



## SSMU Legislative Council Meeting – September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014

### 1) Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:14 pm.

### 2) Adoption of the Agenda

President Ayukawa: I would like to add a motion: the creation of the Council-initiated yes committee concerning the building fee levy.

Speaker: This will be the third item.

President Ayukawa: Move the electoral schedule to the first item of business.

Speaker: Okay. Vote.

**Motion to adopt by Councillor Rioux.**

**Seconded by Councillor Stewart-Kanigan.**

**Agenda adopted.**

### 3) Report of the Steering Committee

Speaker: Any questions?

**Motion to adopt by Councillor Stewart Kanigan**

**Seconded by Councillor Ibrahim.**

**Report adopted.**

### 4) Guest Speaker

#### a. Standing Rules – Eileen Siow, Parliamentarian

Eileen Siow: I will go over the speaking time. The default is one minute.

Councillor report 3 minutes. Committee and executive 5 minutes. 10 second before, speaker will bang gavel. During speeches questions only asked to guest speakers. Exceptions can be made. No limit to how often can speak to motion but speaker will give priority to those who haven't spoken. Every 5 speakers, we will ask for points and motions on the floor. Please wait and hold your motions until that time. Regarding amendments, friendly amendments are allowed as long as they are accepted by movers. Amendments must be submitted in writing to parliamentarian. Council will be notified as soon as we know about them. Roll call vote will be accepted but this motion will only be considered when we need to have accountability.

#### b. By-Law Changes – Ben Fung, CEO of Elections SSMU

CEO Fung: For those who don't know me I'm the CEO for Elections SSMU; it's my second year. At the end of year last year elections SSMU presented goals we



wanted to complete, including re-haul of by-laws a change to include and switch to preferential ballot voting, creation of demerit systems, and minor changes. Over summer, David and I have been working hard to make sure all changes were implemented. I will be going over that today.

Overview: By-laws were rewritten to reflect the constitution. Missing things from constitution like J-Board, mandate to run fall and winter referenda, suspension of deadlines, we had to run double councils and had to stay here quite late to meet these deadlines. Included provisions to be able to suspend deadlines. Changed voting period length too. Changed from 5 days to 3 days. Decrease amount of overlap between campaign and polling. Also proposed changes for preferential ballot voting.

There are drafts sent in to exec for all by-law changes. We don't think they should be just passed around and approved by council. So instead, we're doing by-law review committee. Want it to go through a lot of review, so by law review committee can approve. We suggest council makes one. We'll debate anything necessary. Once all changes are made, we will consult with lawyers and make sure everything is good. Hard deadline would be October 15<sup>th</sup>. The previous by laws were a bit messy. There wasn't really a concrete number system, based on recommendation from GM, we restructured the by-law books.

Preferential ballot voting: single ballot currently. Not the most democratic or representative way of voting. Instead of voting for a single candidate, you rank your candidates. If there's not 50% of vote, the last place candidate is eliminated and their votes are reallocated. The way we do our voting is important so it is our recommendation that perhaps this be passed at a GA or something.

This was motivated by feedback of last year's elections. Elections SSMU will have to make a very difficult decision at times, and the by-laws as it stands right now is pretty restrictive in what we can do. We'd like to have an elections review committee that can be called in to review what we do. Other schools don't really have this, but we think it's important and the structure of this committee should be decided by council. Right now we don't know what should be the composition of this committee. Often times the people in it are often people involved politically in politics at McGill. Our current suggestions are having some members at large and we will select from a pool of them which are most impartial. To ask MAL to join for free would be incredibly difficult though. Love to get some feedback after this presentation.



Demerit system: we will be testing it out this FYC elections. If you want to know about referendum questions there's also an info site.

Campaigning members' rules and internal protocols for elections SSMU are all in the works right now too.

Councillor Rourke: Elaborate on the demerit system?

CEO Fung: currently campaigning infractions are judged fairly arbitrarily. There's a guideline for posters and how much reduce budget. But we'd like something that says this much demerit = this much punishment/ a review of campaign. Right now it's about 15 points before you get reviewed.

Councillor Ibrahim: Will the slideshow be available for us online?

Fung: Yes.

Councillor Benrimoh (by proxy): will there be a drop in turn out with the shortening of voting period?

CEO Fung: Email blasts are usually what get people voting, so the slight drop should balance itself out in the next couple of years. If we notice a huge drop due to 3 day change, we will definitely change that.

VP Bradley: would the elections review be selected similar to regular selection is done at beg?

CEO Fung: would be done at beginning of the year. If we can't form it at beginning though we'll try to form it before elections period obviously.

Councillor Dunbar Lavoie: Are there other schools that have demerit systems?

CEO Fung: Yes other schools. I'd like to say McMaster has one.

Councillor Subhani: Elections review committee, can we have a timeline set so there's no conflict of issues, so it could be bipartisan and could be called whenever infraction takes place? And you mentioned the demerit point system, would this committee be in charge of that too?

CEO Fung: SSMU and elections SSMU can determine timeline, at the start of term we could have 7 or 10 people we could choose from to form a committee.

An individual on this list might be partial for one or the other party so we try to get rid of that. Second point: election review committee would be called in case there some that are more controversial in nature. Right now the provision for calling of elections committee is if the candidate has met requirement of 15 demerit points.

Councillor Warrick: Have you considered anything in between for severe infractions?

CEO Fung: Yes. Like a complete closure of campaigning committee would mean a candidate no longer has a way to campaign and within that we have a spectrum of budget reductions and poster removals. SSMU has one of the most diverse forms of sanctions. Our electoral ballots are among the most detailed.

Speaker: No more questions. Move on to announcements!



## 5) Announcements

Councillor Stewart Kanigan: Next week is business awareness week. There's an exciting array of events, opening ceremony on Monday 12-3 also an event, SSMU co-planning in this room on Tuesday.

Councillor Baraldi: October 2<sup>nd</sup> is this year's community engagement day so go on website and be a facilitator. Or you can participate as a volunteer!

Councillor El-Sharawy: Last year SSMU was criticized heavily for not reaching out to students so Courtney and I are trying to do info session. Somewhere in SSMU, 23<sup>rd</sup> September. Hopefully tell people what SSMU is about. Share details. We need help with preparation if you're interested contact Courtney or I.

President Ayukawa: all of you should have received an email to get onto vibe or GroupWise. Email me and John (IT guy) if problems. There will be a photographer on site for the SSMU website to please arrive to council at 5pm and we will take your photo.

Councillor El-Sharawy: Is there a dress code?

President Ayukawa: Look put together.

## 6) Question Period

Councillor Baraldi: In regards to El-Sharawy: info sessions. Will the IRC be elected by then if yes will they be included in process?

President Ayukawa: All hall execs will be elected by then. I will be advertising that to them. Definitely open to working with VP External.

Councillor Rioux: Logistical question about vibe, would it be possible to fix putting motions under My Teams?

Councillor Benrimoh (by proxy): Same question as Councillor Baraldi but for FYC.

Councillor El-Sharawy: Probably won't be elected yet, I think FYC are around October 8-10, we can't wait that long. We're trying to do the info session before this happening. We're talking about 4floors and other events coming.

President Ayukawa: My Teams, Governing Bodies, Council, Files, and meeting for today you can see all the documents. And if not I will work on this.

Councillor Ibrahim: Strange but can we make eye contact when people are talking? Maybe close our laptops.

## 7) New Business

### a. Electoral Schedule 2014-2015

Councillor Nadifi: For the reallocation nomination period: It is on the weekend, so how can students get 100 signatures?

CEO Fung: By-laws = 48hrs afterwards. I can change the by-laws. We can look into it, we can approve this timeline and then change it.



Councillor Nadifi: Okay because for PTOT this is the only way we can have a senator.

CEO Fung: It's a longer period for that. We put extra time to allow people to have time. It would mean changing the by-laws. But I'll look into it.

Councillor Rourke: Polling FYC weekend of thanksgiving, email blast is the primary way and what if they don't check their email those two days?

CEO Fung: Polling period is the Wednesday Thursday Friday period. Students would generally leave on the Friday and changing this period would be a logistical nightmare because we already booked rooms for FYC debates.

CEO Fung: slight amendment the nomination period is tomorrow to the 21<sup>st</sup> which still meets nomination period.

Speaker: Friendly.

**Motion to move to previous question Councillor Nadifi.**

**Seconded by Councillor Subhani.**

**Motion passed.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**b. Motion Regarding Creation of an Ad-Hoc By-Law Review Committee**

President Ayukawa: As been mentioned there are a number of changes made to by-laws and we want a committee in order to review these.

**Motion to move to previous question by Councillor Rioux.**

**Seconded by Councillor Ibrahim**

**Motion passed.**

**Motion to re-enter debate Councillor Ayukawa**

**Motion passed.**

**Motion to add FOPS to advisors.**

**Motion passed.**

**Motion to close debate.**

**Motion passed.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**c. Motion Regarding Creation of an Ad-Hoc Sustainability Committee**

VP Fong: this committee was constructed last year but ultimately was unable to finish work. We're bringing it back for this year.

**Motion to close debate by President Ayukawa.**

**Seconded by Councillor Ibrahim.**

**Motion passed.**



## **Motion passed unanimously.**

### **d. Creation of committee for SSMU building fee levy.**

Councillor El-Sharawy: As a councillor we are all aware to respect students. This committee is vital by any chance they vote no, which they might, this is very important.

Councillor Kpeglo-Hennessy: There are errors in the motion.

Councillor Ibrahim: I'm actually senate caucus representative.

Councillor Chin: If this motion passed does this oblige every single member of council to be members of the yes committee?

CEO Fung: no the chair of the yes committee would submit a list of the campaign committee members. Council as a whole is not bound to be members.

### **Motion to move to previous question by Bradley.**

**Seconded by Councillor Ibrahim.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

### **e. Committee Allocations**

[Speaker reads out committees.]

Councillor Stewart Kanigan: there are no council seats on equity committee. If you're applying to committee you can apply online.

[Speaker announces list of committees that are completely formed.]

[Speaker determines Councillors who chose different committees to sit on.]

VP Fong: clarify for some of councillors if they have to sit on additional committees if already asked to be sitting on a committee.

Speaker: no that can count as your one committee.

[Votes are made on who will sit on which committees.]

Councillor Ibrahim: It's maybe best to just get it all over with.

Councillor Baraldi: have you taken into account the names after the deadline?

Speaker: I was sent this at 5 pm so probably yes.

President Ayukawa: If people want to add their names to the list can they?

Speaker: I'm going to vote on the ones that have names submitted to it.

Councillor Medvedev: I'd like to drop out of funding

Councillor Rourke: so what about the fact that we haven't seen the blurb?

Councillor Stewart Kanigan: could the amount of spots be written beside the committee name?

Speaker: Yes.

Councillor Rioux: I want to be on funding because I was on funding last year, I remember the beginning, we tabled the applications at the beginning, so it would be great if we could get people who already know about it.





Councillor Carolan: I love this stuff, I work in a funding position as my job I do have a genuine interest in it.

Councillor Chin: I bring with me also experience I worked with medical school society I was treasurer too, also in my program in my program we are trained to allocate resources that are limited.

Councillor Houston: I was on funding last year so I'm like Rioux, also I like it.

[Votes are tallied and Carolan won, but the second position is in a tie.]

## Mental Health committee

Councillor Sachal: I was on it last year and I believe I would be a good candidate. And for SUS I'm doing sustainability this year and it's with mental health awareness.

Councillor Zhang: I am very passionate about mental health, I've taken many psych courses, back in high school I did a lot of mental health outreach in elementary schools and peer counseling.

Councillor Benrimoh (by proxy): Helped write policy last year. Additionally he has done much research on mental health and he is looking towards a professional career in mental health and is very passionate.

Councillor Rourke: I am really quite passionate with mental health. I volunteer at peer counseling. I think it's really important to collaborate and help administration and I really care about it.

President Ayukawa: remind councillors that we are voting so stop talking

Councillor Ibrahim: Remove candidacy for steering.

## SSPN

Councillor Baraldi: I think it's the committee where I can put all my passion, I did a lot of IRC and I missed it last year and I want to work hard to foster and promote things that already exist but also diversify. Something I'm really excited about.

Councillor Mevedev: As an IRC rep I know a lot of the students are really into it and knowing more about it would be good. I also wanted to be part of TEDx.

## 8) Reports by Councillors

### a. Councillor Ibrahim

Arts senator. For AUS I'm sitting on faculty of arts committee. You will definitely hear a more in depth version of what's happening but last week we met and had caucus and did visioning on what we want to see during the year we have some ideas fleshed out right now and I'm excited to have things work out in mental health. And if you have questions you can just ask and I stand for questions.

### b. Councillor Benrimoh



Senator Jacob on behalf. Relinquish seat on steering. Motion to postpone report until after reports of executives.

## c. Councillor Baraldi

VP external AUS. Currently building a new portfolio, started building relations. In regards to Aus in general, we had a resignation from VP finances, but has been filled. Departmental orientation is on Monday and I'm doing a short presentation on SSMU and our AUS retreat is this weekend. I'm excited to work with all of you.

## 9) Reports by Committees

### a. Executive Committee

President Ayukawa: read report.

Councillor Rioux: For the Nest, you said there was something purchased for the Nest?

Councillor Bradley: Point of Sale system for alcohol purchases in Gert's and now is being implemented in Nest. Good accounting step forward.

**Motion to adopt by Councillor Ibrahim**

**Seconded by Councillor Rioux.**

**Report adopted.**

## 10) Reports by Executives

### a. VP Internal

Councillor Haim: Yearbook needs to change financially. We've given out and gotten rid of all 6000 envelopes which is good. Send out my first listserv the next one is ready to go. Reviewing the communications not much to be changed. For frosh a bigger report coming putting together all final numbers. One sponsor that is yet to come for the NBA to promote their game in October. Frosh budget looks good. Interviewed about community relations by gazette today. Thursday the 28<sup>th</sup> 4floors save the date. TEDx and frosh SSPN will be helping with that. SSPN won't be organizing event in its entirety, but working with them. SSPN doesn't have formal structure right now but it will be worked on this year.

Councillor Jacob: Elaborate on Montreal blog reference?

Councillor Haim: I didn't like the way they organized themselves with us. I didn't like the way they went about business.

Councillor Baraldi: Elaborate on communications committee being absorbed into SSMU?





Councillor Haim: It's because no evidence on what they did last year and I want to integrate it so that I can see what's going on and we can build a better description for them.

Councillor Ibrahim: What are your thoughts that the idea that the committee was formed just for ssmu overall communications? Will absorption still have them be responsible for all communications?

Councillor Haim: I didn't think of stuff outside of event planning. I don't think there's anything I can't handle myself.

Councillor Subhani: elaborate on TEDx.

Councillor Haim: we were approached about bringing TEDx back to McGill and it takes 3 months to plan. In the academic calendar the best month to do it is October. It is my opinion that it would be easier to plan it throughout the year for October. We have only the information for how to start it. A lot of people want to collaborate so it'll be under McGill not just SSMU.

Councillor Zhang: What makes October the month that's best?

Councillor Haim: Midterms so TEDx conference is better because not competing with other social. But if another opinion we are open to changes.

## b. VP Finance and Operations

VP Bradley: Frosh budget will continue to progress. Deadline for budget revision is October 31<sup>st</sup>. Read report.

Councillor Jacob: curious if purchase policy applies to clubs or just SSMU?

VP Bradley: Not the policy. The policy outlines macro level, so it doesn't apply. What it doesn't say is how we go about implementing that so what FERC is doing now is looking at suppliers and evaluating them on an ethical measure.

Councillor Ibrahim: receipt submissions, what is happening with that?

VP Bradley: definitely been a lot of problems with receipt submissions. Really frustrating to chase people down and I understand why it's not a priority for her. Overfunding will be a problem. Like no guarantee if they are actually spending 1000\$ when they are approved for that.

Budget planning. Groups are notoriously bad at forecasting finances. We have some plans in long-term. An installment based change is enough for people to adopt.

Councillor Baraldi: in terms of ethical purchasing it would be great to have communication with other faculty inclusion.

VP Bradley: we've been trying to work with that to see where there might be overlaps with other faculties.

Councillor Dunbar Lavoie: operation manager of nest is still operations manager at Gert's, are you confident that he can do both?



VP Bradley: Josh Redel was in the position before and now it's Alessandro Sangiovanni, and yes she is very confident in him.

## c. VP Clubs and Services

VP Fong: Reads report.

Councillor Dunbar Lavoie: wondering if new funding system will also help self auditing that goes on? Will there be a supervisor report on auditing?

VP Fong: because there are many, many transactions, we ask clubs to self audit. We can't see at a glance what they're spending their money on. We suggested a scoring system in which the lower scores we were more conservative on giving out funding. We're trying to improve on that.

Councillor Ibrahim: thought of doing anything for 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the SSMU?

VP Fong: not sure yet many things we would like to do. So we do want to do celebrate.

## d. VP University Affairs

Councillor Stewart Kanigan: reads report.

Councillor Sanan: Any possibility in getting the Tim Horton's back?

Councillor Stewart Kanigan: Financial stability is key, so we need to get things that are cheaper than what we have so I don't think we can get it back.

Councillor Kpeglo-Hennessy: Supposed to be keeping to similar hours to Tim Horton's, but reduced, is that going to be changed during exam time?

Councillor Stewart Kanigan: same concern, the library folks seemed surprised, because they thought it would be the same so we'll be bring it up

Councillor Dunbar Lavoie: This is not specific to library. As part of mental health elaborate what spoken word is?

Councillor Stewart Kanigan: these are just event proposal, if we were going to have spoken word related to mental health experiences. Interactive for a variety of people so it's not just serious workshops.

Councillor Baraldi: in regards to library Tim Horton's, been talking about it, we really want to take a stance as well. Can anyone come to senate caucus?

Councillor Stewart Kanigan: sometimes senate does deal with confidential matters and we're going to talk about how public things are and we will be talk about it. I'm having a meeting on Friday with all senators. Also just a note: following the meeting on Wednesday, I'll update council on what's ssmu position. We'll see how the meeting goes.

## e. President

President Ayukawa: reads report. On behalf of Amina VP External – condolences to her she is not present because of death of someone she knows.



**11) Confidential Session**

A recess was held for a Confidential Session.

**12) Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn by Councillor Ibrahim.**

**Seconded by Councillor Sanan.**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:02pm.**

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Rachel Simmons, Chairperson

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Lydia Jones, Recording Secretary

APPROVED