

## SSMU Legislative Council January 9, 2014

- 1) Call to Order  
**Meeting called to order at 6:10 pm.**
- 2) Attendance  
President Katie Larson  
VP Joey Shea  
  
VP Samuel Harris  
VP Brian Farnan  
VP Stefan Fong  
VP Tyler Hofmeister  
Councillor Ibrahim  
Councillor Reedjik  
Councillor Jeong  
Councillor Baraldi  
Councillor Ayukawa  
Councillor Lubendo  
Councillor Liu  
Councillor Rioux  
Councillor Taylor  
Councillor Tong  
Councillor Ehrhard  
Councillor Vassanji  
Councillor Benrimoh  
Councillor Chen  
Councillor Lynsdale  
Councillor El-Sharawy  
Councillor Bissky Dziadyk  
Councillor Southey  
Councillor Stewart-Kanigan  
Senate Caucus Alvin  
Recording Secretary Lydia Jones  
Speaker Rida Malik
- 3) Approval of the Minutes
  - a. December 5, 2013  
**Motion to approve by VP Harris**  
**Seconded by VP Shea**  
**Minutes approved**
- 4) Adoption of the Agenda  
**Motion to adopt by Councillor Benrimoh**  
**Seconded by Councillor Stewart Kanigan**  
**Agenda adopted**
- 5) Announcements

President Larson: Another GA! On Feb 5<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. Motion up on SSMU website, anyone interested in helping out please contact me or secretary GA @ SSMU.

Councillor Liu: Res activity night anyone want to help let me know

Councillor Benrimoh: get excited for mental health committees, mental health policy coming soon

VP Fong: Winter activities night on Jan 20<sup>th</sup>, volunteers!

Councillor Ibrahim: Elie's birthday!

President Larson: New councillor with us tonight, Caroline from SWA social work

6) Question Period

Councillor El-Sharawy: where's my placard?

7) New Business

None

8) Reports by Committees

a. Executive Committee

Met for an hour go over brief stuff only decisions discussed will be talked about in confidential session later.

9) Reports by Executives

a. VP University Affairs

VP Shea: Research

*Mental Health Policy*

The Ad-Hoc Committee for Mental Health was convened out of a motion brought to the first Council of last year. Since then, the committee has met weekly to brainstorm, develop and write the SSMU's first Mental Health Policy. I am very pleased with the work of this committee and am happy to announce that the policy is almost complete and will be brought to Council by the end of January.

*Equity Research*

There have been three equity research projects underway since September. The projects are as follows: Equity Complaints Process, Equity Structure, Equity Funding. These projects will help SSMU Equity to assess the Equity Policy and possibly bring about revisions. A rough draft is completed and we are reviewing it with the researchers at the end of next week.

*McGill's Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Policy*

This November at Senate, McGill's Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Policy was revised. This project was meant to assess McGill's policy internally and compare it to other universities. The research was then tailored to our needs when much attention was focused on this issue.

*International students*

A few years ago a research project about the needs of international students was conducted by the SSMU; this project was not totally completed. We decided that it was time to update this research, with specific reference to the motion that was passed at Council at the end of last semester. We are currently in the process of hiring this position.

*IDEAS*

This is a project I worked on with Sam Gregory throughout the summer and September entitled the "Institute for the Development of Entrepreneurship and Advancing Society." We met with many units across the university such as AUS, SUS, EUS, MUS, CaPs, and Student Services to share and find support for this project. Although progress was slow in the latter of last semester due to time constraints, Sam and I are beginning work again, with a meeting with the Deputy Provost next Friday.

#### Equity

##### *Sexual Harassment Policy changes and website*

In response to the media attention surrounding sexual assault at McGill, I worked with the UGE and SACOMSS to organize a discussion with various groups about policy changes we would like to see regarding sexual harassment. We are currently compiling a document to present to McGill. I also hired a researcher to develop a portion of the SSMU website to provide accessible info about McGill's policy and available resources to survivors.

##### *Costumes campaign for 4Floors*

In collaboration with the Equity Commissioners and the VP Internal, we organized an appropriate costumes campaign for 4Floors. I am proud of the work that we did but there is obviously always room for improvement. It is exciting to see how this pilot project will develop within the next few years.

##### *Mandatory Equity training for SSMU Staff and Senate Caucus*

In conjunction with SSMU HR, I organized mandatory Equity training for all SSMU student and permanent staff. The Equity Commissioners also gave a training session to Senate Caucus. Although, admittedly this should have been done at the beginning of the semester.

#### Libraries

##### *The Library Improvement Fund*

The LIFC decided to allocate \$110 000 towards student employment. There is still a significant amount of the fund left that we will be allocating this semester.

##### *Library Town-Hall*

In September, I organized a town-hall entitled, "Where have all the books gone?" with Colleen Cook, the Dean of Libraries. Attendance was low, but good questions were asked and the presentation was informative

#### Senate

Many interesting topics came up at Senate last semester, including: the Quebec Charter of Values, Equity, Revisions to make Senate more open. For more info, see the Senate page!

I have asked three questions thus far at Senate: one regarding deregulated tuition fees for international students; one about a surplus which has accumulated in Student Services; and finally, the last was about the Lecture Recording System which was sent to the Academic Policy Committee

#### Committees

##### *Committees I sit on:*

Senate, Senate Steering, Senate Nominating, Academic Policy Committee, Committee on Enrolment and Student Affairs, Workgroup on Mental Health, Joint Board-Senate Planning Committee, Friends of the Library, QI Workgroup, Vision 2020 Steering,

Cycling working group, Planning committee for the Forum on Consent, Principal's Prize for Teaching

Admin

One of my main campaign promises was to properly introduce the new Principal and the new Deputy Provost to student life at McGill. To accomplish this, I organized a three hour meeting at the SSMU. They met the SSMU Executive, student staff and permanent staff. We then toured Activities Night and visited a few club offices, including: BSN, ISN, Queer McGill, the Tribune, the Daily, and SACOMSS. It was a great opportunity for students to meet the new administrators and for the administrators to see all the way students utilize the space in this building. In addition to this first event, I organize many more throughout the semester, such as "Lunch with the Deputy Provost" in conjunction with the DP Office, and invitations to Senate Caucus.

Councillor Benrimoh: Plans about how legislation passed regarding protection of student degrees and research etc?

VP Shea: last council: on my list to do but not done yet. I'm going to be working with research commissioners and working with student staff to develop strategies to solve this. Working on it ASAP.

[Council sings Happy Birthday to Elie Lubendo]

b. VP Internal

No midterm review will have for next council. Not much going on. Surpassed all goals on Twitter and Facebook and everything is going great. Hopefully keep momentum and re-do goals ofr this semester. Getting back into stuff. Otherwise that's it. I can answer question. Sorry about report again! Full break down next council.

Councillor Southey: why was there a fire alarm in Gert's?

President Larson: I can answer! We are not sure yet asked McGill no one told us, McGill security guard left without us.

Hofmeister: occurred on garage floor. No idea why. It's McGill.

VP Farnan: Props to everyone there.

c. VP Clubs and Services

GENERAL: The portfolio of the Vice-President Clubs and Services is generally busy year round, with definite peak periods at the beginning of each semester as the clubs resume their activities. My time is spent largely on day-to-day operations which include responding to the storm of emails I receive and responding to club or building-relating issues that might pop up. As such, this portfolio consists mainly of crisis management and conflict resolution. I've broken down my report into several sections relating to different aspects of my portfolio and will be reporting in each category about my successes and failures of the past semester.

CLUBS, SERVICES, INDEPENDENT STUDENT GROUPS

New listserv software: One of the first things that I changed was the use of the archaic listserv software that the C&S Listserv was previously sent from.

The system made it difficult to update its recipients once club executives had graduated and subscription was done entirely manually adding a lot of administrative work to the IGC. The system was changed to MailChimp which allows me to see more accurately how many subscribers are actively reading each listserv as well as linking subscription straight to the Executive Contact Sheet so everyone is automatically added if they want to be. My subscription rate has nearly doubled since last year, from 800 to 1500 subscribers, but it will no longer be free once over 2000 subscribers. On that note, I could have sent listservs on a more consistent basis. I would have preferred to send them on a weekly basis but on some weeks, I had nothing to send out vs others which were delayed because some things wasn't ready yet. New form software: All of our registration forms are now being done through a program called Wufoo. The previous software, GoogleForms, was problematic in that ownership of the forms was carried through my predecessor's personal Gmail account since SSMU emails could not be used. The following is a list of the benefits to switching the software:

- Centralized location for all SSMU forms with access control for various users
- Heritability tied to SSMU email addresses
- Customized forms for clubs, services, ISGs, external groups
- Detailed analytics

New Office Allocation Process: There was no previous institutionalized procedure for allocating offices so I decided to create one that would be fair and more transparent to groups. The system I created is a 13 point scale which is based off of two separate metrics. The first one is applied to all of the applications and consists of Activity, Need, Adherence to Rules and Willingness to Share. The second metric, with Cleanliness, Complaints and Fire/Safety as criteria, were only applied to groups who already had an office as an accountability mechanism. The process was done anonymously by removing the club names from the applications to reduce the bias of knowing more about one club versus another. Interestingly enough, many of the clubs who have had offices for years did not put as much effort into their application and received a lower score than the newer clubs. Now that the 4th floor completed has been completed for club offices, they will be able to begin moving in starting next week.

Club Workshops: Every year, the VP CS conducts mandatory Club Workshops to educate incoming club executives how to effectively run their clubs. This year, as is the case every year, the attendance has been pretty low; about 50% of clubs attended.

I plan on having a second round of Workshops in late January and informing the clubs that did not show up to the first ones that they must attend or risk being labeled as inactive for the year. For reference, two consecutive years of inactivity results in the expiry of their Club Status.

Good relations with the Services: I have worked very hard to be open and welcoming to all of the services by giving them my number so they can message me in case of an emergency as well as attending some of their executive meetings for a more direct line of communication.

In retrospect, I should have prepared a more comprehensive Service Workshop, like the ones Clubs get, to educate the Services in everything they need to know SSMU-wise.

Club Bank Accounts: Our accounting department pointed out that several club bank accounts had been inactive for an extended period of time. I spent a good while investigating each group to make sure they were truly inactive and instructed the bank to close down those accounts. The money remaining in those accounts when they are closed will be transferred to the Club Fund so that all clubs may apply to it.

#### BUILDING & EVENTS

New events schedule: Over the summer, I reviewed the previous 2-week room booking schedule and made some significant alterations. The new system is much more forgiving to groups given that most of them start planning their events way before the booking window opens. Groups can now book the Special Rooms such as Ballroom, Madeleine Parent and Lev Buchman 3 months in advance and every other bookable space, the Regular Rooms, 6 weeks in advance. Furthermore, the previous system allowed external groups to book earlier than internal groups because contracts would be signed before the 2 week period. Obviously, the building should be dedicated to student groups and so the new system only allows external groups to book Special Rooms 2 months in advance and Regular Rooms 4 weeks in advance. As such, Internal Groups are granted a grace period where they can book before External Groups are allowed to.

New Activities Night format: This year, I experimented with the format of Activities

Night and changed it significantly. One of the major complaints from previous years were from clubs who felt that a lot of students were missing large sections of the event and leaving before having seen all of the clubs. I tried to address this by implementing a path system instead of free-flow system where students would be directed throughout the building and see everything there was to see. This also allowed me to showcase areas of the building that were previously not part of Activities Night such as the Clubs Lounge, the SSMU Office, the Players Theatre and even the Brown Building.

I also wanted to address the waitlist problem where groups on the waitlist could only be told if they had a table the same day if another group didn't show up. Due to the path system, a greater amount of space in the building was used for tabling which meant that every group that applied by the deadline received a table. On top of that, every group had their own table instead of having to share it with another group like last year.

We also recognized that the significant loss of passes every year was an expensive and unsustainable problem to fix. We had to print an additional 800 passes to cover the amount that we needed. In order to remedy this, we

implemented an experimental pass system that included having tablers exchange their McGill IDs for the passes at the end of their shifts. This resulted in a loss of 45 passes last semester versus 800 last semester. Mice Infestation: The last semester has seen the moving in of several mice. We've been dealing with several reports throughout the building and addressing them proactively.

SSMU signed onto a pest control contract with McGill in order to have a technician on hand to do assessments and provide insight into strategies we should employ to minimize the problem.

4th Floor Office Clean-up: As a result of the mice infestation, a general cleaning and clearing of junk of the 4th floor was conducted since it was one of the more problematic floors. This is also the reason why the office allocation process was severely delayed. We had our pest control technician and McGill's Fire Marshall come in to do several assessments of the area. Due to the massive build-up of junk over the years, fire and safety has become a critical issue as most of the rooms are fire hazards (some clubs were found to be storing bags of charcoal and lighter fluid) and the junk impeded on our technicians attempts to examine the area for droppings and place traps

I have received a lot of frustrated comments from clubs who thought they would be moving in earlier but after explaining the situation, they have been pretty understanding. Renovations to the Building: Here is a short list of building projects we have underway

- Renovations to the Lev Buchman room
- Painting of the 403 and 433-A and renaming to Green and Blue Room
- New Sound System for the Ballroom
- Long term plan for Room 108
- New printer on the second floor

Installation of an outdoor concrete ping pong table: One of the first things I helped facilitate over the summer was the installation on the Leacock terrace. Thanks to the

Gardens and Grounds Committee and the AUS for moving this along!

#### UPCOMING PROJECTS

Implementing an Eco-Score for the Club Audits

Review of ISG criteria and accreditation procedure

Club Hub Project

Updating the Services' Constitutions

Creating Service-specific How to Run a Service Guide

Updating the website content

And of course, everything else!

Stand for questions.

Councillor Reedjik: which clubs lost and got?

VP Fong: not sure but if you want to know there are records.

Councillor Lubendo: spec talked about clubs that changed offices but services didn't. Did you use same formula?

VP Fong: most didn't change because very well established. Comfy with giving own spaces because well used. Office hours, well done. But 2 services did lose their office. It was too small.

Councillor Lubendo: excited about activities night!

VP Fong: yes!

Larson: VP Fong: how many mice?

VP Fong: about 18 reported caught, more sighting. A few on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor and lobby. Hopefully now assessed we'll get rid of them.

d. VP External

Councillor Benrimoh: charter of values this council passed motion last council talking about McGill adopting status non compliance, do we have a plan for the charter of values campaign to adopt policy?

VP Harris: two answers: 1. Charter of values not passed yet so nothing not to comply to. 2. Yes council passed I will express our belief that the university should not comply if legislation passed.

Councillor Stewart Kanigan: follow up, consider motion to bring forward to senate?

VP Harris: yeah I would consider that. I have less experience writing for senate so if VP Shea could help me with that yes

Councillor Southey: foresee any SSMU leaving TaCEQ especially if other votes to leave?

VP Harris: distinct possibility TaCEQ won't work with just 3 Quebec associations given turmoil if they leave I think it very possible we do too.

Councillor Bissky Dziadyk: first, congrats on new haircut! Already answered distinct possibility? Should we leave though?

VP Harris: Um yes right now nothing convinced otherwise yeah

Councillor Reedjik: asked this question before we're not writing anymore cheques right? Because that was what I understood last time

VP Harris: until we have a mandate to leave, 3 in a year next payment due in January so understand concern not wanting to make payment transfer to ass we might leave however there are bills to pay like salaries of sec general paid January is the month of transfers in associations. But what we can do is wait for results on ref 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan then we can see. Definitely more payments that are due either way we can't just leave right away we can hold off though on making the 1/3 payment.

Councillor Reedjik: so that's on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> council meeting. So the timing of it gets interesting. Sum total for Jan?

VP Harris: 5k and change.

Councillor Reedjik: feasible to get results by 6 o'clock Thursday?

Speaker: Perhaps discuss this elsewhere?

Councillor Reedjik: delay payment past January?

VP Harris: More of a question of operations than politics weird thing for council to take position on so yes possible but same time in terms of good practice it's not something we want to delay too much.

e. VP Finance and Operations

## **SUCESSES**

### Investment Portfolio

- All paperwork submitted to Lester Asset Management. Waiting to hear National Bank's response on whether our paperwork has cleared yet, but SSMU has done all required at least so far.

### Budget

- Fall budget revisions were successful in that SSMU was able to have a break even budget without liquidating any part of the investment portfolio and without and significant decrease in level of service provided. While the deficit situation is regrettable, I believe we were able to minimize the negative effect of the deficit on students.

### Banking

- Working with the SSMU Controller, we took an active approach to SSMU's banking. By investing funds not currently needed, SSMU was able to increase the effective interest rate earned on millions of dollars of capital. This translates to thousands of dollars more each year earned in interest.

### ASEQ

- Ihaveaplan mobile app version 2.0 is ready for download for free on the Apple App Store: [ihaveaplan.ca Mobile App](https://www.ihaveaplan.ca/Mobile-App). This, while no means my personal success, is still a success for SSMU that falls under my portfolio as it allows students to use their health plans more conveniently.

### Club Audits

- Stefan and I have reviewed the process for club audit submissions. SSMU accounting will now complete the club audits. We believe that this will make the club audit process more reliable and consistent between years. This way, Stefan and I believe we will be able to provide a date to clubs when the club audits will be completed. As a result of this, the fall club audits become more relevant and useful for the Winter semester round of funding.

### Student Run Cafe: Le Nid or The Nest

- Josh Redel, Manager, and Kathleen Bradley, Head Chef, have both put countless hours into this project and I am happy to announce the opening of The Nest, which occurred January 6<sup>th</sup>.

### Gerts

- Alessandro Sangiovanni, Gert's new Administration Manager, has been hired and is doing a great deal of good work for the bar. Alessandro has added a foosball table, a jukebox, a pinball machine and a classic arcade game. Alessandro is also working diligently to lower the costs of liquor by meeting with supplier representatives and has worked to reprogram the pouring system in Gerts to improve our revenue recording.

#### MiniCourses

- Sam Laroque, MiniCourses Coordinator, Olivia Spandier, Advertising and Registration Svava Terjesen, Public Relations and Website have put in a great deal of effort into the management of SSMU MiniCourses this year and I am happy to report that we are right on schedule for the coming semester. Last semester was a great success, generating over half of the years expected profits.

#### Funding Committee

- Funding Committee meetings last semester were long but productive. A big thank you for all the members on the committee who put in such great effort

#### Operations Management Committee

- Operations management committee decided to renew the current tenants on the second floor and members have drawn up different floor plans for what the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor should look like.

#### Finance Committee

- Finance Committee has been helping with reviewing the political documents and a final draft has been approved for the new bylaw book 2 bylaw regarding the student life fund.

#### FERC

- FERC research done so far will be presented for next council. Thank you all councillors who have helped in the research so far

#### **FAILURES**

#### Budget

- The budget revision was a lot more time consuming and the process was extremely inefficient. The deadlines set by the political documents are completely unreasonable. I am expecting the February revision to go much smoother this semester. That being said, the Winter semester student fees will only be recorded mid February, so the budget revision presentation will have to take place several weeks after the January close in order to include these student fees.

#### Student Press

- My policy of not meeting with representatives from Student press has lead to a number of articles which are flat out factually incorrect. As a result, this year I will be meeting with members of the press.

## Frosh

- I was only too happy not to take an active role on the budgeting for this year's frosh and leave this responsibility up to the hired frosh staff. I did not monitor the money being spent on frosh, and did not scrutinize the budget enough. As a result, I have a share in the responsibility for the large deficit this event created. As previously discussed, next year the SSMU permanent staff will have a more active role in the budgeting process for Frosh. As a result, we believe this event will be more fiscally responsible in the future.

Councillor Jeong: How far do you see FERC going this year?

VP Hofmeister: really challenging than anticipated. Good month for research for just transportation and busses. We have done transportation and move forward with printing consolidating handbook printing between faculties. Perfect way to use FERC research.

Councillor Jeong: So then hearing that that means that your success will keep going in that is it worthwhile?

VP Hofmeister: I think it's an important thing for the SSMU we are mandated to have database we have it but we don't know how to do it whether done by FERC or other research by summer research position. Summer research position might be better than leaving it until next year.

Councillor Reedjik: article in McGill daily today 50k surplus for record do we?

VP Hofmeister: factually incorrect! NOPE. Capital expenditure.

f. President

2 items today: ad hoc committee meeting 2 minutes after council. 2<sup>nd</sup>: winter referendum period you can add questions to ballot (one part questions yes or no) putting it out there!

SSMU Governance

### COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

Council and Committees – Overall Council was satisfactory last semester. My committees did not meet as early or as often as I would have liked, and it is something I would like to improve upon for next semester. Overall, Council seemed to be a bit inconsistent in content. Next semester I hope that we can use council to be more effective within the SSMU through committee work, and through more interaction with SSMU decisions by the Executive.

Executive Committee – The Executive Committee has worked together extremely well so far this year. Although we have not had consistent group meetings (sorry Stefan!), the team has been supportive of each other and conflict resolution within the group has been handled well. Moving into next semester, we have decided to implement work plan meetings for Executives the same way that other staff at SSMU do this. We felt that this will not only add accountability to ourselves, but will also be beneficial to help us stay on track with our projects and goals. The work plan completion will also help to hand off to successors.

### GOVERNANCE BODIES

General Assembly – The second semester GA will be on February 5th!! Mark your calendar and if you are interested in helping out on the day, please email [generalassembly@ssmu.mcgill.ca](mailto:generalassembly@ssmu.mcgill.ca)

Obviously, we discussed last semester's GAs at length, and the ad-hoc committee on the GA will continue into this semester. On January 28th, SSMU will be hosting an open session on the GA which will allow interested students to come talk about the GA in an open setting. The content for this meeting will need to be created by the ad-hoc committee in collaboration with myself and Jordan.

Judicial Board – The J-Board was not easy to recruit this year. Through the process myself and the HR coordinators have found a good process for approaching this very specific position which will hopefully expedite the process for next year. Additionally, the Ethics Commissioner and I have discussed looking at the J-Board requirements to determine if they are restrictively strict to the formation of this important body.

Board of Directors – Although forming the board this fall was a problem, in the future with online voting hopefully it will not be. The CEO of Elections SSMU and I talked this week about the online BoD election, and the format for how to get nominations from new councilors will be something I work on with the faculties this spring. It will still be a beta year next year, and I anticipate that there will still be further iterations to make sure we have a solidified full-year board at SSMU, but it is a start.

#### STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS

Faculty Relations – PRT went well last semester, although I could have been more organized about the structure of the meeting. It will continue this semester and we will continue to discuss issues as well as look into revising the photo contract.

PGSS – We only did a few collaborative events last semester but they were successful. On University committees we have been able to work very positively with PGSS reps.

Governance Document Review – Continue going through the constitution and adding changes. I'll admit I haven't gotten around to it myself but please remember!

Handbook – Oh my where to start. Thank you for approving the additional colour pages. Manuela, Becky and I with the help of Tania managed to find and organize everything in Myriam's handbook files. There is one ad missing, that Myriam never followed up on in May and now the company does not have a copy of it either. I have been in contact with them but other than this ad the handbook is ready to go to proof.

#### McGill Governance & Relations

Lease – I had a lease meeting with Prof Dyens on December 18th to go over a final draft to be submitted to Council.

Board of Governors – One of the successes of the semester was the student/BoG presentation meeting. The Board was impressed and has asked that more student groups make presentations to the Board. This is a step in the right direction, although not extreme they are making an effort to engage

more with groups at the University to understand the community more. Additionally, the CAMSR ToR review finally had a meeting on December 12th, where it was decided that it was important to talk to the entire McGill community about the definition of “social injury” that the committee uses. This will be an important process for students to be a part of and I am looking forward to working hard to make sure that as many students as are interested are able to take part. Senate – This semester at Senate was very polar, I felt. There were a few isolated instances of action but mostly there was a lot of reporting and normal business. Although at Senate itself I tend to take a backseat to the VP UA, the committees of Senate have been important this year, particularly the Committee on Student Services. The students there have done a good job, and have been actively advocating in a strong way. Alumni Association– The Alumni Association Board is restructuring and will no longer directly include student members at the board but rather into committees. Myself along with the SOAR co-presidents will be working this semester to make recommendations about how an advisory committee for students will be formed. In addition, the MAA has made an effort to look at student life on campus and how that translates into Alumni relations and McGill Alumni community culture. I think this is long overdue and have been very upfront with how students feel about McGill and about becoming alumni (for example the use of the McGill name as a negative against making students feel a sense of affinity for the University).

McGill Admin – Now after having both a new Principal and DPSLL for a whole semester it is interesting to see how the relationship between SSMU and McGill has changed during that time. Both Profs Fortier and Dyens have done the legwork to meet the community, and make connections. They have both been actively involved with meeting students, and have made an effort to be more accessible. Hopefully the relationship will continue in a positive way.

#### Sustainability

One of the biggest challenges of the semester was the departure of the Sustainability Coordinator. Although it was probably one of the most stressful months for the entire exec, it has had the positive of re-opening a discussion about how SSMU approaches sustainability institutionally. I am looking forward to working next semester to come up with a recommendation for SSMU going forward. It is also likely that a motion will be coming from some execs or councilors about the fleshed-out mandate of this committee so that students will have a chance to see it and talk about it. The bulk of the consultations will start mid-February with the second Spokes conference put on by the

Environment Committee, and then continuing as the committee designs throughout the semester. This is an important opportunity for those who feel strongly about this issue to make an impact.

#### Overall

The last 7 months have been quite the experience, and at times very difficult. I often feel like the most difficult part of the job is how disjointed the many aspects can be. Hopefully I will be able to focus on making my work more

cohesive this semester, but I may be tempting fate just by thinking about it. I am looking forward to this semester even though I know that continued challenges lie ahead.

Councillor Jeong: 2 questions, 1. What was the rationale of alumni for no student representative?

President Larson: alumni association not part of McGill technically, separate entity. They're not really hip with the kids so they're trying to be more efficient in reaching out to people and becoming relevant. The way they proposed was to have advisory councils like committees of the board. There would be a student one to talk about alumni relations and such. They started to make the connection so that's a good direction but unrelated to this we've been making good relations with ssmu it's different but not negative.

Councillor Jeong: What happens at president's roundtable? How do you reach out, I guess it depends on situation at hand, how do you reach out to other presidents?

President Larson: monthly meetings, we'll even do one big meeting because it's like a half month. They're confidential mtgs. To share info and resources. Tyler's also been on those meetings too. It's been a good year and I've seen execs go out of their way to share resources and very different from when we wouldn't talk at all.

10) Confidential Session

11) Adjournment

**Motion to adjourn by Councillor Lubendo**

**Seconded by Councillor Bissky**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:37**