



Report to SSMU Council

January 7, 2010

Clubs, Services, and ISGs

Winter Activities Night – Wednesday January 20th. Get excited. I've worked with my Activities Night Coordinator to make an online table registration system to simplify the registration process. The information will auto-fill in a spreadsheet, so it will also be easier for her to separate out the tables by category. We are considering a variety of other innovations, such as eradicating table numbers in lieu of color coding and putting the best tables in Gerts. It should be the best activities night ever.

Opt-outs – I am working with opt-outable groups on a bulletin board and webspace. I would like this to be completed ASAP so it is available during the opt-out period.

Club Descriptions – The data input clerk input all of the club, service, and independent student group descriptions into the SSMU over the break. Now all student groups are searchable by topic!

Publications

Old McGill – The deadline to get your photo taken is January 23rd. We are doing an advertising push to get people to get their photos taken in the next couple of weeks.

Tribune – The Deputy Provost has written a letter officially endorsing the Tribune to incorporate using the McGill name – “McGill Tribune”. This was a vital step in moving forward. First we will have the referendum question confirming students want them to be independent. Then they will incorporate. Then the Board of Governors will consider their petition for a Memorandum of Agreement with McGill. I am working with President Neilson on how to help the Tribune operate once it is incorporated and no longer under the SSMU in the spring.

Building

MSA – MSA has requested some renovations to their space, including improved lighting and ventilation. The General Manager will work with McGill Facilities to schedule an appointment to look at their requests.

Interior signage - I spent a lot of time selecting and scanning in photos from the past 100 years of Old McGill yearbooks. Dallas put them into a collage format, which looks great. I am really excited to display these photos for everyone to see. The 16 signs, 50 room number plaques, and 3 banners are in production



Exterior signage – The Deputy Provost rejected our proposal. I worked with the Architectural Advisory Committee to do new drawings that incorporated the suggestions of the Deputy Provost. The new plan has letters installed directly on the building façade to the left of the front entrance:



This new plan is not ideal because it is not as visible as we would like. However the spandrel over the front entrance is not built to hold a sign. As we have been working on getting a new sign for over a year now, we are happy to adopt this new plan, even if it is not ideal. The production of these signs will begin shortly.

Energy Audit – BPR held a meeting with the General Manager and conducted a top-to-bottom building tour in order to assess our current energy usage. They will present a preliminary report on January 23rd, with a final report to be presented to Council in February.

Cafeteria Break Out Room – The Deputy Provost has approved this project. We are moving forward! Here is the schedule for these renovations:

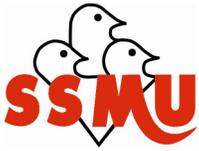
Dec 15 (rescheduled for January) – The architect presents the possible products.

Jan 8 – Deadline to confirm the product choices. The project will be put to tender to various companies.

Feb 3 – The contract will be confirmed and signed with the company.

Feb 10 – Construction can begin. Realistically it will likely be done in late March.

April 10 – Deadline for the construction to be completed



MTY-Tiki Ming – Pauline, President Neilson and I had a meeting with Ken Toye, who oversees the sub-tenants in the cafeteria. We have become increasingly disappointed with MTY's oversight and investment. The sub-tenants space and food is of poor quality. They have not provided the sub-tenants with the proper signage and advertising material. They have not indicated that they will invest significantly to improve the sub-tenants or change the restaurants offered. We will have to decide whether to resign our sublease with MTY for 2011.

10 Year Plan for the Building – I have worked on developing the audit, principles, and objective for this document over the break. President Neilson and I have a meeting with Associate Vice-Principal (University Services) Jim Nicell and Director (University Services) Chuck Adler next week to look at the building and discuss long-term plans. I will bring this to next Council.

Other

Clubs and Services Reps to Council – We're 1 for 3 now. Lorna resigned for personal reasons. Nathan was removed because he violated the by-laws on Council participation. I have been heavily advertising the open spots and hope to have several interested candidates. Nominations are due tomorrow by 17h00.

100 Years of SSMU – This document has been completed. I am absolutely thrilled with the project. This is a very worthwhile project we have accomplished. We are much better informed for discussions with the University and new projects we begin now that we have a better understanding of our past history. This should be required reading for every Councilor.

Ambassador Fee – Jose and I drafted the by-laws for approval. We have also written an application, with the input of several groups who would apply for the fee.

Committee on Student Services – We will have our first meeting of this semester on January 18th. Here we will decide the budget priorities. My input will be to prioritize physical infrastructure expansions and additional staff hiring to create more appointment availabilities in health services and counseling. VP Dooley and I will also question additional charges "central" McGill is charging student services. Put simply, students pay some money to McGill central for courses and some to student services for health services, counseling, etc. McGill central is now taking some of the money paid to student services. This violates the referendum process that approves student services fees, hurts what student services can offer, and forces student services to raise their fees to compensate. This is not fair. If you have any thoughts or ideas about student services, please speak to VP Dooley or I before January 18th.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Olle
Vice President (Clubs and Services)