



## **Interest Group Committee Report to Council October 29, 2014**

**Present:** Kimber Bialik (Interest Group Coordinator)  
Stefan Fong (Vice President Clubs and Services)  
Farzan Subhani (Clubs Representative)  
Sukmeet Rohan Sachal (Clubs Representatives)  
Anikke Rioux (Engineering Representative)  
Catherine Guo (Representative of Clubs)  
Zachary Carson (Member at Large)

**Absent:** Will Yoon (Representative of Clubs)  
Esther Lee (Member at Large)  
Jacinthe Deschênes (PGSS Representative)

### **Agenda:**

- a. Interim Status Applications
  1. McGill Students Mahjong Club
  2. McGill Students Chapter of Women in Mining Canada
  3. Fit for a Cause
- b. Full Status Applications
  1. McGill Students for Partners in Health
- c. Constitutional Amendments
  1. McGill Toheed Jaffari Muslim Students Society
  2. McGill Students for Best Buddies
  3. Montreal Heart of the City Piano Program
  4. McGill Students for Make a Wish
  5. McGill E-Sports Students Association
  6. McGill Students for World Vision
  7. Technophilic
  8. Netroots Students Society
  9. Democrats Abroad @ McGill
- d. Club Policy
  1. Interim Status Club Approval Rubric
  2. Full Status Club Approval Rubric

### **Interim Status Applications**

#### McGill Students Mahjong Club

The Club's mandate shall be to

- Promote an understanding and respect for the game of mahjong.
- Examine the history behind this game, and the culture in which it was created
- Provide a safe space free of judgment or discrimination in which new friends can be made around the common interest of mahjong.
- Look at the differences between various cultures' forms of mahjong, including but not limited to American, Japanese, Hong Kong, and Taiwanese mahjong.



- Hold not-for-profit tournaments to encourage good sportsmanship and fun with this game in a stress-free environment.

*Committee Recommendation: Approve*

#### McGill Students Chapter of Women in Mining Canada

The Club's mandate shall be to:

- Work with the minerals and mining industry to develop tools and programs that facilitate increased attraction, retention and advancement of women
- Collaborate with WIM branches in sharing knowledge, best practices, and personal and professional development opportunities across Canada
- Provide a supportive mentoring network and a national resource for connecting members to public and private sector entities looking to fill their ranks with qualified individuals
- Support the advancement of young professionals in the mining and mineral exploration industry
- Provide networking, career enhancement and professional development workshops for students in related undergraduate and graduate programs

*Committee Recommendation: Reject*

The majority of events proposed by the McGill Students Chapter of Women in Mining Canada did not focus on facilitating the entry of women in the mining industry but instead were general engineering industry events and initiatives that would be best achieved by the Coop Mining Engineering Undergraduate Society (CMEUS), named as a collaborator in the application. The committee recommends that the club work with the CMEUS, and if CMEUS is unwilling to work with this club, the goals of this group may be a better match for the EUS club structure.

#### Fit for a Cause

The Club's mandate shall be to:

- Raise the greatest amount of funds via participant donations made to participate in fitness classes and to give all proceeds to charity
- Provide opportunities for instructors to teach fitness classes and share their passion for health and wellness with others
- Host a variety of classes in order to provide individuals of all fitness levels a chance to improve their health
- Provide an affordable opportunity to exercise and to achieve or maintain a state of well-being.
- Promote a healthy lifestyle for McGill and the Montreal Community.

*Committee Recommendation: Reject*

Fit for a Cause was initially rejected for Interim Status by the Interest Group Committee on October 4, 2014, and submitted an appeal with additional information about the activities of their prospective club. After reviewing the additional information, the Committee upholds the rejection of Fit for a Cause for Interim Status due to significant overlap with existing SSMU club Get Fit.



## Full Status Applications

### McGill Students for Partners in Health

The club's mandate shall be to:

- Advocate for Partners in Health;
  - Promote the work of Partners in Health through distribution to club's membership Partners in Health's monthly newsletter;
  - Encourage, and create a forum for, discussion between students about the work and goals of Partners in Health and the global health equity movement;
  - Network with students in other universities and organizations that also support Partners in Health and global health equity;
- Fundraise for Partners in Health;
  - Hold a minimum of two (2) small fundraising events per term (e.g. food sales);
  - Use Partners in Health main fundraising campaigns as a platform for fundraising at McGill University;
  - Send money back to Partners in Health before the end of the school year (April 30<sup>th</sup>);
- Educate about Partners in Health;
  - Hold events that promote the work, successes, and goals of Partners in Health;
  - Hold specific events that educate students about particular global-health related current issues that Partners in Health is involved in (for instance, fighting multi-drug resistant TB);
  - Work closely with the fundraising members of the club to promote awareness for where the money is going and why we are supporting Partners in Health;
  - Keep all members monthly up-to-date with the global work of Partners in Health;

Events:

1. Girl Rising Screening (in collaboration with Education Beyond Borders)
  - “Girl Rising is a groundbreaking feature film about the strength of the human spirit and the power of education to transform societies. The film presents the remarkable stories of nine girls around the world, told by celebrated writers and voiced by renowned actors. The film uses powerful storytelling to deliver a simple, critical truth: Educate girls and you will change the world.
  - “Though the film was not about health equity, we believed the link to PIH and the message that education is such a powerful tool aligns directly with the mission of PIH. PIH believes treating disease means not only treating the symptoms, but also the root causes for disease, such as poverty”
  - Approximately 30 people attended the event
2. Whatever It Takes
  - Students for PIH hosts an annual “Whatever It Takes” conference. This year, the theme was “Expanding Access to Health Care” and speakers from a



variety of backgrounds came to McGill to speak about the ways that health care access can be expanded or improved throughout the world.

- 4 speakers presented at the conference: Dr Mark Wainberg – Director of the McGill University AIDS Centre and Head of AIDS Research at the Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research, Dr Edith Zorychta – professor of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Jessie MacAlpine – first year University of Toronto student who discovered a treatment for malaria and is in the process of patenting and researching a drug, and Mark Brender – Director of Partners In Health Canada.
  - Approximately 25 people in attendance
3. Strides for Solidarity Event in Partnership with Fit for a Cause
- Students walked in solidarity with Partners In Health's community health workers who walk hundreds of miles everyday to homes to ensure patients receive medication and support.
  - Strides for Solidarity Montreal was a fundraising walkathon and fitness circuit aimed to raise awareness for PIH Community Health Workers who walk great distances to serve their patients. Students gave a minimum \$2 donation and walked up to the top of Mount Royal. When the group reached the top of the mountain, event organizers spoke about what Strides for Solidarity is and what Partners In Health does as an organization.
  - Approximately 35 people in attendance

*Committee Recommendation: Approve*

### **Constitutional Amendments:**

#### McGill Toheed Jaffari Muslim Students Society

- Changed name in Article 1 from “McGill Toheed Jaffari Muslim Students Society” to “McGill Thaqaalayn Muslim Students’ Association,”
- Updated Article 4 to allow Executive Council positions to be held by more than one person in the case of a tie vote.

*Committee Recommendation: Approve*

#### McGill Students for Best Buddies

- Mandatory Club Code of Conduct, Student Group Civility, and Environment clauses added to Article 2.
- Executive Council positions and portfolio descriptions in Articles 4 and 5 updated to reflect the current executive structure
- Articles 7 through 12 updated to reflect the current SSMU Club Constitution template

*Committee Recommendation: Approve*

#### Montreal Heart of the City Piano Program

- Mandatory Club Code of Conduct, Student Group Civility, and Environment clauses



added to Article 2.

- Executive Council positions and portfolio descriptions in Articles 4 and 5 updated to reflect the current executive structure
- Articles 7 through 12 updated to reflect the current SSMU Club Constitution template
- Affiliation with Heart of the City Piano Program added to Article 10

*Committee Recommendation: Table*

The constitutional amendment was tabled pending more information about the affiliation with “Heart of the City Piano Program” due to the potential legal implications of the club expanding and developing new chapters at other universities.

McGill Students for Make a Wish

- Executive Council in Articles 4 updated to allow for positions to be held by one than one person simultaneously

*Committee Recommendation: Reject*

The Committee rejects the constitutional amendment to prevent the club from allowing an unlimited number of students to hold any executive position simultaneously.

McGill E-Sports Students Association

- Executive Council positions and portfolio descriptions in Articles 4 and 5 updated to reflect the current executive structure, including the expansion of the Game Coordinator Position to

*Committee Recommendation: Reject*

The Committee rejects the constitutional amendment to prevent the club from allowing an unlimited number of students to hold the Game Coordinator executive position. The Committee recommends that the Game Coordinator positions be removed from the Executive Council altogether to prevent this issue.

McGill Women in Leadership Students Association

- Executive Council positions and portfolio descriptions in Articles 4 and 5 updated to reflect the current executive structure

*Committee Recommendation: Approve*

McGill Students for World Vision

- Executive Council positions and portfolio descriptions in Articles 4 and 5 updated to reflect the current executive structure

*Committee Recommendation: Approve*



### Technophilic

- Executive Council positions and portfolio descriptions in Articles 4 and 5 updated to reflect the current executive structure
- Affiliation with Technophilic Online Magazine added to Article 10

#### *Committee Recommendation: Table*

The Committee tables the constitutional amendment pending the specification of the mechanism by which the club decides whether to have a single President or Co-Presidents in any given year.

### Netroots Students Society

- Name in Article 1 changed from “NetRoots Students Society” to “NetRoots International”
- Affiliation with NetRoots International added to Article 10
- Executive Council positions and portfolio descriptions in Articles 4 and 5 updated to reflect the current executive structure

#### *Committee Recommendation: Table*

The constitutional amendment was tabled pending the removal of the request for name change from “NetRoots Students Society” to “NetRoots International” due to the potential legal implications of the club expanding and developing new chapters at other universities.

### Democrats Abroad @ McGill

- Changed mandate in Article 2:
  - From “The Club’s mandate shall be to:
    - Act as a liaison between McGill students and Democrats Abroad (specifically, the Montreal chapter)
    - Provide opportunities for voter registration assistance for the large American community, including students, faculty, and staff at McGill (ie. registration drives) to help navigate the absentee ballot process
    - Organize social gatherings where students can view major political broadcasts, such as debates, National Conventions, State of the Union addresses, etc.
    - Provide a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment for political discussion and debate pertaining to the Democratic Party’s interests.
    - Organize opportunities for student activism, including telephone banking, fundraising for the Democratic Party, and trips to campaign and encourage enfranchisement of voters in the United States
    - Welcome students, regardless of their country of citizenship, to participate and learn about U.S. politics and the Democratic Party
  - To “The Club’s mandate shall be to:
    - Act as a liaison between McGill students and Democrats Abroad, specifically the Montréal chapter



- Provide voter registration assistance for the large American community (including students, faculty, and staff) at McGill (i.e. registration drives)
- Provide assistance with the absentee voting process, including the provision of resources and assistance with mailing of requests and completed and sealed ballots back to the appropriate elections office
- Provide voter registration and absentee ballot assistance without regard to political affiliation or ideology.
- Organize social gatherings where students can view major political broadcasts, such as debates, National Conventions, State of the Union addresses, etc.
- Provide a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment for political discussion and debate pertaining to the US Democratic Party's interests.
- Organize opportunities for student activism, including telephone banking, fundraising for the US Democratic Party and its candidates, and trips to campaign and encourage enfranchisement of American voters
- Welcome students, regardless of their country of citizenship, to participate and learn about the US politics and the US Democratic Party.”
- Executive Council positions and portfolio descriptions in Articles 4 and 5 updated to reflect the current executive structure
- Updated Article 8 and 9 to modify the date by which elections must occur each year and the deadline by which the results must be announced
- Added a clause to Article 10 specifying that the club should not become affiliated with any group that holds values contrary to the values of Democratic Party

*Committee Recommendation: Table*

The Committee was concerned about students handling the completed electoral ballots of other students and being responsible for those ballots being accepted and counted in a timely fashion. The constitutional amendment will be reviewed again pending a revision to this clause in the mandate



## **Club Policy**

In an effort to make the deliberations and recommendations of the Interest Group Committee more transparent and to ensure objectivity in the review of club applications, the committee has developed and approved the use of standardized rubrics for both Interim and Full Status applications.

The rubrics outlined in the following pages focus on a number of criteria for the approval of a club for Interim or Full status, including the uniqueness of their mandate and activities, their institutional and environmental sustainability, their financial practices, the benefits afforded to students, and the interest among students in the club.

In order to be approved for either Interim or Full status, clubs must score at least 24 of a total of 30 points and have a mandate that is free of overlap with any existing SSMU clubs. The rubrics also allow for the rejection of a club on the grounds of a SSMU policy violation. A violation of the SSMU Equity Policy, the SSMU Policy on Travel and Charity Based Clubs, or the requirement that SSMU clubs not be cross listed as clubs with one of the McGill Faculty Associations (including but not limited to MUS or EUS).



### Interim Status Club Approval Rubric

	<b>Poor 1 point</b>	<b>Fair 3 points</b>	<b>Good 5 points</b>
<b>Uniqueness of Activities</b>	Club activities show some overlap with existing SSMU clubs and services and other McGill groups.	Club activities show some overlap with McGill student groups.	Club's activities are unique and show no overlap with existing SSMU clubs or other McGill student groups.
<b>Institutional Sustainability</b>	Club does not demonstrate a realistic plan for sustaining club membership and for managing executive turnover.	Club demonstrates a short-term plan for sustaining club membership and for managing executive turnover.	Club demonstrates a realistic long-term plan for sustaining club membership and for managing executive turnover.
<b>Finances</b>	Club does not demonstrate a plan for financial management or fundraising or demonstrates a need for consistent SSMU funding.	Club demonstrates understanding of some strategies for financial management, budgeting and fundraising.	Club demonstrates well thought out strategies for budgeting, financial management, and fundraising.
<b>Autonomy</b>	Club is reliant on an outside organization or group to operate or cannot operate without SSMU resources.	Club is somewhat reliant on an outside organization or group or may be reliant on SSMU resources to operate.	Club is not reliant on an outside organization or group or on SSMU resources in order to operate.
<b>Benefits</b>	Club offers no new opportunities or benefits to club members, McGill students, or the SSMU community.	Club offers few new opportunities and benefits to club members, McGill students, and the SSMU community.	Club offers substantial new opportunities and benefits to club members, McGill students and the SSMU community.
<b>Student Interest</b>	Club provided a list of at least 10 prospective members	Club provided a list of 10-20 prospective members	Club provided a list of more than 20 prospective members

- The club is not in violation of:  SSMU Equity Policy  
 SSMU Policy on Travel and Charity Based Clubs  
 SSMU Dual Club Status Rule  
 Mandate overlap with an existing SSMU club

Comments:

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Score: /30



**Full Status Approval Rubric**

	<b>Poor 1 point</b>	<b>Fair 3 points</b>	<b>Good 5 points</b>
<b>Achievement of Mandate</b>	Club has not fulfilled its mandate as outlined in the Club constitution.	Club has fulfilled some aspects of its mandate as outlined in the Club Constitution.	Club has fulfilled all aspects of its mandate as outlined in the Club Constitution.
<b>Club Events</b>	Club events were sparsely attended or provided no benefit to students or the SSMU community.	Club events were relatively well-attended or provided some benefit to students or the SSMU community.	Club events were well attended and provided a significant benefit to students or the SSMU community.
<b>Environmental Sustainability</b>	Club has not demonstrated any effort to ensure environmental sustainability.	Club demonstrates a commitment to environmental sustainability in event planning and budgeting.	Club demonstrates a strong commitment to environmental sustainability through event planning and budgeting and makes use of SSMU resources such as the Green Fund or the Green Events Coordinator.
<b>Finances</b>	Club budget or audit does not demonstrate good financial management or sets unrealistic targets that could negatively impact Club operations.	Club budget or audit demonstrates weak financial management or sets targets that could have a limited negative on impact Club operations.	Club budget or audit sets realistic financial expectations demonstrates excellent financial management.
<b>Autonomy</b>	Club is reliant on an outside organization or group to operate or cannot operate without SSMU resources.	Club is somewhat reliant on an outside organization or group or may be reliant on SSMU resources to operate.	Club is not reliant on an outside organization or group or on SSMU resources in order to operate.
<b>Membership</b>	Club provided a list of at least 25 current members.	Club provided a list of 25-50 current members.	Club provided a list of more than 50 current members.

The club is not in violation of:  SSMU Equity Policy  
 SSMU Policy on Travel and Charity Based Clubs  
 SSMU Dual Club Status Rule

Comments:

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Score: /30



## Interest Group Committee Agenda November 5, 2014

**Present:** Kimber Bialik (Interest Group Coordinator)  
Stefan Fong (Vice President Clubs and Services)  
Farzan Subhani (Clubs Representative)  
Anikke Rioux (Engineering Representative)  
Catherine Guo (Representative of Clubs)  
Esther Lee (Member at Large)  
Zachary Carson (Member at Large)

**Absent:** Sukmeet Rohan Sachal (Clubs Representatives)  
Will Yoon (Representative of Clubs)  
Jacinthe Deschênes (PGSS Representative)

### Agenda

- a. Interim Status Applications
  1. McGill Biotech Students Society
  2. McGill Students Knitting Club
  3. McGill Students Chapter of ISL – H.E.A.R.T.
  4. McGill Students Chapter of Me to We
  5. McGill Moroccan Students' Association
- b. Constitutional Amendments
  1. McGill Students in Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights
  2. K-RAVE

### Interim Status Applications

#### McGill Biotech Students Society

The Club's mandate shall be to:

- Create a networking platform for student's to explore and build relationships with the local biotechnology industry
- Connect McGill students from various departments with each other and industry professionals.
- Inspire members to contribute to the local biotechnology community.
- Inspire members to explore careers in biotechnology.

#### *Committee Recommendation: Table*

Because Biotechnology is primarily a graduate program at McGill the application was tabled to allow for time to verify whether or not the students listed on the requirement member list were graduate or undergraduate students.

#### McGill Students Knitting Club

The Club's mandate shall be to:

- Provide an environment for McGill students to express creativity through knitting and crocheting



- Teach members how to knit and crochet, in order to complete projects of varying degrees of difficulty
- Foster a community, based on shared enthusiasm for knitting and crocheting, in which McGill students can form new friendships while learning from each other
- Educate members on how to practice knitting and crocheting outside of the Club's meetings, with a focus on the needlework community in Montreal and elsewhere

*Committee Recommendation: Table*

The McGill Students Knitting Club did not provide enough information about their financial plans or their long term institutional sustainability for the Interest Group Committee to come to a consensus on the application. The application was tabled pending more information from the club.

McGill Students Chapter of ISL – H.E.A.R.T.

The Club's mandate shall be to:

- Improve the quality of acute, chronic and overall health of a select village in the Dominican Republic by being part of the larger ISL-H.E.A.R.T. program.
- Recruit a team of volunteers to send 1 team per year to a select village in the Dominican Republic in order to staff the clinic for 7-14 days.
- Raise funds to finance donations of medical supplies (gloves, bandages, over the counter medication, etc.).
- Raise funds to help reduce costs of the journey by paying for medical professionals, translators, managerial staff and medication.
- Raise awareness of the living conditions of the Dominican Republic and offer outlets for interested parties to help by volunteering their time or through donation.
- Educate volunteers about how to care for patients in an acute care setting (patient interactions, vital signs, basic Spanish, data acquisition).

*Committee Recommendation: Reject*

The committee found that the goals and mandate of McGill Students Chapter of ISL – H.E.A.R.T. were unsustainable and that their focus on sending students to the Dominican Republic on humanitarian trips was a clear violation of the SSMU Policy on Travel and Charity Based Clubs.

McGill Students Chapter of Me to We

The Club's mandate shall be to:

- Empower a generation to shift the world from “me” to “we” - from a focus on the individual to the power of community
- Encourage members to take action locally and globally through community fundraising and Me to We volunteer trips
- Provide students with volunteer opportunities abroad allowing them to be immersed in new cultures and enabling them to study and explore various social and environmental issues
- Allow students to be actively involved with organizing and running fundraising events, awareness campaigns and community support activities



- Support developing countries through Free the Children's Adopt a Village program, while raising awareness of educational and economic development issues around the world
- Promote and support social entrepreneurial start-ups around campus

*Committee Recommendation: Reject*

The committee found that the focus of McGill Students Chapter of Me to We on sending students abroad on humanitarian trips was in violation of the SSMU Policy on Travel and Charity Based Clubs. Additionally, the club's mandate overlaps significantly with a number of other existing SSMU clubs that focus on development and the developing world.

McGill Moroccan Students' Association

The Club's mandate shall be to:

- Promote the Moroccan Culture within McGill University through artistic events such as cooking classes and a talent show.
- Influence positively the educational branch of Morocco
  - Improve the lives of disadvantaged students at school (Lower School primarily) by providing them with school supplies (refer to 4<sup>th</sup> bullet point of the club's mandate)
- Organize various fund-raising events to fulfill the educational mandate of the club
- Network with local organizations relevant to Morocco or Moroccan students
- Provide a space for Moroccan students to network and to celebrate their culture

*Committee Recommendation: Table*

The committee tabled the McGill Moroccan Students' Association's application pending a revision of their constitution to better communicate their charitable goals and their support of the Moroccan education system. Given the club's significant fundraising capacity, concerns were also raised about financial practices and the club has been asked to provide further details on how they plan to disburse funds to the Moroccan education system.

**Constitutional Amendments**

McGill Students in Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights

- Mandatory Club Code of Conduct, Student Group Civility, and Environment clauses added to Article 2.
- The requirement that members attend at least 3 club meetings to become eligible to vote was added to Article 3.
- Executive Council positions and portfolio descriptions in Articles 4 and 5 updated to reflect a non-hierarchical structure
- Articles 7 through 12 updated to reflect the current SSMU Club Constitution template



*Committee Recommendation: Approve*

K-Rave

- Executive Council positions and portfolio descriptions in Articles 4 and 5 updated to include six new positions
- Article 6 updated to include mention of a premium membership option and the associated \$10 fee
- The requirement that the club host one General Meeting per year added to Article 8

*Committee Recommendation: Approve*