



Report of the VP External to Council

0. I apologize for my inability to be at Council. I encourage anyone who has any questions about my report to contact me through email and I will respond as quickly as I can.

Government

1. Tuition fees to go up!

- a) On Thursday February 11th, La Presse released an interview with the Minister of Education Michelle Courchesne, in which she revealed that the government is seriously considering increasing tuition "higher than expected". Then she so generously added that a "consensus" was forming in Quebec on this issue, but that that consensus "does not include students".
- b) Reactions: Following this announcement press releases were issued by student associations throughout Quebec and an event was planned for Wednesday February 17th in which CEGEP and University student organizations across Quebec would demonstrate
- c) Demonstration on McGill campus: Mobilization subcommittee organized a small demonstration on Wednesday in solidarity with the other demonstrations across Quebec to spread awareness on campus about the impending tuition hikes.
- d) Op-ed in the Daily (sorry Trib, I wrote it on Tuesday) this Thursday to bring up many of the issues relating to the tuition hike announcement.

2. Going Prorogue Day

- a) With the flurry of last minute activity that has arisen from the revelation that tuition fees will increase significantly, I have not had the time to dedicate to this project. Despite its relevant and worthy goal, I will have to cancel this event.

3. New SSMU policies from GA

- a) I'm proud to announce that the SSMU General Assembly passed two very important policy resolutions: 1) the Resolution on Ancillary Fees, and 2) the Resolution on the Self-funding tuition model. These important policies will give SSMU a clear mandate to mobilize against the dramatic increases in the cost of education.

4. TaCEQ

- a) In a meeting held between CADEUL and the political attaché to the Minister of Education, it was revealed that, despite prior promises, the Ministry had still not come up with new criteria for recognition. SHAME!! Frankly, I'm pissed. They seem to be arguing that there is a Bill coming relating to government recognition of all civil society organizations. They then committed to have the new criteria ready by the middle of March. We will be pressing them very hard on this.
- b) Table des associations meeting on February 12th hosted by SSMU, highlights include:



- New position on what provincial government should do with extra money received from CSGP payout from Federal government
 - Planning ahead the broad consultations to be done on “tarification”, or fee increases
 - Going forward lobbying the government to ensure the governance bills die
 - Developing timeline for financial administration of TaCEQ was postponed until CADEUL passes our proposal at their BoD in late February
 - Ask Councilors Zaidi and Pedneault for more details, as they were present.
- c) Issued press release on the tuition announcements that received coverage in Le Soleil.

5. Paid Practicum/Stage 4 en Education

- a) Demonstration in Quebec City today from 10 to 12 noon. Sadly, this time made it difficult for McGill to have a presence. Another demonstration will be happening in Montreal sometime in the middle of March. I've been in regular communication with some of the organizers at the FEUQ and CADEUL on this issue.
- b) Worked with Councilor Gucciardi to set up the Paid Practicum webiste: paidpracticum.info

6. Research

- a) Developing a proposal with the Institut de Recherche d'Informations Socio-economic (IRIS) for a comprehensive research project, and ultimately report, on the effect on Quebecers of increasing fees for public services in Quebec. An important part of the comprehensive study will address fees for education.

Community

7. CARE – IRC

- a) Consultations:
SUS (Feb 11th), MUS (Feb 17th), Jana Lucker – Director of Student Services, Drew Love – Athletics (Feb 15th), Michael Porrit – Director of Residences, Mathieu Laperle – Director of Food and Dining Services, Rez Life (Feb 16th)

8. Burst Your Bubble

- a) Tour to the Kahnawake Mohawk language and cultural centre on Tuesday, February 16th. Despite all 30 available spots being reserved, we had a turnout of about 16 people. The tour was very interesting and a moderate success in terms of turnout.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sebastian Ronderos-Morgan, VP (External) SSMU