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Chair: Bryan Buraga

Secretary: Léa Allonier

**Office of the Chair | Bureau du Président**

Ad-Hoc Fall Reading Break Committee | Comité spécial sur le congé de lecture d'automne

Tel: (514) 398-6801 | Fax: (514) 398-7490 | [artsscisenator@ssmu.ca](mailto:artsscisenator@ssmu.ca)

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- (xii) Music (1)
  - (xiii) Nursing (1)
  - (xiv) PT/OT (1)
  - (xv) Science (1)
  - (xvi) Social Work (1)
- (d) Members-at-Large.

**1.5 MEETINGS.** The Ad-Hoc Fall Reading Break Committee shall meet every 2 weeks, unless an additional meeting is approved by a simple majority of the Members. Committee Members will be provided a tentative schedule at the second meeting.

**1.6 QUORUM** Quorum for the Ad-Hoc Fall Reading Break Committee shall be a simple majority of members.

**1.7 REPORTING.** The Committee shall submit its final report to the Legislative Council by the March 14, 2019 meeting.

#### **1.8 COMMITTEE SPECIFIC**

**1.8.1 CHAIR.** The Committee Chair shall be selected by an internal vote of the Committee.

**1.8.2 SECRETARY.** The Committee Secretary shall be selected by an internal vote of the Committee. The Committee Secretary must take detailed meeting minutes at each meeting of the Committee.

**1.8.2 MEMBERS-AT-LARGE.** The Committee Chair, in consultation with the other Members of the Committee, shall have the power to appoint Members-at-Large of the Committee.

**1.8.3 DISMISSAL OF MEMBERS.** The following is the criteria for the dismissal of Members:

- a) It is up to the Chair's discretion to dismiss a Member if a Member misses two or more meetings unexcused or without valid medical or emergency notice.
- b) It is up to the Chair's discretion to place Members first on probation and dismiss Members if their behavior warrants removal from the Committee.
- c) A majority vote of Members can empower the Committee to exercise the same powers as the Chair with regards to probation or dismissal of Members.
- d) The Legislative Council will be notified at the next Legislative Council meeting of the removal of Members from the Committee

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## Foreword

The lack of a Fall Reading Break at McGill University has been an elusive issue for students for many years. The work that we have been able to achieve this year has built on the work of past students. Without their previous advocacy, negotiations, and work on this topic, we would not have been able to get to where we are today.

In particular, I would like to thank my committee members for their hard work on this issue, Léa Allonier for her detailed and well-written meeting minutes, Alexander Dow for his guidance and past work on a Fall Reading Break, Fabrice Labeau for his willingness to explore the possibilities for making a Fall Reading Break happen, JED Consulting on their data analysis and focus group work, and Tre Mansdoerfer and Jacob Shapiro for their advice and direction throughout this past year.

This report represents the culmination of many months of work done by this committee. It outlines the past work that has been done on this file, the work that the Ad-Hoc Fall Reading Break Committee has done over the past year, and specific recommendations as to how to best usher in a Fall Reading Break at McGill University. In all this work, I hope that we will finally be able to attain a Fall Reading Break for the years to come.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bryan Buraga".

Bryan Buraga

Chair, Ad-Hoc Fall Reading Break Committee

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## Committee Work

After the successful Winter 2018 SSMU Referendum question where 96.6% of undergraduate students voted in favour of a Fall Reading Break, the Ad-Hoc Fall Reading Break Committee was struck in September 2018 to continue the work of advocating for a Fall Reading Break. The Committee met six times over the course of the past year to tackle the issues around a Fall Reading Break, including faculty-specific concerns such as contact hours for professional programs and stages, and to advocate for a Fall Reading Break. The Committee also discussed Fall Readvocating in





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Engineering students at Polytechnique Montréal also have a Fall reading week but follow a different academic schedule. Class \$

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Main concerns for McGill housing would be the ones discussed in our first meeting: the implications in terms of staff if students have to move in earlier. Léa is still waiting to hear back from McGill Senior Director of Housing and Dining Services.

The survey can also be sent to students in residence through the res life listserv.

d. Tre + Bryan -- Members

The committee still needs representation from the different student faculties. Tre and Bryan are still working on contacting different representatives.

- i. Arts -- Bryan
- ii. Management -- Tre
- iii. Law -- Tre
- iv. Medicine -- Tre

Because of their different schedule, the faculty of medicine feels like they are not relevant in the discussions on a Fall reading Break. It is important to note that a lot of the respondent of the survey are in medicine, Tre is still in contact with them to have them send a representative to the committee.

v. Social Work -- Bryan

The committee noted that the faculty of Social Work is on strike, hence the difficulty to get a representative from them at the moment.

- vi. PTOT -- Tre
- vii. Music -- Bryan

For the time being, Mark can represent informally the Faculty of Music in those meetings.

viii. Science -- Bryan

4. Discussions:

a. Survey completion;

Every member present at the meeting took the survey, to gauge how much time it might take, try the bit.ly link and notice any potential errors. The committee members also went through the 217 results already available.

The committee notes that the results are, for now, not very representative of the student body. Ideally, the number of respondents should reach at least 5,000.

b. Discussion on focus group goals;

The committee goal for January 2018 is to create focus groups, of about 10 students or more, within the different faculties/constituencies. Bryan will work over winter break on different documents to give members of the committee a framework for those focus groups. The purpose of those focus groups will be to gather qualitative data from the student body.

5. Actionables from Meeting:

a. Sign up for at least one in-class announcement this week;

Bryan put up in the drive a list of the largest undergraduate classes in McGill. Committee members are responsible for signing up to at least one to make an announcement about the survey at the beginning of class. Committee members can also find in the drive if needed a slide with the announcement for professor to project at the beginning of classes.

b. Go back to your faculty councils and allot time to get them to do survey;

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