



## Medicine Councillor Report — September Recap

This report summarizes what was discussed at SSMU Legislative Council (“Council”) meetings during the month of September. Also available is my report submitted to Council on September 28 detailing my activities between September 10 and 24. The final days of September are covered in my report for October 12. I did not submit a report for Council on September 14, since such reports were neither required nor approved by Council.

For any further questions, feel free to contact myself, André Lametti, at: [ssmurep.mss@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:ssmurep.mss@mail.mcgill.ca) (if you are an MSS member); or [medrep@ssmu.ca](mailto:medrep@ssmu.ca) (my SSMU address).

*Minutes for all meetings are available on the SSMU website:*  
<http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/representation/ssmu-legislative-council/>

*Disclaimer: SSMU is currently undergoing a website migration, so this link may no longer be accurate. I will update this as soon as is practical.*

### Council: September 14, 2017

#### Guest speakers:

1. Sustainability Projects Fund: this student-funded committee (with contributions matched by the University) allocates money to sustainable projects on campus. Examples include the spin bike gardens (including one in McIntyre) and potentially the SSMU Bike Center. Total investment up to date is to the tune of six million dollars. The fee is up for renewal at referendum this year.
2. Socially Responsible Investing (SRI): SSMU’s asset management company proposed a new investment in a socially-responsible fund, where companies would be positively selected for various criteria thought to align with SSMU values. The suggested investment would be of the order of one million dollars. SSMU’s current investment portfolio is valued ~3.5 M\$, principally from the sale of its stake in the McGill bookstore.

#### Motions:

1. Standing rules for LC (voted **FOR**): this motion served to adopt modifications to Roberts’ Rules for the year. I voted in favour of this motion, as I was one of the movers.



2. Student Society Programming Network (SSPN) change of structure (voted **FOR**): this motion aimed to remove councillors from the committee on the grounds that members-at-large would have a better chance of having the expertise and interest required. I voted in favour of this motion because councillors can still apply to join, and I agree with the aforementioned argument.

Other highlights:

- Paris Ghiamati was hired by SSMU as Internal Logistics Coordinator.
- The executive committee reported having difficulties with club audits.
- The moratorium on the formation of new clubs was lifted.

**Council: September 28, 2017**

Guest speakers:

1. Jordan Steiner, of Lester Asset Management: this was another presentation on SSMU's investments.
2. Fuller Landau, auditors: this was a presentation of last fiscal year's audit of SSMU. Highlights included numbers concerning the student cafeteria's ("Sadie's") operating deficit that led to its abrupt closure over the summer. As well, the closure of Gerts occasioned by University Centre renovations will deprive SSMU of \$20 000 in profit.
3. McGill Bike Facility: this collaborative team pitched a project to build an all-season bicycle facility in the basement of the University Centre. The total cost of the project is \$1.9 million, of which ~\$800 000 would be provided by SSMU by effectively depleting the IREF fund (a restricted fund gate-kept by the University destined towards building improvement). This project would provide 330 secure bicycle parking spots (despite an identified shortage on campus of several thousand), of which 110 would be reserved for students, with an adjacent shower room. Ongoing costs incurred by SSMU would be the utilities cost of the project. Revenue would be raised by imposing a membership fee in the range of \$15-25. Approval for this project is being sought in a very rushed manner.
4. Sustainability Projects Fund: this was essentially a rehash of last Council's presentation.



5. Association pour une Voix Étudiante au Québec (AVEQ): This province-wide association is seeking a second affiliation referendum at McGill after the first one failed in 2015. Present were some members of AVEQ's executive team. Their presentation was a superficial overview of their organization. I asked a question regarding the lack of minutes or budgets posted on their website since January 2016 (aveq-nous.ca) and was told all the motions would be uploaded shortly – however, as of October 9, this still was not the case. Notably, AVEQ was not able to give precise numbers when asked about executive compensation and administration fees. AVEQ has also had an operating deficit of about \$80 000 for the past two years. Affiliation would imply an annual charge to SSMU members of over \$150 000.

#### Motions:

1. Nomination of Jemark Earle, VP Student Life & Clubs (voted **ABSTAIN**): this motion served to nominate a fourth executive to the Board of Directors (BoD), as mandated by the SSMU constitution. I abstained as I believed this motion to be out of order at the time, since the Board of Directors was full at the time and Mr. Dolmat had not yet resigned.

#### Other highlights:

- The SSMU President, Muna Tojiboeva, was on the receiving end of many pointed questions regarding her vote to ratify her own decision on BDS at the first Board of Directors meeting, the lack of minutes, and a general lack of transparency regarding publication of documents on the SSMU website.
- I was appointed to the Steering Committee, pending approval by Council. The Steering Committee reviews motions before each Council and sets the agenda for that meeting.
- Some councillors expressed concerns regarding committee allocations, and again a perceived lack of transparency. I requested at the Council meeting that the documents used to allocate committee spots be made public.
- \$40 000 were approved for renovations to Gerts—however, according to Ryan Hughes, General Manager of SSMU, total costs of equipment purchases (*inter alia* deep friers and hoods) will amount to ~\$8000.
- The VP Internal, Maya Koparkar, expressed doubts about the SSMU President's intention to implement a presidential Listserv, considering the heavy workload it involves and the current existence of the SSMU Listserv, managed by VP Koparkar.



**MEDICAL STUDENTS' SOCIETY** *of McGill University*

**L'ASSOCIATION des ÉTUDIANT(E)S en MÉDECINE** *de l'Université McGill*

---

- The closure of the University Centre was preliminarily re-announced at Council; official confirmation, to much public outcry, was released via Facebook event invitation a few days later.
- The Music Representative announced they are doing their best to recruit a senator for the Faculty of Music.

Respectfully submitted,

André Lametti

*SSMU Representative — Medical Students' Society of McGill University*

[medrep@ssmu.ca](mailto:medrep@ssmu.ca)

André Lametti

*SSMU Representative — Medical Students' Society of McGill University*

[medrep@ssmu.ca](mailto:medrep@ssmu.ca)

3706 Rue Peel, Montreal QC H3A 1W9 — [mcgillmed.com](http://mcgillmed.com)