

Spring 2022 President-Elect's Annual Report April 2021-April 2022

Renée Sieber

I made a promise to MAUT's previous administrative officer, Honore Kerwin-Borrelli, that if I didn't receive a particular large grant then I would run for president. Well, here I am.

The President Elect acts as a kind of shadow president for one year. That turns out to be considerable work, although much of that can be attributed to the continued effects of Covid on our academic community and the response of central administration to Covid. This year's worth of preparation gave me the clear indication of the issues that MAUT would need to address and, more importantly, alerted me to the tone and tenor of conversations one has with central administration.

During my year as President Elect, I attended meetings of Exec and Council as well as meetings with the Provost and Principal (which until recently were every week). I also attended meetings of CASC and MAUT's Finance Committee. Separately, I continued my activities on the McGill Community Council, the association of unions and associations at McGill, where I continued building common cause with unions like MUNACA, MUNASA, AGSEM and MCLIU. Issues in which I was involved included:

- Seeking clarity from central administration on the conditions under which members were being asked to return to work and who controlled various aspects of Covid policy
- Stressing the need for central administration to listen to experts, especially to experts at McGill regarding return to work, mask mandates, vaccine mandates and ventilation
- Advancing MAUT resolution that faculty should control the mode of instruction
- Compiling information on the impact of medicalization of Covid on academic staff
- Advancing MAUT resolution in support of vaccine mandates on McGill's campuses
- Providing extensive feedback on student and instructor accommodation during Fall and Winter term. MAUT was particularly successful in injecting faculty needs (e.g., allowing mask wearing for professors and others in Fall, enabling 20% remote instruction in Winter)
- As part of methodically addressing academic overload, working with central administration to decentralize their centralization of faculty travel and computer purchases
- Advocating for faculty salaries and the reversal of merit deferral
- Refining two surveys to solicit member concerns
- Assisting in crafting MAUT resolution to not stand in the way of members of FacLaw in seeking support from CAUT and FQPPU in members' effort to unionize
- Advocating for librarians on the New Model of Work
- Providing feedback on FacMedicine's call for mandatory levels of graduate student funding

- Communicating with SSMU representative about concerns from central administration that SSMU and other student groups were blacklisting professors
- Providing extensive feedback on central administration's Policy Assessment of Student Learning
- Preparing and participating in two special Council meetings

This coming year as President, I look forward to continuing advocacy on behalf of our members. I would not have been prepared as much as I am were it not for our current President, Andrew Kirk and Past-President Janine Mauzeroll. Thank you for your guidance. I wasn't the most willing student at times but I do appreciate your patience. I also came to appreciate the value of your approaches to central administration. I hope that I can carry those approaches and others forward.