



SSMU LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

1. Call to Order 18h17

The speaker calls the meeting to order at 6:17 PM.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The speaker presents the land acknowledgement.

3. Attendance

The speaker conducts attendance.

4. Update on/Approval of last Council's minutes – APPROVED

President Tojiboeva motions to approve the minutes. Seconded by Councillor Mansdoerfer. Minutes are approved.

5. Adoption of the Agenda – APPROVED

VP Herpin motions to amend the agenda to add a presentation to guest speakers, in between item 6 and 7, for a budget presentation by VP Herpin. Seconded by VP Koparkar.

VP Koparkar motions to strike Building and Operations Committee from report. Seconded by Councillor Fodor.

VP Spencer motions to add a report by the UA on the de-gendering of SSMU's language, under the committee section. Seconded by President Tojiboeva.

President Tojiboeva motions to add a motion in new business, titled "Motion to Amend the Internal Regulations of Elections and Referenda". Seconded by VP Spencer. Councillor Campbell asks why this motion was submitted so late. President Tojiboeva responds that the motion was only created with Elections SSMU yesterday.

The motion carries with 2/3 majority.



VP Spencer motions to add a motion to create a governance documents working group to new business. Seconded by Councillor Koch.

VP Spencer motions to add a report on the AVEQ congress to the reports by committees section. Seconded by Councillor Mansdoerfer.

6. Guest Speakers

a. Office of the Principal and Vice-Chancellor (Gérard Cadet, Director Bicentennial)

The presenter is here to engage a core student body to give an update of where the bicentennial planning process stands at this time. The McGill bicentennial celebrations will be launched in just over 2 years from now, and will last from homecoming 2020 to December 2021.

So far, they have tried to put forth a vision of the bicentennial, composed of three pillars. The first component is to celebrate the history and people of McGill over the past 200 years. The second is making the world a better place. The third is telling the world that we want to address the challenges that face the world.

There is a five part story. McGill is a leader in teaching and research, and has done it by relying on its greatest strength: the people. They are also distinctive because McGill is Canada's most international university, and is also rooted in the distinct environment of Montreal, which gives McGill a distinctive flavour. McGill is also well-placed to address some of the core challenges of the 21st century.

The goal of the 15 month celebration is to celebrate our past, our present, and our future. This includes engaging students, future students, alumni, organizations, faculty, and even the general public. To create a general vision, we have to communicate with all of these groups to see what they want the next 100 years to look like. The celebrations will thus help us shape and launch our third century.

A few guiding principles will lead us in the preparation of these celebrations. While we look at the past, we really want to focus on the future of the university. One of the most difficult challenges is engaging the students. It is hard to get students involved because they will leave the university. But we really want student engagement. As part of the organizing principles, we will rely on the fact that students are the backbone of the celebrations. We will also look to create a number of signature events. We will also strive to have some funding for particular smaller events by alumni which we could help support through some funding.



The recommendation to university leadership was to hold four or so signature events, in addition to the 200th anniversary day, which will fall on March 31st, 2021.

Two of the signature events which we think will be funded through sponsorships include a music festival, and a student competition. We want to create a fund for alumni and student-led projects. It's not just a top-down approach, but also a bottom-up approach. This is on a similar model as the Montreal 375 event that went on at McGill last year.

The presenter stresses that none of this is official yet. One of the events is a major scholarship reunion, which would involve bringing all the Rhodes scholars back. Another event idea is a collaboration with the fine arts museum. Another would be a party for faculty. They also consider bringing in Just for Laughs or a Jazz Festival or something to host a show at McGill. We could also show some films that have been shot at McGill. Additionally, we could have an event to celebrate McGill astronauts. There are 14 Canadian astronauts, with 5 from McGill. There are very few universities that can boast that number of astronauts, so we can celebrate McGill's contribution to the universe.

We are also thinking about a student competition where students can propose projects in the area of sustainability. They are also considering an exhibition at McCord university.

Again, these are all preliminary. Some other ideas might come on board, and many of these will certainly not run. If anyone has ideas, they are welcome to bring them forward.

The idea is to get strong alumni involvement, and strong student involvement. We want people to have a feeling that McGill is really theirs, and that McGill "appartient a tous" [belongs to everyone].

The presenter welcomes questions.

Councillor Belanger asks to what extent the Faculty of Music will be involved in the music and film festival. The presenter responds that the way they view this is to create a 21st century musical kiosk, which would incorporate the School of Music and the School of Architecture, which would showcase music. Councillor Belanger thinks involving alumni is really important. The presenter responds that having the Montreal Jazz Festival work with alumni and allowing them to perform could be interesting.



Councillor Fodor asks if the Musee McCord event will be about the intimate connection of SSMU to the building, because it used to be a SSMU building. The presenter responds that it might, but it will depend on the focus of that exhibition. One of their great objectives is to show how McGill has evolved and how its relationship with Montreal has progressed.

Councillor Kharus asks a question regarding the potential light and sound festival. The presenter says that the idea would be to create a laser and light show about McGill and the buildings, history, and future.

Councillor Fodor asks if part of the bicentennial celebrations includes attempting to provide academic resources that are lacking before spending money on a lightshow. The presenter responds that they want a large majority of the celebration to be funded through external sponsorship. While a celebration of 200 years is important symbolically, it requires a lot of funds and all the funds should not necessarily come from the university's operation budget. The presenter cannot say today that the money will be put into mental health, or whatnot, but they are looking into how to engage students.

Councillor Mansdoerfer motions to extend Question Period by 5 minutes. Seconded.

Councillor Mansdoerfer recommends looking into the people who run OAP to see if they can get involved and engage. The presenter has been looking to get in touch with OAP, so if the Councillor could provide the information, that would be great.

Councillor Campbell asks if we will critique our past in addition to celebrating it. The presenter responds that both students and the deans want to see it critiqued. At the highest level of the university, people want to see our history not just celebrated but also critiqued. We need to look at some of the difficulties for Blacks, Jews, things like that. That might come from special projects.

Councillor Fodor asks what part of the bicentennial will go toward permanent infrastructure. We are declining in the rankings, losing funding, and losing talent. The presenter responds that one of the key objectives of the celebrations is to leave a legacy. They want it to go beyond just the year, and leave a legacy with this project. Part of it might be if they are able to secure the RVH (Royal Victoria Hospital building). If they get it, then they will have a ceremony on the 200th anniversary, which would be the biggest legacy. The legacy doesn't have to be physical. It can also be something



that lasts within community relations. Maybe the most important legacy we can have is that francophones feel included in the university.

Motion to extend by 5 minutes by Councillor Campbell. Seconded.

Councillor Savage asks if the university has reached out to the First Peoples House and asks if they have been asked for permission, or how they will be included. Also, will there be any apology for the name redmen? The presenter has not personally reached out to First Peoples House, however there will be a whole Indigenous Programming component, just as there will be an international programming component. We are working with the Indigenous Affairs Working group to create Indigenous Programming, but they don't know yet what it will entail. The presenter stresses that a lot of events go on on campus every year, and they want to keep all of these events and then kind of combine them into a bicentennial. So if there is the Indigenous event and there is the powwow and they want to be part of the bicentennial event, then they will become part of it.

Councillor Belanger recommends that the bicentennial might be a great opportunity to change the name redmen. The Councillor also asks the presenter to expand on how francophones will be included in the event. Events are often inaccessible for francophones past translation. The presenter responds that every communication will be bilingual. Secondly, there has to be a concerted effort for projects that are created to be bilingual. The presenter has no problem making things bilingual.

Councillor Decunha asks when the student subcommittee will be created, and how it will be populated. The presenter does not yet know how it will be populated. They are looking at what other universities have done. Some send out applications to the whole university. They would like to have a representative body, so from all faculties, students who are really involved, students who are not. This is one of the reasons the presenter is here, so if anyone has ideas, they can let the presenter know.

b. Black Students' Network of McGill (Andreann Asibey, President)

During the winter referendum, the BSN will be going through a levy, and this presentation will discuss why they are asking for an increase and student support.

The BSN is a service that is interested in addressing the needs of Black students, as well as all interested students. One question they often get is whether non-Black students can attend. They are friendly, and they love people to come to events. They



are here for Black people, but also for everyone else. The more everyone is educated, the better things get.

They are a team of 13, consisting of 10 executives and 3 project managers.

Their mission statement is to promote the issues of Black people and to sensitize McGill and the broader Montreal community to Black issues. They are also here to make the McGill campus more accessible to Black students. All students, regardless of race, culture, or creed, are welcome to participate.

Although the world is progressing, institutional issues remain, and McGill is not immune to these issues. Personally for the speaker, being a Black student comes with many issues that might affect their progress. It isn't always overt racism, but even things like how the education system is very Euro-centric.

In terms of historical context, there were Sir George Williams College (now Concordia) protests. There was a Black writers event that was met with racial slurs from the Montreal community. There was also a medical professor who purposefully lowered the grades of Black students. There were students who were arrested or even threatened with the death penalty, and all they were trying to do was have people realize they are a human being.

In the 1970s, Black students mobilized around a need to get together, and created the BSN. Later, children's day was developed. This is where marginalized students could come to McGill, and they can learn about higher education. BSN was key in talking to the McGill administration about divesting from the South African government during apartheid. In 1998, they wanted to start a Black and Africana Studies Program. They have amazing archives with letter to the President and professors, which ended with the Africana Congress that was actually funded by the Canadian government.

Soul Food Friday has also been around at McGill for a long time, and they bring flames of flavour to campus.

The BSN organizes panels, screenings, and symposiums. During Black history Month, they had a pre-screening of Black Panther, and 385 people came. This would not have been possible without the fees that BSN gets from SSMU. They had students from all over Montreal, not just McGill.

The BSN also supports initiatives, like Arts Against Postracialism, which was pioneered by Dr. Philip S.S. Howard, a racialized professor.



The BSN also support “For Colored Girls” which was the first Black production at McGill university. The BSN was again able to support this because of the funding from SSMU.

The BSN also sits on various committees pertaining to equity, including the SSMU equity committee. They also work together to help centralize resources instead of duplicated them. Even next week, they are working with Marianopolis college, who has started a Black Students’ Club.

They held a vigil on police brutality a couple of years ago. This was important to show McGill students that Black lives are in danger, and to many they don’t matter.

The presenter shows photos of events at McGill.

A year and a half ago, they had Hair Day. Hair Day was a celebration of black awesomeness.

The BSN has collaborated with SEDE, Midnight Kitchen, Healthy McGill, and numerous more. With midnight kitchen, for instance, they worked on improving the options available to students at Soul Food Fridays by adding vegan and vegetarian options.

Collaborating is really important for the BSN to show that support is important.

Why is there a fee increase? The first is for expansion. In terms of getting speakers to come, there is very little support from McGill. It would also allow for more collaborations. For instance, an association wanted to collaborate on an event on anti-Blackness, but they had to consider their funding. For children’s day, this has become really expensive due to inflation. They pay for busses, food, etc, which can become really expensive. They also need more funding to increase symposiums. They also have a BSN library, but it really needs to be reinvented, and this requires funding. They also revived the reading and media club, and being able to do more events would be nice. They would also like to print official handbooks that give resources for Black people or people of colour. They also need some help to pay for event venues and SSMU fees, especially since SSMU is closing and they now need to find external venues which are difficult.

They also support Black History Month financially, and support many other projects like hair day.



They also need to support human resources. They have no salaries now, and sometimes spend 25 hours a week. People with greater skills are attracted when they are paid, so it would help produce better work. BSN is one of the few SSMU services that does not pay its executives.

Motion to extend by President Tojiboeva. Seconded.

The presenter continues with the importance of the BSN. It provides a community for many people who might be othered in a society that rejects them every day, and it also provides role models and leadership. It's great to be able to provide leadership roles, especially in a university that doesn't provide many leadership roles. Finally, the BSN is important for education and for making McGill campus a generally safer space.

Proxy for Councillor Lametti asks how much the fee increase will be. The presenter responds that the fee right now is 40 cents, and they got about \$8,000. They want to increase the fee to 1 dollar, to make the budget about \$17,000 per semester.

Councillor Campbell asks "you've been doing all of that with 8,000 per semester?". The presenter responds that this year they are very grateful that all 13 are working towards rebranding the BSN with a vision for sustainability. The Councillor is very impressed with all that they have been doing on very little money. The presenter responds that right now they have had panelists who get like 100 dollars, and have been okay with that.

7. Presentation from the VP Finance

The VP Finance has tried to make the numbers in their presentation colourful and entertaining. This is the February 2018 budget review, which is mandated in the IRs. None of the numbers have actually been changed in the budget, as that will be happening in the 2018-2019 budget, which will be presented in a later council. This is meant to give context.

To begin with the big picture, we are doing pretty well right now. We have \$4 million in revenues, which is higher than budget. We have also exceeded the budgeted surplus by \$1.4 million. This will go into a lot of the costs of dealing with the building closure. It's also important to keep in mind that budgeting is usually done pretty conservatively.

In terms of fee levies, they are usually opt-outable. Links are available in the PowerPoint that show where money is going.



Services are under SSMU but are fairly autonomous in how they spend their money. Most surpluses just roll over into the next year, but ideally services will work to spend their money more sustainably. SSMU is also working to cover all of the costs of moving services out of the building.

Gerts was budgeted to lose \$33,000 but instead it made \$33,000. This is mainly due to Alessandro and the staff at Gerts looking to cut costs. This, and the SRC will be impacted by the building closure.

In terms of costs, the main costs come from the building and general administration. They budgeted more for cost than they incurred. The costs include staff salaries, building maintenance etc, which is mostly covered by the base fee. The SSMU building does have tenants like Liquid Nutrition who pay rent and offset some of the costs.

Each exec has their salaries, benefits, and office expenses covered by \$40,000. They also each have departments, for which they have budgeted expenses. Mainly this is an internal discussion, and the VP Finance discusses any issues with the VP directly.

In terms of programming activities, they include Frosh, Four Floors, etc. Four Floors made a slight profit, and activities night did too. MiniCourses was lower than expected, but it will also be discontinued during the building closure and later reevaluated. Programming has been weaker, but offset by better areas. Most of the programming will be affected by the building closure.

Councillor Anderson asks how elections is running a \$2,000 deficit, and asks which deficits are due to building closures. The VP Finance responds that the budgets are a guideline and sometimes justifiable issues are incurred which are not a huge issue. The President manages the elections portfolio, so can answer why it is running a deficit. They are also talking with the Execs to make sure that the budget is a bit more realistic next year. Last year, a lot of zeros were put in where there should have been numbers, so this created an issue.

President Tojiboeva responds that only the salaries are budgeted, and so sometimes there are other costs like needing to pay security, or Facebook ads to reach quorum, or expenses for the voting system through simplyvoting. The main problem is that the budget included only the salaries, and it's impossible to run elections without some costs.

Councillor Campbell asks why the Environment Committee has a budget when they have a significant fee levied that is very underutilized. VP finance responds that the fee goes to the environment fund. The Councillor responds that the environment fund is split by the committee, and so they decide what is allocated. The VP Finance responds that this did not



occur at the beginning of this year, and so for this year they let them apply to the fund to help with their deficit. The VP finance also spoke to the VP Internal and they are working on budgeting better.

Councillor Mandsoerfer motions to extend by 4 minutes. Seconded by Internal.

Councillor Mansdoerfer asks how SACOMSS is planning to send their surplus, and if this number is accurate. VP Finance responds that SACOMSS highballed when they increased the fee, and they currently don't need the whole fee. They are currently looking into how to use that money in a relevant way.

Councillor Belanger is an External for SACOMSS and answers that they just started paying their employees instead of having them just be volunteers. So basically they do need that money in the end.

A proxy Councillor asks if Gerts typically runs a deficit. To the VP Finance's knowledge, Gerts usually has trouble, and this is the budget that was given.

Councillor Decunha asks if the VP finance expects the actuals to change significantly between now and the end of the school year. The VP Finance responds that due to the building closure, there will be a loss of revenue as well as costs in terms of moving out. They are at a very good stage right now, but the next 6 months or a year look more bleak, so it's pretty downhill from here. They will have more information next council, so stay tuned, but there will be significant costs.

VP Spencer asks if the budget is up until the end of the year or up until February. The VP Finance replies that these should be taken with a grain of salt because it is hard to separate things month to month, but these are estimates up until February.

8. Announcements (5)

Councillor Savage announces that Social Work took part in a protest about unpaid stages on the 20th, and there is another on March 8th that involves womens' rights in the field, and so they encourage anyone who is impacted by these stages to join. They are hosting a postermaking party in the next week to get ready for this event.

Councillor Belanger announces that Music has removed their President due to her inability to fulfill her duties, so if anyone wants to communicate the President, emails will be bounced back to us. Due to a lack of communication with the outside community, they have fallen behind on a lot and wanted to apologize on this. They are wanted to inform everyone that the



MUSA emails are being redirected to MEDUSA, and they are having trouble changing that, so please stop using that email. A lot of stuff did fall behind, but they are really intent on catching up. The hours at Music Library are being drastically reduced because of a missed email and they need \$3,000 and they are trying to fundraise but they need some help.

9. Question Period (5)

VP Internal says that it has been brought to their attention that there is a lot of inaccessibility when it comes to students running who are on exchange. There seems to be a serious barrier in terms of communication, and these students shouldn't be discouraged from running. The VP asks if faculties have any suggestions to make these processes more accessible to students who may not be in town. Councillor Campbell responds that this is an issue they deal with a lot in Engineering. One of the things they do is having a clause in the electoral bylaws that allows candidates to appoint someone else to campaign on their behalf. They also allow people to call in for debates, and they try to make it clear that it's an open option. Even just including it in the bylaws is helpful. Councillor Anderson also responds that for AUS, it was something they have never really had happen before. A lot of coordination had to be done between the arts reps, President, CRO, and the candidate from abroad. Tonight at their debate, they were able to find a way to have the candidate from abroad record their opening and closing statement. They were also able to craft a spontaneous question and have it asked via skype. This was a totally new experience for everyone, but it seems to have gone really well. Councillor Callaghan responds that they had someone in management run from abroad for President. The Councillor thinks it would be great to have an online platform so that peoples' friends don't have to campaign for them. They could also change the restrictions to be more open to campaigning that can be done on Facebook.

Councillor Mansdoerfer motions to extend by 5 minutes. Councillor Demir seconds.

Councillor Mansdoerfer noticed for SSMU there is no screening process for VP Finance, when many faculties do have this. The Councillor would be interested if anyone wants a discussion in New Business or something to create a screening process where people are still democratically elected but do have some basic competencies. The VP External responds that this is something that will likely be talked about in the governance reform working group. The VP Internal agrees and thinks a base knowledge is really important for the VP Finance, and a lot of faculties have this screening, and it's pretty weird that SSMU doesn't considering the budget that the VP Finance is managing.

Councillor Khopkar asks if a screening process might deter students considering the lack of candidates already. Councillor Mansdoerfer believes this should be discussed, but hopefully anyone running for VP Finance wouldn't have much of an issue passing basic tests.



Councillor Decunha asks why the recent President's roundtable only had 5 people attended. The President responds that everyone was invited and a doodle was made, and that's all that was attended.

Councillor Campbell motions to extend by 5 minutes. Seconded by VP Spencer.

Councillor Campbell asks to confirm that the date of the President's roundtable will be on the 24th. The President responds that it will be confirmed at a later date. Councillor Campbell asks to confirm that a meeting happening in two days has not been confirmed. The President responds that it is not in two days, but in March.

10. New Business

a. Motion Regarding Black Students' Network Fee - Winter Referendum 2018 – APPROVED

A gallery member reads the motion.

Councillor Campbell motions to amend a typo in the line and to amend the spelling of VP Koparkar's name. Seconded by Councillor Savage. Motion passes unanimously.

VP External wants to say that the BSN does amazing work and they put on an incredible amount of programming, and the VP encourages everyone to vote this motion forward.

Move to vote by default clicker. With 19 in favour, 1 opposed, and 1 abstention, the motion passes.

b. Motion to amend the University Centre Building Fee – APPROVED

President Tojiboeva presents the motion.

Councillor Mansdeorfer asks how big the building fee is. President Tojiboeva responds that it is \$5.78 for full time students, and \$2.79 for part-time students. This information is found on page 3 of the appendix. In total, it generates \$230,000.

Move to vote by default clicker. With 20 in favour and 2 abstentions, the motion is carried.



c. Motion to amend the SSMU Clubs Fee – APPROVED

VP Earle presents the motion.

Proxy for Councillor Lametti asks if only the rollover funds will be used or if the whole fund can be used. The VP Student Life responds that because they don't want to take away from other events, they will use the rollover first and then it would be up to the committee to decide when and whether to use the rest of the fund.

VP Student Life responds that there are currently 240 clubs who all have access to free clubs and this is not something they want to take away from clubs, so allowing this motion would let the clubs continue their events which serve all undergraduate students on campus.

Move to vote by default clicker. With 19 in favour and 2 abstentions, the motion is carried.

d. Motion to amend the Campus Life Fee – APPROVED

President Tojiboeva presents the motion.

Move to vote by default clicker. With 21 in favour and 1 abstention, the motion is carried.

e. Motion to Amend the Internal Regulations of Elections and Referenda – NOT APPROVED

President Tojiboeva presents the report.

Councillor Campbell asks why this is such a last-minute motion. President Tojiboeva responds that Elections SSMU brought this up on Friday because they were preparing the Candidates' guidebook which needs to be done on March 1st.

Councillor Anderson asks why the Elections SSMU officers weren't able to draft this on Friday and send it in time for the Steering meeting on Saturday, and why it took them almost a week to draft this. President Tojiboeva says that they were still discussing how exactly to change it, because they still wanted to prohibit slate candidacy.

Councillor Anderson asks why we have to vote on something that seems like common sense, as they do orally already recognize affirmations in other platforms. It also



seems like common sense that people have to work together. This also doesn't seem to remove restriction on their ability to cooperate.

President Tojiboeva responds that a lot of candidates were confused about how they can mention others' platforms, so just adding the last sentence seems to make things a little bit more clear. While it is really common sense, it might not be to the candidates who are worried about getting sanctioned.

Councillor Savage doesn't understand why this even has to be added, because it seems like it opens the door for smear campaigns on Facebook.

President Tojiboeva says that this is why "affirmatively" was specified. Furthermore, there is a clause elsewhere that specifically prohibits any negative campaigning. This is just to encourage dialogue and not slate candidacy.

VP Koparkar asks what particularly candidates would be talking about, because it seems to be a very fine line between an endorsement and affirmatively discussing. It could also create blatant animosity if you affirmative discuss someone's platform and then their opponent gets elected.

Councillor Campbell is concerned about opening up to slate campaigns that are not obvious but are still slate campaigns. It seems like a very grey line. From the Councillor's experience talking to people who allow slate candidacy, it usually ends up badly. The Councillor would rather be overly restrictive than risk going there and opening that door. The Councillor also doesn't understand the need for discussing affirmatively in written campaign materials.

Councillor Callaghan mentions that in management they had a very contentious election where people tried to get each other in trouble, and so passing something like this will help make sure people don't get in trouble with sharing facebook, etc.

Councillor Decunha thinks we may not have been able to fully consider this policy or research candidates. The councillor also has some concerns that this just leads to slate candidacy. It may become evident to the student body that unofficial slates exist, and it could maybe become official this time next year.

President Tojiboeva responds that this doesn't change that slate candidates are still prohibited. Last year they had to keep their debates really isolated, and so at the end of the day, having a common vision is important. The CEO is also on their way.



Councillor Decunha asks if it would be reasonable to recess until the CEO comes.

President Tojiboeva motions to suspend the standing rules. Seconded by VP Student Life. Motion passes. President motions for 10 e and f to switch.

Jump to e, then return to debate here:

Councillor Mansdoerfer asks if Elections SSMU can describe their thought process behind the motion. A gallery representative from Elections SSMU explains that the idea behind this is that this is something that can already done and is not a violation, but it is not affirmatively stated which confuses candidates. Unsolicited messages are banned, but candidates can explicitly allow Facebook invites. So same idea here: categorically it is banned but for this one thing you can do it.

Councillor Campbell asks what makes Elections SSMU think that this is an action that is currently allowed. Elections SSMU responds that with the given definition the goal is still to get people to vote for you. People can already say they agree with someone, just not encourage people to vote for them.

VP Spencer says a problem in the past has been candidates stealing each others' platforms. How would Elections SSMU respond if someone used this clause to steal someone's platform. The SSMU officer responds that that would be direct plagiarism, so the source must go back to the original writer.

Councillor Figueiredo asks if candidates can go to another candidates' event. Elections answers that this is already done.

Councillor Anderson asks how this doesn't prevent two candidates from teaming up on a third candidate, detracting from positive conversation by essentially affirmatively discussing one candidate as opposed to another candidate. Additionally, if the opponent you supported doesn't win, can't it be weird to work with their opponent?

Elections SSMU answers that it could create a little bit of awkwardness, but the current situation is even more awkward because candidates cannot even work with themselves.

Councillor Decunha says this could lead to the creation of de facto slate candidacies, where a group of candidates are all supporting their own candidates.



Elections SSMU says they were also really concerned. But the idea is that you cannot have real slate candidacy. There can only be affirmative mentions like quoting other platforms.

Councillor Anderson asks if affirmatively quoting someone doesn't mean you are putting their name on your material, so then doesn't that create a slate candidacy, so people will associate the candidates.

Elections SSMU says they are not getting people to put their names together like vote for X Y and Z. Instead it's within the documents.

VP Internal asks why this is being brought forward now and asks if there has been an incident where this became a problem. Their idea was that this was never an issue that was raised, so why the decision to clarify it now?

Elections says part of it is that the CEO is new to the role and only entered in January, so while reading over the CEO realized this was a soft yes that is not explicitly listed, and the CEO believes it is something that can be really positive.

Councillor Campbell asks what the difference between cooperation between candidates and a slate candidacy is. The Councillor doesn't think students will see a difference, or that the difference is really as significant as Elections SSMU is insinuating. The Councillor really doesn't want to go toward slate candidacy and wonders if maybe we could not do this now, and instead think about implementing it for the next electoral cycle.

Elections SSMU will leave it up to Council whether it should be voted now or later. In terms of whether a headline is as drastic as having someone's name in the body of a text, the Elections SSMU rep still thinks it is not slate candidacy because you are not asking people to vote for someone, just that you agree with them on one specific issue.

VP Student Life wants to speak in favour of the motion because last year the VP was really focused on the Student Life portfolio specifically and not how the VP could collaborate with others and that was a mistake. It would have been nice to have something official that would help support people to look at other platforms and talk to those people.



Councillor Decunha says it seems that the approval of this motion would allow for slate candidacy in all forms except in the specific interest of graphics, and the Councillor suggests that anyone against slate candidacies votes no.

VP Herpin says there should be a way to encourage not necessarily naming the candidate but naming the position, and have candidates acknowledge the importance of working with another position, and have platforms synch up without a name next to a name.

VP Internal says the language of this motion could be more confusing. The VP wonders if there isn't a way to incorporate addressing platforms in debates in a forum where the public can see instead of selectively taking things from peoples' campaigns.

Councillor Mansdoerfer agrees with the VP Internal that verbal comments should be allowed, but letting people pseudo-endorse is kind of sketchy.

President Tojiboeva says it's more about being able to acknowledge others rather than copying their platforms.

Councillor Campbell understands the motivation behind this and does agree with the need for positive interaction, but thinks there is a better way to do it. This seems dangerous because it can be misread, especially when we have different people in elections SSMU in the future. The Councillor would rather see it written somewhere else, like in the booklet given to candidates.

Councillor Anderson says the "harping" on this comes from the idea of campaign materials which inherently puts your campaign stuff with someone else's name on it which confuses everyone. Maybe tacking this on to slate candidacy is not the best place.

VP Internal isn't worried about copying platforms. It's more that quoting leads people to make connections, and if you have a place where people can talk without it being codified, that would create more productive conversation.

Councillor Khopkar is worried about having a group of friends campaigning together which could just create a slate. They might be supporting each other not because their ideas are the best but because of their relationships with each other. There is also a lot of opposition here so maybe we could come to a conclusion.



VP Spencer clarifies that their hesitation comes from being up against two men, and finding it very frustrating that VP Spencer obviously had the most experience and would say an argument and then it would be repeated by men and it would get taken more seriously. So, during debate specifically, the VP's platform would get stolen, and that's as a tall white woman but some are even more marginalized.

Councillor Decunha presents an amendment to allow affirmative discussion but no names or quotes. The amendment is friendly.

President Tojiboeva says we all agree that slate candidates are not wanted, so hopefully this wording is better. Elections SSMU is not trying to encourage slate candidacies whatsoever.

Councillor Figueiredo thinks this can help makes campaigns more positive and it allows candidates to acknowledge that candidates.

Motion to call the vote by Proxy Lametti. Seconded. Motion carries.

Move to vote by default clicker. With 11 in favour, 7 opposed, and 4 abstaining, the motion fails.

f. Motion to Create a Governance Documents Working Group

VP Spencer presents the motion.

Councillor Anderson asks when membership would be decided. VP Spencer suggests that we add a "should this motion be passed...." And then select people who are interested just by placard.

Councillor Decunha asks if they could take members at large. VP Spencer says if they have an interest and knowledge, then that's fine. Councillor Decunha asks if it would be friendly to add this to the motion. The amendment is friendly.

VP Finance asks when membership will be decided. VP Spencer responds that the list will be created today and they don't need to be formally approved. The construction has to be improved, but not the specific people.

President Tojiboeva motions for a 5 minute recess. Seconded by Councillor Koch. Motions passes.



President Tojiboeva says a google form will be opened for anyone to apply to the committee.

Councillor Campbell asks if there is a process or question or something to make sure people on the committee are familiar with the relevant documents. VP Spencer responds that in the google form there can be a question asking folks to explain their knowledge.

Move to vote by default clicker. With 20 in favour and 1 abstention, the motion is carried.

11. Reports by Committees

a. Executive Committee (5)

President Tojiboeva presents the report.

Councillor Khandi asks what the Harmful Military Technology Researcher Position is. VP External responds that one of the three campaigns under SSMU is Demilitarize McGill. The point of this position is that there was an Access to Information request by the group that got over 300 pages back. We are kind of at this point where we are using old information, so we are at a point where we need new info to further our campaigns. So this position will look into what kind of research already exists on this campaign and what still needs to happen.

Councillor Koch asks how much someone in positions like that get paid. VP External responds that SSMU staff are horribly underpaid but it is around \$13.18 per hour.

Proxy Lametti asks if adjustment for inflation is done regularly. VP Finance says this is normal.

b. Steering Committee (5)

The Parliamentarian presents the report.

c. Mental Health Committee (5)

VP Student Life presents the report.



Councillor Campbell asks if the outreach branch reaches out to other groups on campus, like faculty association mental health committees. VP Earle responds that the membership is composed of people of all faculties, but the VP is not completely sure if they have reached out, but can ask them.

d. Actions Taken as Mandated by the Motion to De-gender Language

VP Spencer presents the report on behalf of VP Oke.

Councillor Campbell says that changes in the standing rules to council should already be in effect. For the rest of it, there was no timeline given. A timeline was requested as part of this report, which isn't there. Is there a timeline for the hiring for a researcher? VP External replies that it would likely follow normal hiring process, meaning it could be within three weeks that a researcher could be hired.

Councillor Anderson asks if it would be pertinent to add in the requirements a working knowledge of French, or will a translator have to do this. VP Spencer responds that bilingualism might be important.

e. Report of the AVEQ Congress

VP Spencer presents the report.

VP Herpin says that one of the problems AVEQ has is that they budgeted to run a deficit. Did AVEQ address this at all? VP External responds that it is all available on AVEQ's website and the VP Finance would be better to read through it and understand rather than having the VP External attempt to explain it.

12. Councillor Report

a. Yazan Abu Yousef, Science Representative

Councillor Decunha presents the report on Councillor Abu Yousef's behalf.

b. Vivian Campbell, Engineering Representative

Councillor Campbell presents the report.

VP Earle asks if Councillor Campbell could have the VP Internal reply to VP Earle regarding an issue with Drive Safe.



c. Michelle Bélanger, Music Representative

Motion to table by President Tojiboeva. Seconded by Councillor Fodor. Tabled.

13. Executive Reports

a. President (3)

President Tojiboeva presents the report.

Councillor Mansdoerfer motions to extend by 1 minute. Seconded.

Councillor Decunha asks if the President could elaborate on the MUS-SSMU MoA. The President responded that the MoA has always existed but the President was not aware. Once he discovered it, he realized a lot of the clauses needed to be renegotiated and some clauses needed to be added. It will also make sure that executives next year actually know about the MoA.

VP Spencer asks for clarification on what was said about CAMSR. The President explains that the President got an email about a meeting but isn't sure what it is about.

Proxy for Lametti asks for elaboration on the francophone projects. President Tojiboeva responds that the first meeting would be to establish who is coming together when and to get feedback and to incorporate that feedback. The breakdown is 1/3 admin, 1/3 students and 1/3 student groups and stakeholders like departments. This is to ensure work is not duplicated.

b. VP Finance (3)

VP Herpin presents the report.

Councillor Khanu asks what the current status of Savoy is. VP Herpin explains that they used to be a service but were deserviced, so now they are looking at going down the club route.



Councillor Anderson asks why the report is not available on the drive. The parliamentarian responds that they received the report today and it will up on the website tomorrow.

c. VP University Affairs (3)

The VP University Affairs sends regrets.

d. VP External (3)

VP Spencer presents the report.

Councillor Campbell asks what McGreen is. VP Spencer says that this is the Waste Management Project in Milton-Parc that now has a name! It's a loop system where people can fill out a form online when they want to get rid of their furniture at the end of the year, it gets stored, and then sold for cheap to international students.

Councillor Campbell asks whether storing and selling will for sure be happening. VP Spencer says SHHS is able to provide space for free now, so it won't be part of our budget.

e. VP Internal (3)

VP Koparkar presents the report.

The proxy for Councillor Lametti asks if there are not already guides. VP Koparkar says there are not. There are no exit reports since 2010. As of now there is no guidelines or best practices, so it's something that should be codified to help maintain institutional memory.

A Councillor asks if it is true that the faculty Olympics committee got free tickets to grad ball. VP Koparkar answers no.

f. VP Student Life (3)

VP Earle presents the report.

Councillor Kharus asks why the Players Theatre was discontinued. VP Earle responds that one of the reasons SSMU is closing is for asbestos abatement. When asbestos is not disturbed, it's fine. Some people came in to do tests and they did identify room



309 as a place where asbestos is disturbed, so for health and safety reasons they had to close the theatre immediately. They ended up just hosting the shows in the building itself. There still are concerns from groups who have stuff in the theatre, but we are communicating with them on when and if they can retrieve their stuff, and hopefully by the end of next week we can get their materials out. But basically it was closed due to health and safety reasons.

14. Confidential Session

15. Adjournment 10:25

President Tojiboeva motions to adjourn. Seconded by VP Internal.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cathy', positioned above the signature line for the Recording Secretary.

Muna Tojiboeva, SSMU President

Catharina O'Donnell, Recording Secretary