

Legislative Council Meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University

1) Call to Order

Speaker Nizam called the meeting of the Legislative Council to order at 6:10pm.

Oksana Maibroda spoke about the active learning classroom where this week's Roaming Council is taking place. The room, Burnside 511, is one of six active learning classrooms at McGill. Active learning is promoted by students facing in different directions and the ability to move around in the chairs. The room allows for regular lectures to be more interactive with features like the document camera which can show images in 3D, simulation software for geography to build fictitious scenarios, and net school support. The instructor can project any of the computer screens in the room (that are on) onto the screen to display it (i.e. if a student has worked out a problem). The instructor can also annotate directly on the slides and displays during lecture.

President Redel: Is this particular room used primarily for geography?

Maibroda: This room in particular does tend to be used for geography.

To show that the rooms can be used for a variety of subjects, Maibroda displays the active learning website with testimonials from students and teachers who have used other active learning classrooms across campus for different programs.

Maibroda: Students can use their own computers or the classroom's computers that already have the necessary software on them. The room is configured differently for collaboration: each group has access to a white board to brainstorm and share together, so they can share in real time with the rest of the class.

Speaker Tong: Does the podium move?

Maibroda: It does not move sideways, but it moves up and down. The monitors have arms and can also be adjusted. Podiums in some of the other rooms can be moved. The whole idea behind these rooms is to move away from classrooms where everything is bolted to the floor.

VP Dinel: Curious if students who use this room think they are learning more or better?

Maibroda: From the video testimonials on the website, you can see that students really like this room. You can also move one wall to make it a bigger room and include more students. It's a shift in culture for people who are not used to talking to peers. Education is moving away from the idea of the professor as on a stage and moving towards the idea of the professor as a facilitator.

Councillor Farnan: Has two questions to ask. First, where did the creation of this room come from?

Maibroda: There was paper put together by Student Life and Learning which showed that students felt classes were large, they were not engaged, and they were passive instead of active.

They then looked at what other universities were doing for ideas. She then began setting up an environment that is not static, allowing students to become part of a community of learners. Students can talk to other learners and brainstorm to better come up with solutions to problems. The literature says that students retain more information from peer discussions; explaining a concept to someone else leads to a better understanding for both students. Overall these rooms allow for a more active role in learning for students.

Councillor Farnan: What are the ideas for more of these classrooms?

Maibroda: The program is in its third or fourth year, and every year a new room is added. It is very expensive; technology changes so quickly that by the time it is approved for purchasing, there is already a newer and better technology on the market. They are changing at a much faster pace now than 5 years ago, and as a result have the renovation model down pat: they know how long the remodel will take and which rooms to choose that need the remodel the most. Sometimes the renovation is simpler and just involves changing the shape of the tables and adding wheels to the chairs, adding a smart board, etc.

Councillor Larson: What do professors think about using this technology to create a more interactive curriculum? What training is available for professors?

Maibroda: They collaborate with IT to teach instructors who have been scheduled to use the room. They offer best practices as well as an orientation to the room. It is not too much of a shift since most teachers are becoming more interactive, so training just involves teaching them to use the equipment to add another level to their lectures. Teachers receive training in August, and the teachers who are assigned these rooms have usually requested it.

President Redel: What are other schools doing?

Maibroda: They are using things like the lecture recording devices; McGill does this too. They look at MIT and Harvard for ideas, which are a bit more advanced. They also want to know what Canadian schools are doing with their very limited funding. McGill is on the cutting edge for Canada. If you are in medicine, there is a new medical simulation center, which is a real show piece for McGill. It is very futuristic and high-tech. The simulated bodies are so realistic that students feel personally connected to them. The simulation center is located in the Galeries du Parc, and she recommends tours.

Oksana Maibroda is thanked.

2) Attendance

The attendance sheet is circulated and signed.

3) Adoption of the Agenda

A motion to adopt is made and seconded. The motion clearly passes and **the agenda is adopted.**

4) Approval of the Minutes of Council – 11/01/12

Councillor Rosentzveig: Makes corrections to the spelling of Councillor Bissky Dziadyk's name and his own use of "countries" to "companies".

VP Dinel: Motions to approve. The motion is seconded and clearly passes, and **the minutes from the Legislative Council on 11/01/12 are adopted.**

5) Report of the Steering Committee

President Redel stands for questions. There are none.

There is a motion to adopt. The motion is seconded and clearly passes, and **the Report of the Steering Committee is adopted.**

6) Note from the President

President Redel: He hopes everyone enjoyed the presentation on the active learning classroom. He is speaking in regards to an editorial and opinion piece in the McGill Daily. He has never viewed himself as superior to anyone, but he does see SSMU as a family which he is responsible for the wellbeing of. Council must work with criticism. Council is open and transparent, and being open to criticism is a huge strength. You can hear firsthand what people think of your work, and this is very valuable. He advises people to look at the arguments made and extract ways in which they can grow and approve. He encourages criticism as it guides the SSMU. He wants more motions and asks people to write motions and make SSMU work. He calls for people to bring items to Council for debate and to gain certainty. The atmosphere of last Council had lots of tension in the air. He reminds everyone that they are all on the same team, and while this doesn't mean agreeing all the time, it does mean working together. They need to talk it out and work out frustration, which is an essential part of being on a team. If individuals are unwilling to work together, then they are in the wrong place. Councillors need to take a serious look at their relations to other councillors due to faculties, involvement in campus life, etc. and need to appreciate where different people come from. No one is stupid, they just have different experiences. He discourages people from hating and disregarding people, although he doesn't think they have done this. People will disagree and fight at Council but they must not hate, as this is childish. People need to realize they are on same team working for the same goals.

7) Announcements

Councillor Anzovino: This week is Nursing Student Appreciation Week. The Nursing Undergraduate Association has created a Facebook page about why we love and need nurses.

VP Cooper: MSERT has bought an AED for the SSMU building. It is being stored in the MSERT office opposite Gert's. People are there from 11am-6pm but security can open the room if needed. Also, MSERT is having a fundraiser tomorrow night at McKibbon's.

Councillor Nasr: The McGill IDD research group at Montreal is having a comedy night on November 21 at 7pm. All proceeds go towards research.

VP Dinel: On Tuesday, November 27th there will be a forum for the potential indigenous studies program. If anyone wants to be a facilitator please let her know. She encourages people to come to the forum.

Thursday, November 15, 2012

President Redel: Lunch Beat will be happening from 12-1pm in the SSMU ballroom in 2 weeks. The event helps people de-stress during exams. He encourages everyone to come out to the event.

Councillor Southey: The IRC is having a club event at Light Ultra on November 29th. The theme is Macklemore's "Thrift Shop".

VP Reid-Fraser: Tomorrow from 12:30-1:30pm there is an event in Community Square in front of the James Administration building celebrating International Students' Day (November 17th). There will also be a reflection on the last year since November 10, 2011, looking at past and current struggles. There will be food and hot chocolate, as well as people coming and talking about different things going on.

Next week, consultation sessions leading up to the Education Summit. Sessions will be on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday from 12-5pm. Monday and Tuesday's sessions will be held in the ballroom, Friday's session will be held in Lev Bukhman. She is still seeking facilitators for group discussions (especially for Tuesday's session), so if interested please email her as soon as possible. The discussions will be on the 10 items that have been adopted at Council, but you can let her know if you have another item you want to discuss. She will be putting together discussion questions and writing a document to send to everyone.

Councillor Morawetz: The Francophone Commission is having an event with representatives from the CEGEP student federation and professors from sociology, etc. The event will be all in French, with a Q&A period in both English and French. It will be Leacock 232 from 3:30 to 5:30 tomorrow.

Councillor Herrick: The McGill Varsity and Recreation Athletics food drive is going on from 10am-4pm and is still looking for volunteers.

Councillor Nasr: The SSMU Outreach and Engagement Committee will be showing the film "Voices of Burgundy", regarding Burgundy and what it has overcome, on Wednesday, November 21st at 6pm in Leacock 26.

Councillor Lam: The annual Arts and Science semi-formal at Thomson House is coming up. Tickets are \$20. He wants to get people to come and has tickets on him. Also, the journal for Arts and Science, The Ampersand, is looking for poems and pieces of writing. Contributions are accepted on a rolling basis, people who are interested can talk to him after and he can give him the contact information.

Councillor Bissky Dziadyk: There will be a consultation session in Burnside Basement.

Councillor Farnan: Right to Play is coming up, find any executive to get tickets.

Councillor Larson: Tomorrow night there is a music event going on at 8pm at Tanna Schulich Hall, and she will be singing.

Councillor Southey: There will be a coffee house at New Residence Hall on Sunday, anyone interested should come out.

Speaker Tong: There is an introduction to make: Ben Beland is the new Athletics Representative.

Councillor Beland: He is on the rugby team and Varsity Council, and is excited to be here.

President Redel: Motions to amend the agenda to move point c under New Business to after 11 and renumber accordingly.

Speaker Nizam: This is in order and will be amended.

8) Question Period

Councillor Bissky Dziadyk: Walksafe and Drivesafe are located in the same room and only have one phone line, when is this going to be fixed?

VP Cooper: Both organizations think it makes sense to combine and figure out which service people need when they call, but a new phone can be installed if they need it

9) New Business

a. Notice of Motion Regarding Amendments to SSMU By-Law Book II

VP Cooper reads the motion:

Whereas, the SSMU is currently mandated to serve its clubs and services as its highest priority;

Whereas, SSMU offers the ability to open club bank accounts to all full-status SSMU clubs;

Whereas, the management of and support services for these bank accounts has been consistently improving with recent discussions and improvements to the club audit process;

Whereas, full-status SSMU clubs automatically lose their club status and become known as "dead clubs" if they are not active for two years (as measured by a lack of submitted executive contact information or no activity in their bank account);

Whereas, any leftover money in the bank accounts of such "dead clubs" is currently transferred into the SSMU general operations budget;

Whereas, this money could be given directly back to clubs if transferred to the SSMU Club Fund instead, which full-status clubs can apply to;

Resolved, that the following clause be added to Article 2 of SSMU By-Law II-4:

2.7 Any funds remaining in a Club bank account when their club status is lost for any reason will be transferred by the SSMU Comptroller into the SSMU Club Fund for the relevant academic year.

b. Discussion Regarding TaCEQ

VP Reid-Fraser: SSMU is a member of TaCEQ. She welcomes new members (there are 4 campus member associations). Currently they have monthly meetings which the VP attends, sometimes with SSMU's political attaché. At the meeting on Saturday, she attended with a member at large of the External Affairs Committee along with a few people (usually executives) from each campus and TaCEQ's Secretary General (who deals with things like the press) and the Vice-Secretary General (who deals with finances). TaCEQ is young and growing, it wants to do a lot of new things and has a lot of projects in mind. The VP and political attaché's capacity is not enough to help TaCEQ do what it wants to do. She could use half of her time for TaCEQ but unfortunately she cannot. Because of the numbers of SSMU, it has 4 voting seats at TaCEQ but the seats are rarely used because there usually aren't enough people. She wants to elect TaCEQ delegates to resolve this issue. They do not have to be already elected councillors, they could have elections next semester which would be open to council but not restricted to them. In terms of language, delegates do need a working knowledge of French (although it can be accommodated). She wanted to put this idea forward and have a discussion about how and when this election would happen.

Questions:

Councillor Farnan: Would there be a standard election including all faculties, the same as other elections?

VP Reid-Fraser: Yes, the representatives can be any members of SSMU.

Councillor Bissky Dziadyk: Who would they report to?

VP Reid-Fraser: They would report to Council, they could be members of the External Affairs Committee, and would report to her as well.

Discussion:

Councillor Rosentzveig: He likes the idea and wants to talk about how the delegates would be accountable as Council is fundamentally accountable to constituents and to each other. The representatives would have legitimacy but would not sit on council, so how could they be made accountable?

Councillor Larson: How can we effectively represent undergraduates with only 3 representatives? It would be hard to represent the different faculties, etc. They need to write bylaws to do this. Should they be representative of Council or of campus as a whole?

President Redel: In response to Larson, the role of the representatives is not necessarily to represent campus but to represent Council. They would go with VP Reid-Fraser and represent what SSMU/Council thinks they should do and help convey Council's points. They are more delegates than representatives.

VP Dinel: Thinks it is a good idea to have a set group of people. They are needed to fill SSMU's seats, and Council is doing itself a disservice if it does not use all 36% of the votes it has.

Councillor Farnan: He does not think a representative could accurately represent the student body because there are so many different views. How are they being held accountable to the students themselves?

There is a motion to extend discussion by 3 minutes, which is seconded and passes.

VP Reid-Fraser: They need to have a conversation at TaCEQ about what notice members have of what is coming up at the next meeting. They usually have less than a week where they know what is on the agenda. It is already consistent in the things it is talking about, but with more advanced warning and members could anticipate what is going to be talked about and have time to discuss it beforehand. The agenda could then be part of the reports by committees or executives. She wants a more elaborate report of what happened at the last TaCEQ meeting and if there are particular things that need to be voted on. If there is ever a really divisive point on Council (which represents the students), they can discuss it.

VP Cooper: Regarding the Executive Meetings, they are thinking of sending monthly surveys with listservs. It all depends on what comes up this year at McGill and in Quebec. It would be good to have people that have a working understanding of the issues.

Councillor Larson: Wants to know how having more representatives will help TaCEQ with its other projects, etc.

VP Reid-Fraser: TaCEQ wants to start a newsletter regarding its different campuses. It is also undergoing a bylaw review process, participating in a conversation of the role of the university in society, and there will be things happening on campus.

Councillor Rosentzveig: How do other organizations select their delegates?

VP Reid-Fraser: Most delegates are executives, some are in similar positions to the political attaché (Simon). So far there are no members at large she will be bringing this idea to Saturday's meeting.

Council enters recess for the Board of Directors Meeting at 7:05pm.

Councillor Nasr: Motions for a moment of silence for the victims in Gaza.

President Redel: The motion is allowed.

Speaker Nizam: Technically it is her call, but she agrees with President Redel's decision. In the future, please bring something like this to the Steering Committee before Council and it will be discussed there.

Council has a moment of silent for one minute in honor of the victims in Gaza.

c. Recess for SSMU Board of Directors Meeting

Council enters a recess at 7:09pm for the Board of Directors Meeting.

Council resumes at 7:12pm.

10) Reports by Committees

a. Interest Group Committee

VP Cooper stands for questions.

Councillor Rosentzveig: Why are there equity issues?

Councillor Boytinck: It is standard procedure to make sure they are following equity; they can't turn anyone away based on gender.

President Redel motions to approve. The motion is seconded and passes, and **the report of the Interest Group Committee is approved.**

b. Funding Committee

Councillor Rosentzveig stands for questions as VP Briggs is not in the room.

There is a motion to approve which is seconded and passes. **The report of the Funding Committee is approved.**

c. Executive Committee

President Redel motions to table, apologizes for not having them ready. The motion passes and **the report of the Executive Committee is tabled.**

11) Reports by Executives

a. Vice-President (University Affairs) – Haley Dinell

On Tuesday there was a strategic enrollment conference. They talked about the Consultation Fair and presented student research on U1 first year problems.

Wednesday's Senate was really interesting. They tried to approve a motion to get Senate archived, it will be livestreamed starting in January.

b. Vice-President (Clubs and Services) – Allison Cooper

She is excited about Winter 2013 Activities Night. There has been more discussion and they have approval to have a food fair. She is thinking of new name ideas so if people have more engaging ideas let her know. Advanced room bookings have been taking up a lot of time but that ends tomorrow. The Plate Club and musicians collective space is going well and getting more organized (in the sub-basement).

Asks if there is any feedback about the campus bike racks. Let her know if you like the curved artistic bike racks.

Councillor Farnan: This is ahead of time, but he is wondering when advanced bookings will come out for events in Fall 2013.

VP Cooper: They will be coming out in March.

Councillor Larson: Loves that VP Cooper is doing the service HR , how's she going to package it for people, is it going to be a document hidden somewhere or linked.

VP Cooper: The document is made up already, she just needs to think of how to present it. Users can choose between the executive HR model or the member HR model for every service. There is a chart of services and what they use so people can know what other services are doing. Some have volunteer staff, others have hourly paid staff, and some don't know they can have paid staff. She is going to have a summit on services and deal with HR then.

c. Vice-President (External Affairs) – Robin Reid-Fraser

The Education Summit consultations have been taking up a lot of time. She is excited but nervous that people won't come. On the community side of things, there have been exciting meetings with the community regarding "Intro to Quebec" and possible collaborations with other schools.

d. Vice-President (Internal) – Michael Szpejda

The Vice-President Internal is not here so Council moves on.

e. Vice-President (Finance & Operations) – J.P. Briggs

He apologizes for not having the budget. It has been finalized and approved by the Executive. The presentation will be ready, clear and pretty for next Council as there are lots of different levels to the budget. The deficit is not fixed but a solution is proposed for next Council to discuss.

Councillor Nasr: With regards to the second floor tenants, what is going on with that?

VP Briggs: Since the first meeting, they have been in the process of working off of feedback, trying to meet issues they've been having and come up with solutions (which is slow on McGill's side). They keep in touch and have meetings on a monthly basis. Right now they are at the status quo, trying to get everything up to satisfactory levels for them to operate.

f. President – Josh Redel

Thanks Councillor Guan, the only one who came to the motion writing session, and encourages everyone to come as these sessions are a good place to talk things out, bounce ideas, and get support. News from the President's Roundtable: SSMU will be hosting a student association summit on January 20th. In December there will be a day-long specific conference to help student associations at McGill work together and share best practices. Lunch Beat is going to be awesome, everyone should come. Regarding orientation and frosh, the process already underway for the 2013 events. If anyone is interested in participating in working groups, etc., talk to Mike Szpejda (VP Internal). They are getting good feedback from the Rez Life sub-committee. The Environment Committee is doing good stuff, they had their first Green GA last week with 50+ people in attendance to talk about sustainability at

McGill. SSMU is getting e-waste bins, hopefully putting one in the lobby. The bins are meant for small electronic waste (cell phones, ink, etc.) and will be in the SSMU lobby, he asks Council to pass the word around. Regarding the Executive Reports, the human resource section is very long and mostly confidential. Staff evaluations happen yearly and this year they are allowing the permanent staff to evaluate the Executive. The President is both interested and scared.

Councillor Lam: Since the Green GA had such good attendance, will there be another one in the winter?

President Redel: Thinks they plan to.

Councillor Farnan: When is the next motion session?

President Redel: 6pm next Thursday (November 22nd).

Councillor Guan: When is Lunch Beat happening?

President Redel: On November 28th, from 12-1pm.

12) Closed Member Feedback Session

Speaker Nizam asks the Executive to leave.

President Redel: Reminds councillors that this time is open for them to rant, criticize, compliment, etc. Tells them not to be shy, they can be harsh and give feedback. It is anonymous, and no one is to share who says what.

The Executive and the media leave the room and Council enters a recess to move into the Closed Member Feedback Session.

13) Confidential Session

Council enters a recess to go into a Confidential Session. All members the media leave the room.

Council resumes at 8:10pm.

14) Adjournment

There is a motion to adjourn which is seconded and clearly passes. The meeting of the Legislative Council is adjourned at 8:10pm.