



October 21, 2014

To: Council

Re: Report

Dear Council,

Hope midterms went well! Thanks to those of you that came out to the additional meeting last Tuesday. As you may have heard, we passed a motion allowing the LSA to contravene our policy regarding advocating for tuition increases, with an amendment that clarifies that while the SU is allowing the LSA to represent the results of their survey, the SU is still opposed to Market Modifiers broadly. I have received the LSA's investigation report from Discover Governance, and I will be making a decision soon. I'm currently checking into whether the LSA executives are okay with me sharing the report directly to Council. They initially said that they preferred if it weren't shared, but I'm asking again for good measure.

Last week I began an exciting new project! The renovations have opened up a unique opportunity for us to place a Time Capsule in a place where it will remain undisturbed for decades. The plan right now is to contact stakeholders in the university community and ask if they would like to put an item that is meaningful to their constituency (yes this includes Students' Council).

This week I saw a demo for the new online university calendar that looks pretty great. I've been pushing for a tool that has an exceptionally good search function, which the one that I saw definitely has, but I've also been pushing for ability to integrate with BearTracks and do degree tracking or 'online advising'. I'm uncertain whether the latter will be possible at this point, but I will keep advocating on that point.

As you may know, the SU is currently drafting its 5-year strategic plan. This is quite the undertaking, but it seems to be going really well, and I think we are making really good progress. We are currently in the "Mission and Vision" phase. The Strategic Planning Committee meets weekly.

Things are going very well in terms of the Information Sharing Agreement with the Registrar's Office. This agreement will allow the RO to share the emails of students with the SU for a variety of purposes. One of the most important new features of the agreement will be the ability of Faculty/Campus Associations to send emails to their electorate through us. I'm hoping this will be all finished by mid-November.

Another new and exciting idea that I am now implementing is "SU 101". This is a presentation that will be given by Discover Governance and myself, and will be modelled after the "Governance 101" session that University Governance gives once per term. The idea behind SU 101 is that we in the SU know pretty much everything about the structure of university governance, but the people who work in university administration don't always know about our decision-making structure here in the SU. The session will also be marketed to students who are interested in learning more about their SU.

I had a very productive meeting with the Provost's office this week where I raised concerns about Online Access Codes (those attachments that you get for Econ and Stat classes where you do your assignments online and they cost an arm and a leg), as well as talked about moving forward with OER, eBookshelf,



and Formative mid-term evaluations. I am actually really happy with the good relationship I feel that I have with university admin thus far into my term. It's more collaborative rather than antagonistic, and while we obviously disagree on many things, more will get done in the end.

We are just about ready to launch the new Used Book Registry. I've been working on advertising for it so it can be populated with used books for winter term. The staff in charge of the website tell me that they want to use the system to pilot some sort of new-fangled cellular-device technology with it, but I don't know the details of it.

I had a long meeting with SGS and VP Diaz this week as well. We talked about various ways to streamline the registration and constitution checks so that groups can get approved much faster and much more painlessly. It looks like SGS will be revamping the way they do things very soon, and the new system will be tested next term.

At Academic Standards Committee today, it was a short meeting but there were a couple interesting takeaways. There was an item on the agenda that highlighted for me the importance of Departmental Associations and making sure that they are communicating and have the resources that they need for advocacy. There was an item on the agenda that was a vote to suspend a number of programs so that the courses housed within them could be recombined under a single big program: East Asian Studies. This proposal is not as negative as other program suspensions, where the courses are disappearing altogether, but it still is a reduction. I also had a bit of trouble with the process, it didn't go to ASC SOS, and I've seen program additions go to SOS, so I dunno why program reductions don't. Anyways, the first time I ever heard of this suspension was when the agenda was released, and I was pretty nervous about it. I inquired over email to the proposers and got some really detailed answers back, including an email from the president of the East Asian Studies Undergraduate Association, which is a Departmental Association. The DA felt that they had been consulted thoroughly on this matter and were very supportive of it. In the end, I decided to abstain. I didn't want to support a program suspension, but I also took into account the support of the DA and the consultation done with them.

Something that a councilor asked me about this week on WhatsApp also came up at ASC; the ENCS program that is offered jointly through ALES and Campus Saint Jean. The admission was stopped for the Winter term for ALES students, but it is actually being (temporarily?) suspended for the 2015/16 year while the admin re-evaluate the direction of the program. I have asked that they keep me in the loop and update me when they have more answers.

Also today I got an update on the online petitions system that I've been trying to implement. I learned that it will be fairly easy to develop and will be ready for January (if all goes well). COFA also voted to approve Faculty Association involvement in the petition system so students will be able to make faculty-specific petitions.

Last meeting while I was presenting, Governor Hansra brought up something about \$250 000 in pensions, and I didn't really know what he was talking about at the time, and that was pretty concerning to me since he said 'it is my job to know', so I looked into it further, but his comment remains mysterious to me. University financials, budget, and HR is a board matter, and no student sits on the Board HR and Compensation committee. Academic Planning Committee (which President Lau sits on) deals with budget principles broadly but doesn't get into the details of pensions. In any case, reducing



pensions is a contract issue, not something that the SU normally gets involved in. If Governor Hansra really believes that this is an issue, he should speak with his fellow governors on HR and Compensation committee, and if he would like my assistance, I would implore him to help me understand what he thinks my role should be.

See you Tuesday!
Kathryn Orydzuk