

Meeting of the Legislative Council

1) Call to Order 6:12 pm

2) Attendance

The attendance was circulated by the Speakers of Council

3) Adoption of the agenda

President Knight made a motion to add New Business b Notice of Motion: Advanced Polling. This amendment and the agenda were adopted.

4) Approval of the minutes - 12/01/11

President Knight said that there is an amendment for the December 1st minutes. Vice-President Fraser made a motion to amend Macey's to MACES. The approval of the minutes is tabled, due to the incorrect recording of a vote. The GA is January 26th and it must be clear whether or not that vote was recorded correctly, because of the relevance to the motion. The agenda was amended so that this issue will be voted upon later in the session, after section 7, Announcements.

5) Report of the Steering Committee

Jana Luker will be invited to a future meeting. The final reading of the SSMU ethical investment policy was submitted and there are no new motions being brought forward. There was a formal reply from the dentistry representative who will be pursued as a guest speaker.

6) Guest speaker

6a. Rose Goldstein, Vice-Principal (Research and International Relations)

Dr. Rose Goldstein has submitted a memo regarding the Strategic Research Plan (SRP) Context and Consultation. She said that she will look forward to entertaining questions. She would like to talk about the principles of the research plan, emphasizing excellence in research and education. These two elements are not present in every research plan. She is proud to be able to talk about students engaging in international relations. Given the research intensity at McGill and the importance of the nexus between being both being education oriented and research oriented. Being a student undergrad or grad can be enriched by both of these aspects. By improving and supporting that McGill can become even better, more unique, and the best in the world it is a hallmark of McGill that this important nexus is supported, and we want researchers to be in the classroom with us. The nexus between research and education among grad students is more obvious but it is a unique quality and strength at the undergraduate level. Dr. Goldstein would also like to improve the nexus of international at McGill. She says she has the best administrator at McGill and the interaction with McGill. This is the draft title: Understanding and Improving the Human Condition in a Globalized World. It touches upon the understanding, the disciplinary research, encompasses the concept of academic freedom and research wherever we need to understand well in order to improve the human condition. We should bring that discovery into the applied realm. The human condition is unique in a time when we talk about technology and bring back our focus to humanity. We have to be improving technology for the purpose of improving the human condition and engaging with the community locally, nationally, and internationally. The matrix for research shows how different priority research areas which touch upon important, complex

questions. How can we be excellent at all research priorities. For example, Sustainability might be a cross-cutting different areas of expertise and could touch every research theme in itself. All research priority areas are listed in the memo. Consultation and feedback will lead to both an aspirational and inspirational plan. Researchers are inspired by the complex questions that they want to discover. This will come to the website: www.mcgill.ca/research/strategic-research-plan or srp@mcgill.ca

Questions:

Vice-President Pedneault looked at page 2 of the memorandum and said that the report lists that there will be “training opportunities” for students to conduct research and asked if those opportunities had been logistically determined. Ms. Goldstein said that the plan will include action steps and measure to be taken including increased opportunities in the summer, during coursework and outside of coursework. There are a lot of programs that offer student research in the summer. One outcome is going to be in an increase in opportunities at companies and communities hope to be more available

Senator Dinel said she found a lack of concentration on the humanities whereas this discusses the human condition as a primary focus. What involves ethics should include the humanities, so how are they incorporated in this strategy? Ms. Goldstein replied that there was a lot of participation and consultation with the humanities and social sciences. International Relations has increased the representation in social sciences and humanities. We have heard those concerns, have responded, and continue to respond. International Relations is continuing to monitor that and receive feedback. This is supposed to be very inclusive and include the humanities in an equal way. Identity, public policy, and transformation priorities give a lot of room for humanities. We will ensure the contribution for social sciences and humanities. The theme for understanding the human condition will force us to include these areas and our understanding will be helped by those disciplines implementing or understanding.

Councillor Clarke asked a question regarding the nexus between education and resource. It excites him that the report outlines that professors’ expertise should be linked with students. He heard of some amazing initiatives at the joint board-senate retreat, but those there were exceptional examples. He would appreciate if there were more instances of this happening, and asked what resources will be made to make sure that happens.

Ms. Goldstein said that lot of ideas came up at that retreat. There, it was reinforced that this is important to students, staff, and the McGill community. Follow-ups from that retreat will play nicely into the implementation of more projects. There are centres like the centre that support student-faculty research interaction such as the centre for faculty development. Resources are there but focus, attention, and planning like that meeting are important.

Councillor Burnett said that something that wasn't discussed is the role of the private sector in university research. How do you think increasing the role of the private sector would shift priorities from where they are now?

Ms. Goldstein said that she hears the concern, and is wondering if it is right, that the private sector might run the research priorities. She said Industrial Relations' engagement with the private sectors will be driven by our principles in the areas that we have chosen. She thinks not engaging at all is not a viable option. This SRP includes will interacing with funding agencies and other partnerships including the private sector.

Councillor Kunev asked "How does this involve the private sector in terms of technology and expression?"

Ms. Goldstein said that technology has been discussed in music, health promotion and technology, a role of biotechnology and bioengineering, and capitalizing on the biosciences revolution, using methods and tools for engineering. Science and engineering is very much a part of the plan.

Councillor Kunev asked about the role of nanotechnology.

Ms. Goldstein said this plan is more of an outline and does not go into such specific detail at this point, but in what areas technology would be used.

Councillor Niu asked if this would be focused on basic research or more clinical research.

Ms. Goldstein said that the plan has to balance the understanding of research and the improving clinical research, focusing on clinical research.

Vice-President Pedneault said that Ms. Goldstein had mentioned this is a way of preventing the private sector from driving the research priorities. How could consultation on this specific topic be integrated in this process?

Ms. Goldstein said this is simply and introduction in today's talk, but this issue came up at PGSS council last night. This is in this document and will be written in the final SRP document itself. What a strategic research plan is for is so that to guide researchers, and nobody else will be in charge of research priorities. The proof is the implementation. We will be held accountable to that.

7) Announcements

Vice-President Patel said that club fund deadline is January 28th. He is going to be taking a mini-course, is open to suggestions, and would like someone to join him.

Vice-President Fraser said that winter activities night is today and will have interactive aspects as well as tabling. You will hear back on Monday about tabling from the clubs listserv so please stop by.

Councillor Paterson said that tonight is back to reality night. She said please come and enjoy TNT and dress like a reality show character. There is an open forum discussion to the Jutras report in senate and there will be a livestream. If there are

any comments please come to Senate, as the fire code regulations have been reviewed, and now allow more visitors.

Councillor Uribe-Arango said that everyone on this Council rocks his world. IRC is throwing a valentine's party and looks forward to seeing everyone there.

Chair Nizam asked how often people come to the other events to which he has invited them

Councillor Uribe-Arango said that they have come.

Councillor Doyle said that CoffeehAUS is going to happen soon. Hailey Dinell, Airport, and Effusion will be performing. Bring a reusable cup for a discount on coffee. All proceeds will be going to a charity for sex trafficking.

Councillor Bi said that a contest is being held at AUS, and asked people to sign up if interested. It will involve jello.

Councillor Kouilova said that the Desautels business conference on sustainability is starting on January the 19th and the business school's sustainable booksale is going on until the 19th.

Councillor Clarke said that the law faculty is hosting a loft party for \$5 at L'union francaise, close to the Berri-Uqam metro.

Vice-President Pedneault said that all of next week will be an event called education week. SSMU, PGSS, QPIRG, and the community alliance are all involved in running events. More info is available at education-week.info. He will be doing a workshop on Quebec society.

President Knight said that in addition to Councillor Kourilova's announcement about sustainability, there is a summit on sustainability with a number of McGill staff present and then a student-only period. This will lay the foundation for the strategic plan at the end of the year. It will be looking at the social society of sustainability as well. The deadline for motions in advance is next week. There is a facebook event. If each Councillor brings two other people we will reach quorum. There will be a "so you want to be a SSMU exec meeting" before next council to hear more about what SSMU execs do. The opt-in campaign will happen soon and Vice-President Patel will be circulating a document about how those funds are helping people.

Councillor Qin said that next Sunday will be Chinese new year's eve and said that three things you can do is watch "tradition" the Chinese new year performance on CCTV, so google that on the 23rd you can go to an MCSS, and the time and date is on facebook. There is another party by CSSA on Friday. The food is really good and this happens in Chinatown.

Councillor Burnett said that students in the faculties in Arts and Science have been organizing assemblies on the Tuesday and Wednesday of next week, so check that out.

Vice-President Clare got animated with her announcement, and demonstrated the human suggestion box with the help of a volunteer from the gallery. The suggestion box will take suggestions about the consultation fair on January 14th from 4:30-6:30. You can approach a lot of your constituents when wearing the suggestion box and ask them questions. If you want to borrow it, the box will be in the SSMU lounge. A doodle will be sent out and everyone should do it. Also they are looking to reform the student handbook and the student code of conduct. She asked that any interested Councillor send her an e-mail and is looking into alternative ways to present information. She said that if you are interested or have any ideas about compiling this project please let her know.

Chair Nizam said that the Canadian delegation to the G20 summit is accepting applications. She will be applying. If you are interested in that please let her know and she can help with the process. She said if there are no further announcements we will pause for a few moments to find the information about the December 1st minutes.

The Recording Secretary made a statement apologizing that the recorded vote for the Motion Regarding Reform of the SSMU General Assembly was wrong. She has looked in her records and was unable to find the actual vote. She mentioned that there are many mistakes in the minutes including the misspelling of names and acronyms, and apologized for any inconveniences. However, she is certain that the actual vote passed this motion.

President Knight mentioned that the Recording Secretary was especially tired at that time and that it was her birthday.

Chair Nizam would request that the past minutes be amended to read that the motion regarding the reform of the SSMU general assembly carried by a simple majority.

A motion passed to amend the minutes of December 1st to read that the motion regarding the SSMU General Assembly carried.

8) Question Period

President Knight asked if Vice-President Fraser needs volunteers for Activities Night.

Vice-President Fraser said yes. There is no need for set-up volunteers because the porters are back but yes there will be a meeting next Wednesday night for volunteers.

Councillor Paterson said that week 101 has been very successful, but asked Vice-President Plummer to outline some successes.

Vice-President Plummer said that it has been a big success and yesterday it was packed until 1:30am.

Chair Nizam requested some charts comparing this year and last for the next meeting of Council.

Councillor Paterson asked what the budget is of Week 101.

Vice-President Plummer said that it is part of the Gerts budget. The Gerts product is being sold and Gerts expenses are incurred during the night. The budget is quite limited. He said sure to the request that he bring something for next Council.

Councillor Uribe-Arango asked what will happen to the seat of the Councillor from dentistry

President Knight said that the Councillor from dentistry resigned dentistry and does not know when their seat will be replaced. It is difficult for anyone in the faculty to commit to the workload as dentistry students have a lot of lab requirements.

The Dias welcomed Vice-President Clare's father to the gallery.

Vice-President Fraser asked if "**** ssmu execs say" could be a TVM segment.

Vice-President Plummer said that he called TVMcGill today to ask that they do a segment on executives.

Councillor Dinel said that it would be important and explicative of what the SSMU does and who represents SSMU

Councillor Paterson said that that would make SSMU more personable and there is a possibility to do other segments.

Councillor Hernandez said that he could do it if they would not like that.

Chair Nizam said that there should be a wide variety attempts to make sure that we are fulfilling our mandate with as much voracity as possible.

Vice-President Plummer asked what is being done to fill the empty Arts Rep seats

Councillor Bi said that they will try to elect someone from AUS Council which consists of the Vice-President externals from all departments as well as AUS executives. Hopefully by next Council meeting we will be able to fill that seat.

Councillor Hernandez asked if there is a Council YouTube account.

Vice-President Plummer said there is a SSMU account.

9) New Business

9a. Motion Regarding Five Year Ethical Investment Plan

Vice-President Patel said that he is a rock star and will continue to stand for his report.

The FERC coordinator, Sad Ghazi, is present in the gallery.

Vice-President Patel said that it is a five-year policy and should have been passed five years ago. He believes that if we are making investments they should be in line with our mandates. If we have mandates we should be more clear. This is something that is more ethical and falls in line with SSMU's principles.

Councillor Bi asked if anyone has consulted the investment advisor who takes care of our portfolio and how this will affect our bottom line.

Vice-President Patel said that our bottom line is not the most important thing. SSMU is a not-for-profit student organization. His recommendations are that he works for a student union so he is very adaptable to those things. The committee did research beforehand to make sure that these are viable options. This portfolio was given to us at a time when SSMU was undergoing financial difficulties. Research was circulated and there was a document last semester that was circulated.

Sad said that normal funds versus socially responsible funds outperformed regular funds in many areas.

Councillor Clarke asked whether SSMU is not concerned with the bottom line not the most profit or not lose money. If we are investing these corporations that are losing money do we drop out or do we stop the point. Do these stocks perform just as well in recession as other corporations?

Vice-President Patel said that the bottom line is not as important to us, but the triple bottom line is more important. The triple bottom line looks at sustainability, profit, and a bunch of other things. In terms of the recession our portfolio is doing very well right now. The comptroller receives updates from Lester management. He mentioned that many of these are SRIs, and includes their investments and how they are performing.

Sad said the study he was looking at was over this year, so the economic indicators have not changed much.

Debate began on this motion:

President Knight said that this policy is very thorough and he thinks that we can be proud of in terms of student leadership in unions and someone from the University of Alberta talked to her about the formal plan and was looking forward to hearing about its being made more comprehensive and better.

Councillor Bi spoke against supporting this, which she said includes an investment in union activity. In this model, we are not going to have MNCs that are not going to make money on their own. If some of these underperform, MNCs would overperform in the long term and the portfolio would not be volatile. We cannot say that we want to eliminate everything that we feel uncomfortable with because that does not diversify our risk.

Senator Dinell said that no matter whether we have a recession or not, small or large cap companies is not a concern. If as a body we want to maintain in all of our policy a cohesive mission statement this should be adopted. We are not going to invest in all small corporations tomorrow, this will happen overtime.

Vice-President Pedneault said that what interested him are the percentages in the 5-year plan. The percentages would be over and above what the investments

currently are. He asked what the Council would think of not putting any numbers in. He said that these percentages could be a lot larger and responsible investment plans could already exist. He is wondering if we could remove numbers altogether.

Vice-President Patel said that the percentages are in addition to current portfolio to ensure that we have a tangible goal because it is very difficult to quantify things. These percentages, we feel, will be more robust and show how we are actually achieving the portfolio. In terms of the specific plan the SSMU wants what is ethical. Actually, SSMU is doing very well and we have the numbers to prove it.

Councillor Clarke said he shares some of the concerns of Councillor Bi but said that according to the plan, mid-year reviews will be happening and this will make sure that it is viable for students.

Councillor Plummer asked why we are deciding not to invest in tobacco or porn companies across the board and would like to do more research into specific firms.

Vice-President Patel said that on behalf of himself he would like to say that equity is important, women's rights are human rights, and this should be at the forefront of SSMU. We refer to more corporations that have these and this is what we have.

Vice-President Clare said that there is some sex-positive pornography which improves women's rights and men's rights and is a point of employment.

Sad said that the decision not to invest in tobacco or pornography at all is based on the ethical business policy which states that SSMU would not be dealing with tobacco, gambling, or pornography companies.

Councillor Burnett asked about the Vice-President finance's views and the view that came out about the concerns that the ethical investment policy is intended to address. For example, there are specific concerns like tar sands and there is a question about whether the portfolio is acting as a shareholder activist or whether it addresses itself through a variety of forums with different strategies and tactics.

Vice-President Patel said that the FERC wants to implement this because it will make the committee more active. Shareholder activism is part of it, but it does not mean that everything will be changed. It means that we want to engage in dialogue, for example go to meetings, bring back things, and report to Council. Actually attending meetings such as the Board of Directors is also important.

President Knight said that she does not think there is any likelihood that the portfolio would be involved in anything anti-democratic and going to shareholder meetings is probably not the number one priority of most students. We should hold it accountable "leadership in matters of human rights, social justice" keep in mind the effects of business interaction with students. In terms of the numbers, setting targets is important for instituting reporting that is a requirement. She

said that she would advise against removing the numbers entirely to keep it accountable.

Vice-President Pedneault said that SSMU is undertaking a project such as renovating Gerts and others and is wondering when this money will be liquidated and how that affects the forecast of this investment plan.

Vice-President Patel said that he has been working on a financial plan for the SSMU which will be brought to Council for approval. This is the first time it is happening. It is being worked on by himself, the General Manager and the comptroller. The portfolio has been taking on big projects and enables us to be viable financially. There will be an amount leftover after liquidation for renovations projects.

Vice-President Pedneault would like to amend the motion to add the word “minimum” before all of the numbers. That amendment was friendly and passed.

A motion to previous question passed.

With a vote of 23 for, 1 opposed, and two abstaining this motion regarding the five year ethical investment plan carried.

9b. Discussion Regarding Dean Jutras’ Report

A straw poll was done on those who read the report. Many had read the report and Vice-President Clare said that there will be a live discussion on it. Senators will be representing you so if there are any specific questions that you would like them to articulate, please let them know.

President Knight said that what we are looking for is a general sense on the report, whether you think it was fair, whether anything was omitted. She said it would be valuable to hear some of those concerns.

Councillor Clarke said that when he read the recommendations he thought they were really fluffy but upon further reflection he appreciated that they are vague and asking for further consultation. Dean Jutras’ report says that we need to come together and talk, and said that the procedures should be relevant and include everyone at the table.

Councillor Chaini said that his efforts in seeing what he could were commendable and now it is up to the administration to look at police on campus and all of these types of policies. It was not up to him to decide.

Senator Dinell said that the purpose of this discussion is to come up with some ideas about how to respond to the report. She asked how we think we should move forward. Administration should move forward and so should students. Do we want to have a working group, or a committee? What should be the first steps?

Vice-President Pedneault said that he was at the most recent PGSS meeting. The motions that were passed include endorsing the principles of an independent student inquiry, PGSS be mandated to lead a critical discussion in Senate about the report, a permanent panel of students and administrators who would be able to address those tangible events. Dean Jutras said that he was not able to look into those aspects in his investigation and we should look into broader contextual measures. PGSS wanted further investigation and was not satisfied with the investigation as it was structured.

President Knight said that there will be a lot of important issues addressed in the report. That being said, she said she does not want that to be a role of someone else. There is a recommendation of security policies and how they should deal with protests. Students should be involved in designing those. The issue of communication with student groups was raised as well as anyone interested in a process. There was no recognition that communication with student groups would help to care for student groups in that situation.

Councillor Uribe-Arango said that one of his constituents under 18 was affected by the events of November 10th. There are some questions that haven't been answered by the Dean Jutras report. He asked how far the independent inquiry has gone to address those issues and whether it is still accepting submissions.

Vice-President Pedneault said that they are still looking into their final report but the preliminary report was pretty thorough and is online. It should be sometime within January.

Councillor Paterson said that SSMU does not have its own contingency plan to an intruder to the building. She understands what Councillor Clarke is saying about further investigation. She thinks that SSMU should have its own plan to prove that it is possible to have such a policy.

President Knight said that the SSMU does have such a plan and that the security supervisor advises on that annually.

Vice-President Clare said that it was interesting that the report highlighted a lot of grey zones where we did not know what was happening. The primary victims of November 10th were underwritten and there is a lack of the human aspect of November 10th. Another thing that struck her was the professor was tackled and pepper sprayed which was widely reported in many sources including CBC, but was not in the report indicating disjuncture between certain events that were widely publicized, and certain information that was published in the report.

Senator Dinel said that it should be brought up at Senate that SSMU does have an emergency plan.

Councillor Burnett said that he is not a historian of McGill or an expert on security services but the administrative response in terms of reworking policies, McGill finds ways to make its security more repressive and represses political activity in the

past. In cumulative form the report may have indicated how the events came out. McGill may be taking things seriously more than it has in the past. A likely direction of where this is going to take allows students to talk about that on campus. Has more respect but would like to have a broader discussion about how to protect freedom of discussion on campus.

Vice-President Pedneault said that it was interesting as acting as a historical document. He said there was a lot of information. There were some weird moments where Jutras cast doubt on certain events like that the police rode on bicycles and pushed into the crowd but that happened and there is new evidence. He said something about renaming the "James square" "community square" and said that a way to effectively address the events of that day. He said that the fact that people can't think this kind of stuff can happen at McGill just shows how this kind of stuff can happen at McGill. He says that these things happened and people don't know that they did happen people might be able to block it out or disbelieve it. We can't imagine how difficult it would be to support these issues and we will have to go beyond many structures including collecting testimonies and witnesses for other testimonies in his opinion that is going to be the only truly effective way of addressing these events.

Vice-President Clare said, in response to Councillor Burnett's statement has been in the handbook. She has been in contact with the dean of students. In the current revision of the code of student conduct there is a new section for student protests and allowing student protests on campus. She has acknowledged the need and will be changing the code so that it is gender neutral. She encourages people to get involved in policies being informed and developed at McGill.

Report of the Vice-President University Affairs

The Vice-President UA stood for questions. Seeing none, she was thanked for her report.

10) Reports by Committees

10a. Community Engagement Committee

The community engagement committee coordinator presented the report. He is a student senator as well. This is the first formal report of the Community Engagement Committee. It shows the history of the committee. Many may not know of the committee or what it is trying to do. Last year there was a student initiated referendum question which called for a \$0.50 per year student fee which would be going toward humanitarian initiatives. That passed in November 2010 and the committee first convened in February. Between March-April there were 15 applications from SSMU clubs and services and allocated \$10,000 to initiatives that were mostly fundraisers. The funding committee was very vague. It was supposed to ensure equal opportunity in the community and world, so that debate boiled down to people's opinions. A bunch of people got together to make the funding criteria more concrete and less vague and included people from SEED and the community. Some of the things that came out were the need for direct community engagement,

partaking in projects with community organizations. We were working with organizations that were charitable but working with student groups and not directly with organizations. In May 2011, more specific criteria were developed to avoid the ambiguity problem and the approval for these criteria as well as the change to the name of the committee were approved. There have been no applicants for the position so far, but this semester the fund will be looked at more thoroughly and hope to solicit many more applications so that the committee will establish itself among services and within the community. For approval by Council, the hire of 2 SSMU interns is being brought forward. Those interns would work at the SEED office this semester, which is a service which would help members of students, staff, and faculty. These two student interns would work with a graduate student being hired to work on this project. He will leave it open to questions and comments.

President Knight said that the hiring of these students was already thoroughly discussed by the committee but all such decisions must be approved by Council.

Questions for the Commissioner:

Councillor Paterson said that she is concerned with SEED's part in this. She understands that SEED is funded by McGill and we as students are not getting anything from it. We are investing in something that we might not see action from in the future and this could still flop if McGill pulls the plug. What concern are we placing on the lack of financial support from McGill?

The commissioner said this is something that needs to be addressed. The two interns are going to be students and this project is going to working with pre-existing clubs and services of SSMU, such as Peace by Peace and this project and SEED's intent is to incorporate groups already engaged in the community with service day.

Councillor Paterson said that her concern with the McGill name is another thing like SACOMSS which McGill is failing to, and that is the heart of what she is saying. What should we do to prevent McGill for taking credit for what students are doing. The sustainability fund is also being applied to for the graduate student. Councillor Paterson asked if there is any guarantee in the hiring policy that it has to be a SSMU member?

The commissioner said that a hiring policy for the position has not been written.

Discussion began on the hiring of two SEED interns:

President Knight said that there are other models for student projects that are campus-wide and multi stakeholder such as stipends for market coordinators and for off-campus fellows. She said that SEED is going to be providing institutional support and McGill will be also contributing something. The projects of SEED should be mainstreamed. The 24 hour library services funding was approved by us but has been taken over by library services. The SSMU logo will be on their stuff and McGill would not be able to take full credit for this. Part of SEED's project is finding more sources of funding including Jana Luker's office. He

said that this was submitted over e-mail and his understanding was that funding is needed that way.

Vice-President Pedneault said that when a SSMU member does give money to McGill it is important to know that our guidelines will play out, and that hiring is done jointly.

Councillor Paterson made a motion to commit this in order to clarify the hiring process.

Chair Nizam clarified that the motion on the floor is to commit this decision back to the committee so that they can ask about the hiring process, and make sure that students hired would be SSMU members. If the Council decides to pass this motion to commit, the decision to hire the interns would be passed on to the committee and if not the decision to hire will be voted upon now.

With a vote of 20-3-2 this motion to commit the hiring of two interns for SEED passed.

The Commissioner was thanked for presenting the report.

10b. Executive Committee

President Knight stood for questions regarding the report.

Councillor Clarke said that they waived the ballroom entrance fee and asked about when that was waived.

President Knight is up to the building manager about when this policy will be waived. Vice-President Fraser said that the policy was waived because the event that took place is an important project with the First People's House.

The report of the Executive Committee was adopted.

11) Reports By Executives

11a. Vice-President Clubs & Services Report

Vice-President Fraser stood for questions.

Councillor Doyle asked whether they have gone through the mid-year survey, and if so which project was prioritized in the Shatner building.

The top priority was adding more reading space and the second was organic campus and green corner.

Councillor Burnett asked the Vice-President clubs and services what a volunteer could be doing with a free hour on activities night.

People should be directed throughout the building, crowd control, getting supplies and crowd control. She is not sure where and when people will be needed until Monday when a meeting will happen on Monday and a volunteer meeting will be happening on Wednesday.

Councillor Paterson asked for elaboration on the more interactive club displays this year at activities night.

Vice-President Fraser said that this event will be allowing a showcase of what each club normally does and an info session on a program that they do. There will be a green space set up and clubs and services will be using their office spaces more so that people will also know where they are located.

11b. Vice-President Finance & Operations

Vice-President Patel stood for questions, and, seeing none he was thanked for his report.

11c. Vice-President External

Vice-President Pedneault stood for questions.

Questions:

Councillor Kunev asked what the general word is on a student strike and McGill's participation.

Vice-President Pedneault said that an unlimited student strike would start in February or March on student increases, and he said that student activists are interested in working at the faculty association level in Arts and Sciences to encourage strikes at McGill. There would be tens of thousands of students on strike in March, hopefully creating enough economic pressure on the government to cancel an entire semester. The next ASSÉ meeting is January 27th.

Councillor Clarke asked what the future relations will be between SSMU and TaCEQ.

Vice-President Pedneault said that SSMU has stepped back for the last couple of years in the history of organizations and there was a perspective of having this movement more populous and that hasn't happened. Student associations are increasing and it is difficult to act as a social movement organization instead of a lobbying organization. That said, it might not have the same weight in terms of its students associations being on strike, at the negotiation table. What is frustrating is that some of them say that they are capable of creating mobilization but it doesn't seem to be organizing demonstrations.

Councillor Clarke asked if there is a membership fee to be a part of TaCEQ.

Vice-President Pedneault said that SSMU does pay into it and the amount budgeted this year is around \$6,900.

Councillor Doyle asked about the better neighbours website.

Vice-President Pedneault has not yet set up the website, but he imagines it being a blog with a simple website indicating when trash pick-up is, and a word from residents (including testimonials). Other stuff would be involvement in community activities, contacts. He can be contacted if anyone has further ideas.

Councillor Uribe-Arango thanked Vice-President Pedneault for the workshop today and said he thinks that it's great to have students involved. Through education week there are a lot of similar formats and some are targeting to certain groups of students. He would be interested in organizing more events like that in Rez.

Councillor Burnett asked if the Vice-President external could provide more information on developing policy on international students' tuition increases. Vice-President Pedneault said that he has been working on that mandate with TaCEQ and other groups but has been doing some research with Simon that would address not only fees but immigration, the ability to get visas, and housing information. He said that he is meeting tomorrow regarding education week to see how a discussion process could look.

11d. President

President Knight listed the number of Councillor self-evaluations that she received. She has received some from almost everyone but there is a list of those who have not yet sent their evaluations. One thing that was successful was that members of the Presidents' Roundtable presented to the President about the concern with the Deputy Provost's role. She is hoping they are going to be part of the faculty association listservs next week. Also, the President said that some sad family news is that her uncle passed away and she apologized if she may not be as organized as usual.

Chair Nizam offered her condolences on behalf of the Council.
President Knight was thanked for her report.

11d. Vice-President Internal

Vice-President Plummer stood for questions.

Questions:

Councillor Bi said that the report indicates fewer students than usual have gotten their picture taken for the yearbook. She asked how many arts students have gotten their pictures taken and how many should have gotten their picture taken.

Vice-President Plummer said that there are less than a hundred that have gotten their picture taken so far, but usually they have about 300 by this time of year.

Councillor Doyle said he has no idea on how to get his picture taken.

Vice-President Plummer said that he sent information to the AUS President about when and where this is happening.

A Councillor asked if anything is being planned for St. Patrick's Day.

Vice-President Plummer asked the bar manager if she wants more support for the event. She said has not asked for help yet and the event tends to be a success without much special planning.

Councillor Doyle asked if exam time puppies will be in the spring during midterms or during exams.

A straw poll indicated that Councillors would like exam time puppies to be present during both periods.

Vice-President Patel asked what the promotion strategy is going to be for Old McGill because SSMU has had difficulty promoting it in the past.

Vice-President Plummer said that people aren't buying printed yearbooks like they used to, so he has been approaching more targeted groups like faculty associations. He is thinking about which groups like buying a yearbook, for example it is very popular with education students. Also he has reduced the number of books for sale this year. Also, we are getting them earlier while students are still at school, rather than in the summer.

Councillor Winer asked what the café conversations are.

Vice-President Plummer said that it's a small event about living in the MPCC (Milton Parc Community). He said if anyone has ideas for questions for the event, please let him know.

12) Question Period

Vice-President Patel said thanks to Councillor Burnett for his submitting report every time, and to Councillor Kryluk for always submitting her report. She asked why so many Councillors find it difficult to submit a report. President Knight said that she will be setting up a chart about who submitted their report when. She is the Councillor who put forward this motion last year and having Councillor reports in the record is important. There is no excuse for not being more accountable to your constituents.

Councillor Doyle asked when there will be a committee meeting.

Vice-President Patel said that he sent a doodle for all of his committees and is patiently waiting for all who have submitted their availability. He hopes to meet next week and funding will meet for sure next week.

Councillor Kunev asked whether the Principal will be available as a guest speaker at Council soon.

President Knight said that the Council is continuing to wait and she has to be booked far in advance.

13) In-Camera Session

14) Adjournment 9:32pm