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**TO:** Senate

**FROM:** Kareem Ibrahim, SSMU Senator  
Claire Stewart-Kanigan, SSMU Senator

**SUBJECT:** Question Regarding the Promotion of Consent and Safer Spaces on Campus

**MEETING DATE:** September 17th, 2014

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**PREAMBLE:** Whereas, in an MRO sent to the McGill community in November 2013 by the Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning) in response to the investigation of three McGill students with sexual assault, it was stated that “[McGill] will take proactive measures to ensure that our community values respect for others, both on and off campus,” including hosting an annual Dean of Students Forum on Safe Space,

Whereas, the University committed to “expanding [McGill’s] programming, like Rez Project and to work collaboratively with others, including the student-run Sexual Assault Centre of the McGill Students’ Society (SACOMSS),”

Whereas, it was stated that the University “will also continue to evaluate the role, responsibilities and obligations of all students who serve as role models and ambassadors for the University” and had “scheduled a discussion of this issue” with the Athletic Advisory Board,

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**QUESTION:**

**What steps have been taken to expand our current programming relating to consent and safer spaces and continue this conversation on campus?**

Response from the Deputy-Provost (Student Life & Learning):

1. Revamped and revised training session for frosh coordinators, leaders & orientation staff (Health Promotion with CL&E). This training included information on inclusivity, being sensitive to individuals' various backgrounds and experiences. Regarding consent, we included information about the bystander effect with an emphasis on 'checking in' and the underlying assumptions about why people don't check in with situations. Supporting survivors was also discussed, and resources were integrated both into the myWeek Gateway and the "How to Frosh" Leader Handbook.

Frosh coordinators facilitated the training and also took extra steps to send information about consent and bystander intervention to their future leaders and orientation staff. Orientation staff were also trained to be the "eyes and ears" of situations to check in on throughout Orientation, especially when alcohol was present

2. Consent information was included in all 6000 health kits that were distributed during Orientation Week (also a collaboration between CL&E and Health Services). All alcohol messages also included discussions of consent and how it is difficult to get real consent when alcohol or drugs are present.

Bianca Tétréault from the Dean of Students Office has been spearheading the consent campaign. Healthy McGill will be running sexual health/consent workshops in residences throughout the semester to continue education in residences on these issues.

Other projects:

- "How to Frosh" sessions run by Campus Life & Engagement (CL &E) in collaboration with Student Housing and Hospitality Services (Rez Life) and the student Frosh coordinators which included points on respect and consent.
- SSMU and CL&E partnered on different communication projects throughout the summer that spoke to topics related to respect and the need for consent.
- This year, new students registering for Orientation events on the McGill Orientation website were asked to review and agree to different "terms of Orientation", which in most part centred on the importance of acting responsibly, respectfully, and safely.

**What were the conclusions of the discussion with the Athletic Advisory Board regarding the responsibilities and obligations of all students who serve as role models and ambassadors for the University, and what actions have been and plan to be taken following this discussion?**

Response from the Deputy-Provost (Student Life & Learning):

The McGill Athletics and Recreation Advisory Board tasked the McGill Varsity Council to revise the “McGill University Athletics and Recreation Guide to Varsity Sports for Student-Athletes”, and to define precisely of what the “Varsity Student-Athlete Context” and the “Varsity Sport Guiding Principles and Policies” consist. Two new sections have been added to the Recreation Guide, one for each topic.

Revisions to the document were submitted by the Council to the Advisory Board and have now been sent to Legal Service for review. The final version will be posted on McGill's website in the near future.

**What is the current status of the annual Dean of Students Forum on Safe Space, and what efforts are being made to reach out to and collaborate with students?**

Response from the Deputy-Provost (Student Life & Learning):

-The Consent Campaign, to be launched in October 2014, will be taking over the role of the Safer Spaces Forum. This campaign has been created in collaboration with a variety of stakeholders at McGill including staff, faculty, students, and other community members.

-Website on sexual violence is being developed for the McGill site.

-McGill's Harm Reduction Coordinator will be facilitating workshops through SEDE entitled *Sexual Assault and Consent Awareness Raising*, open to all staff, faculty and graduate students.

-Rez is developing posters that will address myths on sexual assault and consent. The posters will also serve as a promotional piece for the Consent Campaign.

-Rez project has redesigned their gender and sexuality workshop to include a more detailed discussion on consent and sexual assault.

-A bystander intervention program has been purchased, and will be launched in the winter semester. This program will train community members on how to be an active bystander and prevent sexual violence. Athletics has agreed to be the first to train their staff and coaches in this program, later this semester.

-The Frosh Leader Training was also redesigned, to include a section on consent, bystander intervention, and how to support someone

affected by sexual violence. Condoms and condom packages were developed to address consent when engaging in sexual activity. These packages were distributed in the Frosh kits, along with coasters for drinks that also included information on safety.

-EUS runs a gender identity/consent workshop for first year students. This workshop was redesigned to include more hands-on information on consent and sexual assault.

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