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4 Announcements

4.1 Provost to Council

Professor Christopher P. Manfredi is the Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic) of McGill University. At McGill, the Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic), reporting to the Principal, is the chief academic officer (after the Principal) and the chief budget officer. In this capacity, he oversees the strategies, planning, development, implementation and assessment of all academic programs and the development of the overall budget, including allocation of funds and resources in alignment with McGill's academic priorities. This Provostial model was adopted at McGill in 2007 with the view that academic planning, budget planning and approval are integrated and work to support the achievement of the University's academic mission.

The Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic) and his team work with Faculties and units across the University to ensure that McGill remains a global leader among the world’s premier research-intensive, student-centered universities.

4.2 DPSLL Council Presentation

Deputy Provost of Student Life and Learning Presentation to Council. Updates on the budget for student services and the wellness strategy

DPSLL Council Presentation ()

DPSLL Council Presentation ()

DPSLL Council Presentation ()

4.3 Sustainability Projects Fund

Presentation by Kim McGrath of McGill’s Office of Sustainability: Sustainability Projects Fund Manager

Sustainability Projects Fund ()

Sustainability Projects Fund ()
4.4 Individual Development Plan

Presentation by Lorna MacEachern | Project Officer, Individual Development Plan (IDP).

Why create IDPs?

While most students express confusion anxiety about their post degree career, graduate students in particular have been facing increasing career uncertainty. The traditional path for those entering graduate school was to pursue a career as an academic. Current surveys show that approximately 20% of people who graduate with a PhD will pursue a career as a tenure-track professor. Although the job market has changed, graduate students are not always aware of the variety of career paths available to them, and the types of skills or experience they will need in order to pursue them. We want to help graduate students be more intentional and think about these issues earlier in their McGill experience.

What is an IDP?

Individual Development Plans (IDPs) are a professional development tool used in many organizations. Designed for iterative use, IDPs facilitate a process involving four components: 1) reflection, 2) defining goals, 3) setting specific objectives, and 4) taking action.

Reflect: We know that the key to getting what you want is to know what you want. This requires regular reflection on things like:

What are my skills?

What kind of skills would I like to develop?

What topics or issues inspire me?

What kinds of problems what I like to solve?

What kind of life do I want to live?

How do I define success?

Define goals:

Knowing the answers to these types of questions will help students to define and articulate their goals in 3 areas: a) academic, b) professional development, and c) career planning.

Set objectives & take action: McGill provides an incredible number of resources and services, but it can be difficult for students to decide which ones will be most relevant for them. Once students have an idea of what their goals are, they will be better able to set objectives for themselves.

McGill Project Summary:

The aim of the IDP project is to help students reflect on what they want, set goals and objectives, and help them to select specific offerings at McGill. The idea is that students participate in this process on an annual basis so that they are regularly reviewing and revising their goals and setting new objectives for themselves. The IDP itself will be three things: a) a tool, b) a program or workshop to support the tool, and c) an administrative process.

Phase 1 of the project will involve:

Implementation planning and consultation

Research and development of the tool, workshop or program, administrative process, and an assessment plan
A pilot to be launched in 2017.

Phase 2: University-wide implementation

The goal of Phase 2 of this project is university-wide implementation of the IDP. The timelines and tasks will be determined according to the outcomes of Phase 1.

Advisory Board

We are currently recruiting graduate students for the IDP Advisory Board. The board will meet once a month for one hour. If you would like to get involved please contact lorna.maceachern@mcgill.ca

4.5 UTILE / PHARE

UTILE / PHARE presentation to council.

4.6 Midnight Kitchen Referendum

“The Midnight Kitchen Yes Committee would like to tell you a bit about our upcoming referendum!

For those who don’t know, the Midnight Kitchen is an on-campus service that serves free / pay-what you-can vegan lunches and breakfasts in the SSMU building. About 300 students access the service every day and this number has been increasing every year. MK also lends out their kitchen space to other campus groups and supports other organizations both on and off campus by providing food services and funding assistance by request.

MK is a valuable service on campus that ensures food security for students who might not otherwise have a meal during the day, or whose dietary restrictions mean that they have limited affordable food options on campus. As well, being a volunteer-run organization, we serve as a welcoming space for students to learn vegan cooking, build community, and gain experience in running an organization through membership in the Collective.

The Midnight Kitchen is in the process of expanding and improving the services they provide, including several graduate-student specific projects such as Study Saturdays (a program for student parents put on in collaboration with PGSS and SSMU). Because of this, MK is asking for a fee increase of 25 cents. We believe that Midnight Kitchen is an invaluable service to both McGill and the greater Montreal community, and we need you to vote YES starting on November 19th so that it can continue to run. To vote, all you have to do is open the email you’ll be sent by the PGSS CRO and follow the directions listed there. If you have any questions, you can email midnightkitchencollective@gmail.com”

4.7 Have your say about insurance!

PGSS Student Care Health and Dental insurance plan is up for fee renewal (as it is every couple of years). This provides us with a unique opportunity to alter and adjust the plan and the price of the plan to better
suit our students’ needs. At the same time, we would also like to get feedback about the international student plan.

In order to better suit students needs, we have organized focus groups and a survey to solicit feedback from our members.

Focus group dates:

- Thursday, November 17th – 6-8pm – Room 403 (Student Care)
- Wednesday, November 23rd – 6-8pm – Room 404 (Student Care), Room 406 (Blue Cross)

Survey details to be sent out when they are available!

Right now at council, I’d like to take the opportunity to hear any input that council would like to put forward regarding these insurance plans.

Have your say about insurance!

4.8 Proposal submitted for a McGill University Climate Officer

Hi everyone -

The environment commissioners and a team of people across PGSS and the university have come up with a proposal to establish a climate officer at McGill University that is focused on carbon neutrality, climate literacy, and climate resiliency.

The Provost has indicated he is interested in moving the proposal forward, though details have yet to be confirmed.

You can find the proposal attached to this announcement.

If you or your GSAs have any feedback, questions or concerns, please send e-mail to environment.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca.

Proposal submitted for a McGill University Climate Officer

4.9 Study Saturday Parents and Kids Program - Nov. 19th

This Program is to provide an opportunity once or twice a month for ALL McGill students with child dependents to complete academic work while their children are cared for in the same building by volunteers.

This year a collaboration between Midnight Kitchen, SSMU and PGSS have finalized a sustainable location and set up located at the University Centre on McTavish. MK will be providing lunch for all volunteers and participants at every Program day. First Study Saturday Program: November 19th from 9am to 2pm.

Parents must register through the PGSS website.

Any questions, please email membership.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca

We are always looking for volunteers, if you are interested please complete the form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAI
4.10 Annual Ottawa Networking Trip

Registration is now open through the events page for ALL McGill students. This is open to all McGill students and will run from January 18-20th. https://pgss.mcgill.ca/en/event/510

Thursday, December 8th @ 5:30pm: A logistics info session at Thomson House

Monday, January 16th @ 5:30pm: An exclusive CV and Networking workshop delivered by CaPS

Thursday, January 19th (9am - 12pm): Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

Thursday, January 19th (1pm - 4pm): Public Safety Canada

Thursday, January 19th (6:30pm): Networking cocktail event with McGill Alumni

Friday, January 20th (9am - 12pm): Global Affairs Canada

Friday, January 20th (1pm - 4pm): Health Canada

Members benefit highly from the trip, and if you have any questions, please contact: membership.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca

40 spots available; Divided between Graduate and Undergraduate students. Spaces fill up fast!

5 Business Arising

6 Reports

6.1 Secretary General Report to Council November 16th

Secretary General Report to Council November 16th

2016-11-13 Secretary General Report to Council November 16th ()

6.2 AAO - Report to November Council

2016-11-10 AAO - Report to November Council

6.3 IAO Report to Council

IAO is busy as always, bringing you a large variety of events to enrich your Post-Graduate Experience!

2016-11-16 IAO Report to Council
6.4 External Affairs Officer Report

Please refer to attached document for more information.

2016-11-13 External Affairs Officer Report

6.5 External Affairs Officer Supplementary Material

See attached: AVEQ Report, ThinkGRAD, UEQ

2016-11-16 External Affairs Officer Supplementary Material ()

6.6 FAO Report

FAO Report

2016-11-16 FAO Report

6.7 2016-11-16 MSO report to November Council

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at membership.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca

2016-11-09 2016-11-16 MSO report to November Council

6.8 Environment Commissioner Report to Council

2016-11-10 Environment Commissioner Report to Council

6.9 Equity and Diversity Commissioner November Report to Council

2016-11-09 Equity and Diversity Commissioner November Report to Council
6.10 Health Commissioner - November Council Report

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions, comments or concerns!

2016-11-09 Health Commissioner - November Council Report

6.11 Member Support Commissioner Report to November Council

2016-11-09 Member Support Commissioner Report to November Council

7 Question Period

8 Discussion

8.1 Proposal for the Innovation Commissioner Position - Presented by Victor Frankel on behalf of Jacob Lavigne

Please refer to the attached document for more information.

Proposal for the Innovation Commissioner Position - Presented by Victor Frankel on behalf of Jacob Lavigne

8.2 Start-ups, entrepreneurs... who should we give an audience to?

Executive requests input from council to provide guidance to how we should handle start-ups, entrepreneurs that want to engage with execs, council, etc. Various groups have approached executives for endorsements, advertising, etc from PGSS. Since this is a fairly new thing, we wanted to ask you what should we think about when we consider these requests?

8.3 Council feedback on honorary membership

Executive would like to ask council what criteria we should consider when providing guidelines to honorary memberships
9 New Business

9.1 PGSS support for AMUSE

Whereas, the Association of McGill University Support Employees (AMUSE) is currently engaged in the bargaining process for a new collective agreement for its Unit A members;
Whereas, AMUSE members include over 1500 casual and temporary non-academic workers at McGill, approximately 85% of whom are students;
Whereas, over 50% of AMUSE members work for $10.85, which is 10 cents above minimum wage;
Whereas, independent research has found that the average living wage in Montreal is $15.38/hour;2
Whereas, no AMUSE members receive basic benefits, dental coverage, or parental leave;
Whereas, the number of AMUSE members has been increasing as part of ongoing labour casualization trends at McGill;
Whereas, many PGSS members benefit from the work of AMUSE members,
Be It Resolved That the PGSS Council endorse the AMUSE bargaining priorities (as outlined in Appendix A)
Be It Further Resolved That the PGSS Council approves the statement of support of these priorities drafted by the McGill Communities Council (as written in Appendix B)

Appendix A: AMUSE Unit A Bargaining Priorities, October 2016
1. Equal Treatment: Respect for casual workers, including hiring priority for jobs you’ve already done.
2. Wages that Reflect Our Work: Accurate job descriptions, with a paycheque to match.
5. Work Study that Works for Us: A better posting system and more student input for Work Study jobs.

Appendix B: McGill Communities Council Statement in Support of AMUSE
We, the member associations of the McGill Communities Council, stand in solidarity with AMUSE in their collective bargaining negotiations with McGill University. We urge the administration to conclude an agreement with AMUSE in an equitable manner consistent with their demands. We in MCC are committed to fairness and transparency. Therefore, we support the union’s efforts to achieve a living wage and to receive respect in line with their immense contributions to the university.
Furthermore, we are concerned to see McGill Human Resources aligned so closely with the senior management, when they have a responsibility to all university employees, casual or not, as the staff whom they oversee. With mutual cooperation, we can move towards a more respectful and productive relationship for all parties involved.

9.2 Motion to Create the PGSS Member Services Committee

Whereas the motion to create a PGSS Member Services Committee was conditionally approved in a first reading by Council;
Whereas the Governance Committee reviewed the proposal and suggested some revisions;
Whereas these revisions were made;
BIRT Council approve the creation of the PGSS Member Services Committee, as outlined in the attached document.

Motion to Create the PGSS Member Services Committee

10 PGSA Announcements