**Report of the VP Academic to the AUS Council**

**November 4 2015**

**Academic Affairs Committee**

We had our first meeting last Monday October the 26th. We talked about the conceptualization of surveys to poll students on some of the issues that we have decided are the most pressing, but also will include options for students to voice their concerns. This is something that I am heavily invested in, and I hope to have the initial survey done before next council. A lot of what will be done will help with the Know Your Right working group that met last Friday October the 30th. Hopefully we will be able to work in conjuction with other faculties to present a strong lobbying effort from all sides.

We also discussed about tutorial/mentoring initiatives for first year students, because that is something that we felt is heavily lacking.

Our next meeting will be scheduled sometime next week.

**Library Partnership Committee**

We met last Friday October the 30th and this produced a very interesting meeting. We had Robin and Sara (the director of the research commons) give us some very good input. The members of the committee brought up some very interesting ideas! We will be sending out a survey with next week’s listserv to poll students on some of things we want to be done. We are meeting on Friday November 20th and will be presenting concrete ideas in order to have a solid pricing plan by the end of the semester.

**Departmental Academic Roundtable (DART) II**

I am starting to plan our second and final DART of the semester for sometime in the next two weeks. It will provide a good opportunity for VP Academics to update each other on some of the projects that have been started this semester and will provide another forum of discussion on some of the issues we feel need to be tackled.

**Essay Centre**

Will be meeting the coordinators sometime this week to discuss the Essay Centre’s progress so far. I have put our external coordinator Bella in contact with some of the members from FEARC and they will collaborate on some initiatives together. More on that next council!

**Committee on Student Affairs**

Next meeting is November 11th, will report next council.

**Faculty of Arts Meeting**

I was not able to attend the last Faculty of Arts Meeting, which was held last Tuesday the 27th because of a conflicting appointment with McGill counseling. Arts Rep Adam will update us on that instead.

**Curriculum Committee**

Next meeting will be November 16th, will report next council.

**Humanities and Social Sciences Library Advisory Committee**

I attended the HSSLAC on Friday October 23rd. It included a presentation on *Fiat Lux* the new 250 million dollar library improvement project. It seemed to be well received by the members of the committee. The meeting was followed by a regular report on some of the new hires in the HSSL.

**Various**

* I met with two second year students to discuss S!MVO, a new academic advising software. The ideas they presented were very interesting and the software will be tested by engineering next semester. We will be meeting with Nellie from OASIS to see whether or not something similar could be developed for arts students
* The president and I will be meeting Dean Meadwell on Wednesday November 4th, will report orally.
* I am in contact with the McGill Writing Center to look at the opportunity to hold a research seminar for undergraduates writing their thesis. Something similar is done for graduate students but I thought this could be interesting in conjuction with the Arts Peer to Peer Research Symposium
* Am trying to recruit a speaker (looking at Ian Bremmer from the Eurasia group) for a new speaker initiative

Respectfully submitted,

Gabriel