



**Senate** - Met on October 24th ([meeting documents here](#))

- SSMU VP UA and Arts & Science Senator asked question regarding the impact of international tuition deregulation
  - Admin response: McGill wants to retain 100% of tuition revenue, no metrics put into place to measure impact on/guarantee socioeconomic diversity given gradual increase of international tuition but will continue to direct funding to financial aid services
- Approved more nominations for university committees
- Annual Report Concerning the Investigation of Research Misconduct
  - 6 total allegations in 17/18 year - pretty standard
- Progress Report on Sustainability Initiatives at McGill
  - Not comprehensive, but a report on select initiatives such as sustainability-focused curricula, and decreasing/offsetting carbon-intensive university travel
- University Advancement Annual Report (alumni office)
  - Full presentation
  - Discusses fundraising numbers, McGill24, McGill Fund
  - Bicentennial planning progress, public launch mid-2019, celebrations until 2024?
- Report from Board of Governors to Senate
  - BoG Met May 24 and Oct 4 since last report to Senate
  - A handful of grant agreements, maintenance and caretaking of the Gault Nature Reserve (we <3 Mont St-Hilaire but also \$7mil over 10 years? damn)
  - Referred Senate motion favoring divestment...wait for it... back to CAMSR!! <3
    - Report presenter provided non-answers as to why this did not trigger a Joint Board-Senate Conference Committee and why BoG did not vote on motion
    - CAMSR will deliver preliminary report in December

**Senate Caucus** (all 13 undergraduate student senators, meets once a week)

- Held [Reddit AMA](#) from 10/22-10/26 (tl;dr some people are mean)
- Most of discussion between 3-4 people on Jacob (SSMU VP UA's) project to allow students who do well in a course they took pass/fail (S/U) to allow the letter grade to show up on their transcript and influence their GPA
  - Biggest arguments against: grade inflation, that Jacob didn't do enough consultation

***Madeline***

**Committees**

- Enrolment and Student Affairs Advisory Committee - Meets next on 11/6
- Subcommittee on Undergraduate Student Advising

- Has not met yet, has not reached out to me

## Personal Projects

### Open Educational Resources (OERs)

- Working with Science Senator Monique Morin to develop sets of OERs for specific classes in Arts and Sciences
- Have secured library funding for 3 students, 60 hr each to compile OERs
- Library will be putting out callouts soon, we are starting to reach out to professors
- Created a [fact sheet](#) for professors explaining what OERs are, their benefits to students and prof, and how they can get involved with our project

### Tenure Policy Revisions

- Met with Axel Van den Berg (President of the McGill Association of University Teachers [MAUT]) about including professors' disciplinary records in their tenure dossiers
- His main point of disagreement is its potential to infringe on academic freedom; that allowing the disciplinary record means that tenure consideration involves moral consideration and "would open the floodgates"
- I disagree
- Will be doing research into specifically how the disciplinary process works for professors, so I can assure him that this wouldn't be the case
- Big picture: convince him and then re approach to Angela Campbell

### Food & Dining Services

- Met with employees from Food & Dining services along with all SSMU execs (minus Jacob)
- Project 1: combating food insecurity on campus - not sure how yet but looking into w/Tre
- Project 2: students given the option when registering for their mandatory meal plan whether they want to
  - A: Meal plan expires after second year, not taxed in first year, taxed in second year (status quo)
  - B: Meal plan never expires but taxed the entire time
- Have reached out to financial officer following meeting, haven't heard back

## *Ommu-Kulsoom*

### Committees

- **McGill Athletics and Recreation Advisory Board (MARAB)**
  - The issue with the advertisement of the personal pods and the funding the SSMU Sustainability Commissioner applied for to go to these pods if they prioritized marginalized groups on campus is being resolved. The Director of Athletics, Perry, has agreed to change the promotional material they have been using for these pods and specifically state that it is geared towards marginalized groups

- No timeline was provided for when this will happen, as of now no changes have been made
  - Athletics would like student input on the following projects they have in the works
    - A new Lounge / Study area near the current equipment room.
    - Renovations and refurbishing of Men's and Women's Locker/Change rooms
    - Development of additional Individual/Small Group workout spaces (adjacent current PODS)
    - Field House resurfacing
    - Nutrition Lab
    - Pool Renovations
    - Air Conditioning in the Gyms and Fieldhouse
    - Creating an additional multi-purpose activity room to be booked on a 1<sup>st</sup> come first served basis by student clubs (free)
    - Refurbishing of area adjacent the MAC Paddle Shack at Macdonald Campus
    - Outdoor Jungle Gym
  - If you have any specific thoughts on any of these projects please email me @ [artssenator2@ssmu.ca](mailto:artssenator2@ssmu.ca)
  - \*important to note that McGill Athletics will be running another fee levy campaign which is why all these changes are currently being made to make their space more inclusive and appealing to our student body so if you have any specific projects or changes you would like to see implemented in our Athletics department now is the time to voice your opinion because they are very much open to hearing from students. Email me any of your ideas and issues with Athletics that you would like me to discuss with them at our meeting on November 7th
- **Academic Policy Committee (APC)**
  - The APC met on October 25th and voted on three proposals
  - One was a new exchange program with three new partner universities: École Polytechnique of the Université Paris-Saclay, Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, University of Haifa in Israel
  - The second proposal was a change in the approval process for new exchange partners
    - Prof. Oxhorn, Associate Provost (International), proposed to be permitted to expand the exchange programs with already existing partners without having to come before the APC every time.
    - The committee voted against this for the time being because we wanted to be able to see what criteria he would be using to make such calls
  - The second proposal was changing the name of the Department of Ophthalmology to the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences
    - This passed unanimously

- The last part of the meeting was dedicated to a discussion surrounding the new student code of conduct and our thoughts on the changes made, it is not finalized yet it is still being worked on
  - An important change that is being made is the University's definition of University Context, previously McGill only considered matters that happened on its campuses a University Context now the definition has been expanded to include the following
    - *(o) The "University Context" means circumstances occurring:*
      - *(a) on University premises; or*
      - *(b) within a University-sponsored program, event or activity whether on-campus or off campus; or*
      - *(c) off-campus, including online or in social media, where the conduct has consequences that may be reasonably*
        - *seen to adversely affect:*
          - *(i) the security of students, academic, administrative and support staff while on campus or while participating*
          - *in a University-sponsored program, event or activity; or*
          - *(ii) the right of a member of the University community to use and enjoy the University's learning or working*
            - *environment.*
- **Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee**
  - Nothing to Report. Our next meeting is on March 14th

## **Personal Project**

### **African Studies program reform**

- Met with Professor Medani, Professor Douek and the ASSA on October 25th to discuss the program as it stands, and a lot of the issues with it
- Was a productive meeting and Professor Medani and Professor Douek are in full support on doing work on their end through the African Studies Curriculum Committee to bring these issues forward as well as review the courses that currently count towards the major
- An emphasis is being placed on hiring lecturers from the African continent such as for this year Professor Medani hired Mohammed Sesay to teach AFRI 200, and has found another Professor Aziz Fall to teach AFRI 598 next semester.
  - This is an issue colleagues and I have brought up with Medani over the past year and he has been very supportive and proactive in making such changes. However, he only has authority over AFRI courses so this is a discussion that I will be having with many other departments. I will be starting with the Department of Anthropology.
- In a separate meeting with Professor Medani and I, we discussed the issue of not having tenure track positions available for Professors in African Studies and that is an important issue that needs to be addressed
  - We also discussed the potential of making African Studies its own department, he has been consulting the African Studies at UoT and is very much in favour of the idea.

Professor Douek and him will be discussing funding options and what they can do to eventually support this

- Will be meeting with Professor Douek separately to discuss course proposals and having them listed under the AFRI category rather than just under individual profs departments
- Also waiting to hear back from Susan Sharpe, Academic Officer for courses and programs, to discuss the likelihood of the Arts Faculty endorses such changes and potential an institute as well as key administration people to meet with to discuss these changes
- A meeting is in the works to get all the Black as well as African Professors together to discuss how to move forward because as I previously mentioned a Black Studies program is also in the works so we want to make sure we are all working collectively towards the same goal and not fragmented. Professors such as Charmaine Nelson, Philip Howard, Adelle Blackett, Khalid Medani, Daniel Douek, etc. are who we are looking at getting together and discussing this matter. These profs are from various faculties at McGill such as Law, Education, Poli Sci, Islamic Studies, etc.

### **Varsity Name Change**

- Met with Tomas, the SSMU Indigenous Affairs Commissioner, and we discussed how we could engage the Athletics department on this issue directly since I sit on MARAB where all the important decision makers of the Athletics department sit as well as Provost Manfredi. We want to have them address and state their positions on the matter directly because currently all inquiries are handled by a McGill's handlers and no one with Athletics has addressed it directly.
- Also I have started reaching out to Professors in the department regarding the name change, in particular Professor Scholtz to discuss whether presenting a motion regarding this in front of the Faculty of Arts Council is something that our Faculty would be willing to endorse.