



Legislative Council - March 15th, 2018

SSMU LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AGENDA

1. Call to Order 18:14

The meeting is called to order at 6:14 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

President Tojiboeva motions to amend the minutes on page 21. It says "MUS SSMU MOA", and it should say "NUS" for Nursing. And then in the same sentence, it should say "NUS President" as well. Seconded by Councillor Bulger. Motion passes.

Motion to approve the minutes. Approved unanimously.

5. Adoption of the Agenda

VP Oke motions to amend the agenda in order to add a presentation about Fiat Lux under Guest Speakers. Seconded by Proxy Decunha. Voting by placard. The motion passes unanimously.

VP Herpin motions to add a motion "Motion Regarding the SSMU Special Committee on Anti-Semitism. VP Herpin further motions to put the report from the special committee before New Business. Seconded by Councillor Chan. The motion passes.

VP Herpin motions to add to the confidential session. The speaker confirms that this will take place at point 13.

Councillor Lametti motions to table the FYC report until next council. Seconded by Councillor Dinh. The motion passes unanimously.

Vote by placard to adopt the agenda. The motion passes unanimously.

6. Guest Speakers

a. Fiat Lux



The presenters are the dean and associate dean of the library. They are working on renovating the McLennan-Redpath complex. A lot of people don't know about this project, and some people might have questions, so that's why the presenters are here. Furthermore, library spaces are really for students, so they are also here to get input.

The presenter shows a photo of the library, explaining that spaces are often jam-packed, especially during exam times. They have been working to develop a new plan for the McLennan-Redpath complex. They have been working with many respected architects. The presenter asks how many were here in 2014 when the consultations for this project began. A few Councillors raise their hands.

Throughout consultations, they discovered that students are looking for nice spaces that have good heating and air conditioning, good light, and great reading rooms. In order to accomplish this, they need to move the print collection to storage and just bring them to students when they request them. There will be books in the library, but they will be the books that students need to immediately browse.

In terms of space, they are looking at creating lots of group study, as well as quiet areas, which will make sure that it is really a very flexible space. There will also be space for community gatherings and even flexible, high-tech teaching spaces. The presenter emphasized group spaces. There needs to be lots of variety and choice in order to allow for shifting learning and pedagogy.

The presenter shows photos of "technology rich, innovative" spaces at various libraries around the world.

Part of the plan is to expose the 1890s Redpath hall, get rid of the 1950s Redpath library, build a replacement, and then connect it to the McLennan building.

The presenter discusses that right now, they have the master plan and are now in deep fundraising mode.

The presenter says that people often ask when this library will be coming together. It takes a lot of time for anything with construction to come together. Right now, they are in fundraising. There will be donors who will help significantly. They are also in the position where they can do this in phases. The first phase is building a storage facility on Macdonald campus. They are currently in the very first concrete stages of doing this.



Librarians are the first ones to love books, but not all books in and of themselves are sacred objects. Some are, and McGill is very fortunate. McGill probably has the best rare and special collection, and it's the oldest collection in Canada, and we have an obligation to take good care of this. Deconstruction of the 1950s Redpath building will happen next, and it will then be rebuilt and connected to McLennan.

The presenter is very interested in knowing how students can be involved, and how they can continue to listen to students. The presenter strongly believes that it is important to involve students and hear what they need, and students are the people who know their needs best. The last major library that McGill planned was the McLennan building, completed in the 1960s. It has been a very long time, and so now it's really time to be doing something.

Councillor Dinh thanks the presenters. The Councillor asks if there is a very rough timeline on when the project or phase one could be completed. The presenter responds that phase 1 could be completed in two years, and the whole project could be completed in 6, in a best case scenario. Most students who are here today will not see the results of this, but everything that we do is to pay it forward. Most students have been around some sort of construction when growing up, and it's just part of it.

Councillor Lametti asks if there is a plan for satellite or off-campus libraries like the Osler library. The presenter responds that the Osler library is one of the spectacular rare and special collection libraries, and it has a great environment. All of the eight library branches will be affected by this project, largely because collections will be moved from most of the libraries. The space that is freed up in these libraries will be converted to user spaces, just like in other libraries. The goal is to have enough space for 25% of the university's students to be using at once.

President Tojiboeva asks how we can ensure that the Fiat Lux project keeps on serving students, and doesn't just need to be rebuilt in 70 years again. The presenter responds that McLennan is great because it is a bunch of squares on top of each other, which is very flexible. Service needs to drive space, and not the other way around.

VP Oke says that a lot of input has clearly been put into the designs, and asks where the flexibility remains for student input, and what kind of decisions are left. The presenter responds that Malcolm will be soliciting input. When you see whiteboards up at the library, they would love to hear wild and crazy things. They know it's cold in McLennan and they know that students want Tim Hortons back. They are really working on that, although there is not much they can do about Premiere Moission staying. So, think about the technologies and services you



want. For instance, we know you want us to be open 24 hours throughout the semester. As we go through the process, there will be more structured opportunities for input, like town halls and like consultations. Another presenter adds that the master plan was looking at the infrastructure, like how much space is needed. But when we get to the stage of designing the interior, that's where we will need intensive feedback. It's important for students to also tell administrators how important a library is, as this means much more coming from students than from people who make a living out of loving libraries.

Councillor Campbell asks if there is an effort to use aspects of universal design to make sure that the space will be accessible to a whole range of students, including things like gender neutral washrooms. The presenter explains that even if they didn't think it was right, it's code now to have gender neutral washrooms. They do, however, think it's what's right. They also need to make it completely accessible in terms of getting around, because the elevators to cybertheque don't work, so making it completely accessible is important.

VP Spencer asks if the library will remain open during construction. The presenter responds that it will be phased so that some space is open. The idea is that the books move out of McLennan, and then Redpath gets torn down. So, all the seats and user spaces in Redpath would move to McLennan. The library will always be open, but the spaces will change over time. It might be a little noisy, but we cannot afford not to keep these libraries open, because we already don't have enough library space.

VP Oke asks if there is a limit on how related suggestions need to be to libraries. For instance, could someone suggest an outdoor garden being put on the roof of buildings? The presenters want students to look at libraries in a broad sense, and to give any suggestions, no matter how wild they may seem.

7. Announcements (5)

President Tojiboeva announces that the next Legislative Council will take place in McConnell room 603.

VP Spencer announces that today is the international day against police brutality. Currently, there is a manif going on, and if we end early enough the VP will be joining, and encourages others to do so as well. The police system is an arm of capitalist, colonial society. The VP says this as a white woman who speaks both French and English and is thus one of the most protected people. The VP can remember a time when a group was facing a barrier of police. When crossing the line, the VP slipped and the police officer helped the VP over the line and then arrested the VP. When two Indigenous folks tried to do the same, they were tackled to the ground. There is a real attack happening on Black, Brown, and Indigenous folks, and it is happening in our city.



The VP reads out a list of individuals who have been killed by the SPVM. These are real people who lost their lives in an unjustified manner, in our city.

8. Question Period (5)

Councillor Campbell asks the President when the faculty presidents' roundtable will be scheduled, as the Engineering president has not yet heard. President Tojiboeva responds that they are having difficulties planning this right now with the building closure. The plan is to have the incoming and outgoing meet altogether. Councillor Campbell follows up asking if it would be helpful if someone else took over planning the presidents' roundtable. It is a priority for Jessica to get this meeting up. President Tojiboeva responds that that sounds great, and Jessica could send the President an email.

VP Oke says that the SLL portfolio review people have scheduled an open consultation, but the times are all during typical classtime. The VP asks if folks feel that the VP should ask to reschedule one of these times because it may not be in line with students' schedules. VP Campbell responds that the time slots should be rescheduled and also expanded.

Councillor Jiao asks President Tojiboeva who is included in the Presidents' roundtable. The President responds that it usually only includes faculty presidents, but the Councillor would be welcome to join.

9. New Business

a. Motion Regarding the Policy for the Implementation of a Fall Reading Break

President Tojiboeva presents the motion.

Councillor Campbell motions to extend the deadline so that this question can go to referendum. Seconded by Proxy Decunha. Placard vote. Passes unanimously.

VP Spencer asks if the movers of the motion could specify what work they are specifically asking the External Office to do. If it could be expanded, maybe it could be incorporated into the language. Brian, representing the YES campaign committee, expands that they expect the VP External to look into lobbying governing bodies to potentially mandate that this be implemented in all Quebec universities, for instance.

Councillor Campbell asks what the referendum question will be. Brian responds that the goal is just to see how many students support a fall reading week, so that it can be brought to administration.



Councillor Lametti says that in Medicine, there is a de facto break in fall semester of first year, and then no breaks afterwards. So how would this kind of policy impact special departments or faculties with different schedules. Brian responds that, in terms of lobbying the government through the VP External portfolio, they would need to look into how to modify it for various groups. This is very important and has certainly been a roadblock in the past. They are really hoping to work with stakeholders to make sure it works for all members of the university.

Councillor Jaio asks why the VP External would be lobbying the provincial government instead of university administration. Brian responds that the VP External, VP University Affairs, and Senate Caucus would all be mandated to do something, creating a three-pronged approach. This would apply the maximum amount of pressure in order for this to be implemented.

Proxy Decunha asks on a point of parliamentary inquiry if a specific referendum question needs to be posed. The speaker was in communication with the CEO who seemed to think this was okay. A motion to add "Do you agree with this" would help clarify the situation.

Brian asks if an amendment can be added. The speaker explains that this could happen by going into a recess to create an amendment, and then suspend the rules.

Councillor Dinh motions to recess for 5 minutes. Seconded by Councillor Jiao. Motion to recess passes unanimously.

The speaker explains that there are three amendments that are proposed. One is with regards to the VP External's role, the second is to the addition of a question, and the third is to the addition of an endorsement of council. If amendments are friendly, they will be adopted. If not, it will take a 2/3 majority to suspend the rules to allow the amendments to be added as unfriendly amendments.

The three amendments are projected on the screen and read out by the speaker.

Councillor Lametti motions to suspend the standing rules of legislative council to table this motion until later in the agenda, until the Parliamentarian can confirm everything with the CEO. This motion passes with all in favour and one opposed.

There are no objections to the amendments, and the CEO confirmed validity of the proposed question.

Vote on main motion to move this to referendum period. Motion carries unanimously.



b. Special Committee on Anti-Semitism Presentation (5)

The presenter is the President of the Jewish Studies Student Association, which is also the group that the presenter represented on the committee. The committee was struck in response to the GA and was comprised of numerous Jewish students on campus. The committee brought together a diverse group of people with a range of opinions. They chose to have the conversation chaired by the equity commissioner so that everyone would be on equal footing. They also agreed to reach consensus on most points, and they are very proud of the work that they did.

One of the main goals of the committee was to create a comprehensive definition of anti-Semitism, which was heavily based on the Ottawa protocols. They did include some additions, like the idea that not all Jews are White, and it is important to recognize the unique experiences of these Jews. It is also important to recognize how anti-Semitism can intersect with other forces of oppression. They also looked at the historical contexts of oppression. They discovered that there is a history of anti-Semitism in both Quebec and in McGill, with things like quotas on Jewish students. Another important goal was to sensitize McGill students to anti-Semitism, and to create numerous recommendations.

One recommendation was to continue the mandate of the committee into next year, to help oversee the recommendations. Another recommendation is that the definition of anti-Semitism be incorporated by SSMU. Another recommendation is that some actions be taken by the VP UA, such as hiring a researcher on anti-Semitism, as well as lobbying for the inclusion of anti-Semitism training in Race Project and Council trainings.

VP Oke asks the VP Finance if the VP had an idea of whether something specific should also be mandated from the budget, so that the budget reflects recommendations, should they be adopted. The VP Finance thinks that is a fair point. The budget will be presented today, but is not expected to be approved today. Should this motion be approved, the committee leaders can get into contact with the VP Finance to have something included in the budget.

Return to previous motion.

c. Motion Regarding the Joint Board of Directors and Legislative Council Special Committee on Anti-Semitism Presentation (5)

VP Herpin presents the motion.

Shira is a representative from Chabad McGill, and points out that there were “two”, not “one” clause of the Ottawa protocol that did not pass with consensus.



President Tojiboeva motions to amend the clause to reflect the stated changes. There are no objections.

Proxy Decunha asks where the Terms of References can be found. President Tojiboeva responds that it should be on the Board of Directors page on the SSMU website.

VP Earle asks if Council could know which two clauses of the Ottawa protocol were not passed by consensus. Shira from the gallery responds that the two clauses were the “let it be clear clause” and the “self-determination clause”. It still passed by majority, with 6 in favour and 1 opposed. A footnote was added so that their views could be heard as to why they did not pass it.

Councillor Savage states a concern with the definition of anti-Semitism. As someone who is pro-BDS, the Councillor worries about being automatically labelled anti-Semitic. Gallery member Shira says that it is important to remember that numerous hours and meetings were put into debating just these few sentences, and it's important to let Jewish students define anti-Semitism. The Councillor's concerns are valid, and are addressed in the footnote.

Councillor Campbell states that we try to respect rules on timely submission of motions. Normally, motions submitted less than 48 hours in advance automatically become notices of motion so that Councillors can really think about them and talk to their constituents. The Councillor asks what qualifies this as an urgent motion rather than a notice of motion that could allow Councillors that time. The speaker confirms that it was submitted less than 48 hours ago. As such, a 2/3 majority will be needed in order to make this a main motion.

VP Earle asks if legislative council and the Board should also receive training, as they can also perpetuate violence against Jewish students. The committee representatives agree that it would be useful for Councillors to receive this kind of training.

The committee representative explains that they wanted to present it at this council instead of the next because next council falls on Passover, and so the representatives would be unable to attend.

VP Oke asks if a vote is still needed to turn the motion into a notice of motion. The speaker is looking into exactly what the process is.

Move to debate.



Proxy Decunha asks if amendments can be made to the committees that exist at this time, because they are part of the terms of reference. The speaker answers that their understanding is that on the spot no amendment could be made at this exact moment. It could be changed, but not exactly now.

Councillor Chan asks if, instead of having a single person be the reference for allegations of anti-Semitism on campus, it would be better to have it be the whole committee. Perhaps, for transparency's sake, it would be better to have the whole committee rather than one person act as a reference when it comes to handling complaints.

Councillor Campbell responds that this seems to already be the case in a separate section of the motion.

Councillor Chan motions to strike that the researcher is used as a reference for complaints, to make sure it isn't read to that power is put in the hands of one person.

Proxy Decunha has submitted an amendment to the parliamentarian. The Councillor wants to add that when the Board and Legislative Council nominate committee members, the individuals should state what side they are on in certain contentious issues.

VP Herpin wants Proxy Decunha to elaborate on what is meant by the amendment.

Proxy Decunha responds that it is kept intentionally vague so that the Councillor can state, for instance, if they currently sit on IJV McGill or another organization.

VP Herpin asks Proxy Decunha if they think that this could become an issue in terms of discrimination against certain people who could be qualified to sit on the committee based on their experiences and values. Proxy Decunha might need to think about this more, but the Councillor doesn't think it is inherently discriminatory to state potential conflicts of interest. The Councillor adds that the Councillor hasn't had much time to think on this.

Proxy Minden motions to extend debate for one minute. Seconded by Councillor Bulger. Motion passes.

Councillor Minden has an issue with this amendment because it reduces the experiences of an individual to their experience with certain organizations. We have to remember that people experience anti-Semitism in an individual way.

A Councillor motions to extend debate by 5 minutes. Seconded.



VP Spencer suggests that perhaps individuals could disclose whether they have experiences with the groups already represented on the committee, to ensure no group is overrepresented.

Councillor Lametti agrees with the spirit of the amendment, but is worried that it might come from a fear of hidden agendas. The Councillors hopes that next year's councils and board of directors will have a productive discussion and stop seeing this as people with hidden convictions. This amendment is sort of moved if we truly believe that people will do a good job next year, which the Councillor thinks is the case.

VP Herpin believes that this committee was put together to represent the various Jewish communities at McGill, and is confused as to why folks would still have to disclose their community affiliation, as all communities are already represented.

Councillor Chan again suggests amending the motion to remove the line regarding the researcher being used as a reference for allegations of anti-Semitism. Right now, there are contradictions.

Councillor Campbell thinks it is possible to have more than one reference on an issue, which might be part of what the committee that wrote this motion had in mind. The committee and the researcher might together offer a more complete reference.

Councillor Chan motions to extend debate by 3 minutes. Seconded by Councillor Bulger.

Gallery member Shila confirms Councillor Campbell's interpretation of the motion. The intention was that both the researcher and the committee would collaborate to address allegations of anti-Semitism.

Councillor Chan feels that there is a lack of clarity, and perhaps it could be rephrased. The Councillor feels more structured language should be put forward to ensure there is no confusion in the future.

The speaker explains that a 2/3 vote of Council is needed to make this a motion rather than a notice of motion, by waiving the deadline.

Councillor Chan motions to strike the highlighted clause. Seconded by Councillor Dinh.

The speaker adds that it is implied in the adoption of the agenda that a 2/3 approval has already taken place. Councillor Lametti contends that it should have



been put into the agenda as a notice of motion, which was a mistake, so 2/3 should still be needed.

President Tojiboeva motions to amend Councillor Chan's amendment to add "in conjunction with the committee" instead of striking the whole line. The amendment to the amendment is friendly. The overall amendment is also friendly.

Motion to waive the deadline to allow this to be a motion, rather than notice of motion. Requires 2/3 majority. Move to vote by placard. With one opposed and the rest in favour, this passes.

VP Oke motions to add a BIR clause in order to address Councillor Decunha's concern. VP Oke motions for a three minute recess to write the amendment. Seconded by Councillor Chan. Motion passes.

Councillor Dinh motions to move to the next point on the agenda until this amendment is ready, and then return to this motion. Seconded. Motion passes.

The submitted amendment is shown on the screen. It is not friendly. A simple majority vote will be needed.

Councillor Savage motions for the unfriendly amendment to be added. Seconded by Proxy Decunha.

Councillor Lametti asks what the members of the Committee on Anti-Semitism think of the amendment. Hani from the gallery says that all committee members are friendly to this amendment.

VP Herpin says that if the committee is friendly to the amendment, the VP will vote for it. They disagree, however, with the idea that a motion was brought forward by a group based on consensus, and that members here then felt the need to change it despite not being a part of the group or discussions who created this motion.

Move to vote on the amendment. The motion passes with one abstention and the rest in favour.

VP Spencer motions to add one minute to debate. Proxy McLaughlin seconds. Motion passes.

VP Spencer cedes time to gallery member Hani. Hani is part of Independent Jewish Voices McGill, and part of the committee. The member wants to read the footnotes of the motion out loud, so that everyone has a chance to access them.



The Speaker asks VP Herpin to read the footnotes, as this VP was the original reader of the motion.

Move to vote on main motion. The motion passes with two abstentions and the rest in favour.

10. Reports by Committees

a. Executive Committee (5)

President Tojiboeva presents the report.

b. Steering Committee (5)

Speaker Dolmat presents the report.

Councillor Zhou asks what the attendance record of the other management representative is. The speaker responds that the other management representative resigned, meaning there are currently no management representatives.

Councillor Zhou asks if something will be done with MUS to take follow-up action. The President responds that MUS has been informed and they can take steps to replace the Councillors.

Councillor Campbell asks if anyone has been in contact with Management and if any work is being done to try to fix and improve the relationship that evidently doesn't really exist. The Councillor notes that from their experience as a Proxy last year, the struggling relationship is not a one-year problem. The speaker responds that every Management representative was contacted but no one responded, and the speaker will prioritize having the best possible relationship next year.

VP Herpin responds that the Management representatives for next year have already been represented, and asks whether they could be put on Council. The speaker responds that this will be discussed after Council. It's a very unique situation that hardly ever happens, but that is a valuable idea.

Senator Mansdoerfer explains that 2 Management senators have been impeached from Senate, and Management Councillors were the only ones who had Fs on their accountability reports last year, so is the SSMU doing anything to try to rehabilitate this relationship?



VP Herpin is a student of Management and can attempt to negotiate with the Management execs and see what can be done, and present some kind of action plan. Institutionally, VP Herpin is concerned about to what extent SSMU can hold Management accountable, and this would need to be discussed.

Move to vote to approve the report. 2/3 majority needed. Vote by placard. Motion passes unanimously.

c. Equity Committee (5)

Helen and Robin are Equity commissioners, here to present what they have been up to for the past few months. The commissioners have been working with VP Oke to do Equity policy revisions, along with their other work.

They have also scheduled focus groups next week Monday and Tuesday for folks to give their feedback on the Equity Policy. They will also be here at next Legislative Council.

The main goal of the Equity committee is to work on events. They had a Halloween event on cultural appropriation, and they are now working on a comedy event. They are also planning a support space for students of colour to reflect on events. Many committee members are also student leaders in their own respects, so there is a lot of discussion over things that happen in these communities.

A reason that they want to have a target focus group for student representatives is that it is relevant to the policy. The committee has also conducted various trainings, and are generally approached by groups. For instance, an in-depth consultation was provided to IRSAM. A mediation was also engaged with the McGill Debating Union for a case that was internal to the club. They have also done consultations with Frosh, and it is standard practice for Equity commissioners to be involved with this. They have also worked with HR to see how HR complaints might be handled in the future and how it interacts with the equity policy. They also worked on the gender neutral motion that recently came to Council.

Helen also sits on a joint board on Equity in order to represent SSMU. Most recently, a student-led equity symposium was held during Black history month, which was very widely attended.

They have also participated in discussing solutions to Islamophobia.

In terms of barriers to the job, there was a lack of institutional memory this year. There was also a fair bit of segmentation between equity-based groups on



campus. They were brainstorming ways to kind of link the equity groups between faculties, in order to build a community and also to get numbers on issues that students face. Another issue that the commissioners faced was institutional issues in SSMU in terms of how the democracy works and trying to get access, which put them in kind of a precarious situation at times.

They have also been in consultation with the SSMU GSVP. In general, they are finding that they are becoming a go-to for situations that they don't have much autonomy over, which they are looking to address next year.

VP Spencer asks how folks in the room can get in contact with the Equity commissioners to give feedback on policy. The Commissioner responds that they can be emailed, and that information on the upcoming consultations will also be sent out.

Councillor Chan asks if delegates from faculties should be sent to the meeting. The Commissioners respond that the meeting is closed to legislative council, but Councillors should bring their knowledge through consultation.

Councillor Campbell asks for more detail on the committee that brings faculties together. Helen answers that this does not yet exist, but they would like it to exist. It's hard to find information about the various equity portfolios on campus, but it's all with the goal of creating more equity support on campus. Councillor Campbell responds that this room may be the perfect resource, and getting in touch with Councillors may be a good idea. Councillor Campbell, for instance, can send info about Engineering over after this meeting.

Return to previous main motion, as amendment is ready.

11. Councillor Reports

a. First Year Council Representative, Anthony Koch

Tabled.

b. Music Representative, Michelle Nadon-Bélanger

Councillor Nadon-Belanger presents the report.

Councillor Campbell says that difficulties contacting Malcolm seem very peculiar. Councillor Nadon-Belanger hopes to receive a response soon.

12. Executive Reports



a. VP (Student Life) (3)

VP Earle presents the report.

b. VP (Internal) (3)

VP Koparkar presents the report.

c. VP (University Affairs) (3)

VP Oke presents the report.

Councillor Jiao asks if there is a timeline for the semi-private workout spaces. VP Oke is unsure of a specific timeline, but funds were just allocated and they have certain time constraints attached. Councillor Jiao follows up to ask why the money is coming from a SSMU fund, and why Councillor Jiao was not consulted. VP Oke is not sure and was not part of the process.

Councillor Campbell asks if more in-depth integration of the three health offices is occurring beyond just putting the registration offices together. VP Oke responds that the path that Student Services is taking seems to be that instead of separating services by the office, they are trying to separate the services by the needs, like the reasons why students access the services. In terms of the reception, the idea is that a triage person would help you determine which service to go to. This would be instead of going to counselling, and having them tell you it's the wrong service.

Councillor Campbell asks if there is any collaboration happening with the OSD as well, since a lot of disabilities do involve some element of mental or physical care. VP Oke responds that the goal is eventually to better integrate all services, but the integration they are doing now is what they got funding for, which is limited. They are also developing a Health and Wellness Strategy which will facilitate these ties.

d. VP (External) (3)

VP Spencer presents the report.

e. VP (Finance) (3)

VP Herpin presents the report.

f. President (3)



President Tojiboeva presents the report.

13. Confidential Session

14. Adjournment 23:12

The meeting is adjourned at 11:12 PM.

Muna Tojiboeva, SSMU President



Catharina O'Donnell, Recording Secretary