selection Committee for Provost: Had its final meeting in December. The Principal will be bringing a recommendation to the Board, and it will have to be approved there. Equally, you may have heard that a similar committee for the Vice Principal Research and International Relations has been turned into a search committee.

Board of Governors: There has only been one since our last Council November 26th. This was a clean up meeting for the business that was not addressed November 23rd because we ran out of time. First, we appointed some new members, whose names will become public, if they haven't already. Secondly, I finally was appointed to the Executive Committee and the Building and Property Committee. Daniel Simeone, President of PGSS will sit on Finance Committee, Nominating & Governance Committee, and the Committee to Advise on Matters of Social Responsibility, so I will be up to date on business coming those groups.

I also attended a breakfast with the Principal and all of the BoG Internal Members (Professors, Staff & Trade reps, Students, Secretary General) and discussed how we thought the Board was functioning. The primary concerns were the timing and length of meetings, how quickly business is pushed through the final approval stages, and the ability of members to bring agenda items.

Generations Pact Projects: We have successfully signed on for two more in the second round of funding applications! It is excellent that we are taking advantage of this funding.

1. McGill Food Systems Project – If you went to Movies in the Park, Local Food edition, you are already familiar with their work. They have achieved so much in a short time already, and this will allow them to progress.
2. Organic Campus (Organic Storefront) – This project is entirely different. The principal goal is to investigate the feasibility of an Organic Storefront in the SSMU building, and oversee its implementation. This was more complicated to set up, and it was not clear whether or not McGill would even allow it. Regardless, we are pursuing the study. Any decision on whether or not to create this would come to Council.



- Gorilla Composting (Industrial Composting) – Not a new project, simply and update on an old one. The composter has been purchased, and we should be contributing over 30K to the project. Epic!

Plate Club: I had a meeting with the Plate Club to decide on how they would like to proceed. They have a solid executive in place, but again, it seems to be only a temporary measure. I have discussed with them how to build a long-term operating model, and the kind of support SSMU can offer. I have not placed any restrictions on them, and allowed them to present any kind of budget model they think is appropriate.

Presidential Affairs Committee: Has created working documents and is currently in the process of reviewing them. January should be mostly interviews and research, while February will be synthesizing. A draft of recommendations should appear at the February 18th Council.

Office of the Deputy Provost: A couple of good things coming from this office (for once)

- The Cafeteria Project was approved
- We received a response to our memo on a simplified format for applying to IREF. This restricted endowment fund is meant to be used as matching funds for upgrades in our building. Previously, this money was very difficult to access. With simpler guidelines, a wide variety of projects are suddenly more attractive.

Also, I have a meeting come up next week, so if there are any particular issues people would like addressed, please let me know after the meeting or via e-mail.

General Assembly: Have begun preliminary planning with VP Brown. As such, I would like to have a brief committee of the whole to gain input from Councillors. Tentative date of February 10th, in the evening.

Macdonald Sustainability Referendum: In other news, Mac Campus has also decided to levy a sustainability fee. This is really incredible news to know that all Undergraduates are officially on board! The results are from the Nov 24-25-26 referendum are as follows:

According to the MCSS constitution, page 9, section 6.3: all referendum questions have to be carried by two thirds majority of the valid votes cast.

As of Sunday, Nov 15, 2009, there were 1162 registered undergraduate students. The total number of votes cast was 409, which is approximately 35% of the student body.

<u>Question</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Spoiled</u>	<u>Total Votes Cast</u>	<u>% in favor</u>
1	363	43	3	409	89% passed

Athletics Board: I am currently the SSMU rep to the Athletics Board. This has not met yet. It is, as I understand it, still without a chair. I am beginning to wonder what exactly the purpose of this group is, as it also serves as a fee setting committee. Comparatively, CSS has met several times already. I am looking to ask a Senate question about it.



University Centre (aka Shatner) Lease: I am currently drafting a document making a case for an extension, and also proposing a new business model for the rental payment. It is not yet finished, and because it involves confidential agreements with the University I can't discuss certain details in open session. I strongly encourage any interested Councillors to email me, make an appointment, or come see me after the meeting.

Upcoming Meetings

13th Building Tour

15th Deputy Provost

16th Leadership Panel

Respectfully Submitted,

Ivan Neilson, President