

Meeting Minutes of the Legislative Council

**1) Call to Order**

Chair Tong called this meeting to order at 6:14pm.

**2) Attendance**

The attendance was circulated.

**3) Adoption of the Agenda**

motion to amend a new point 10 in-camera session. This requires 2/3 majority to pass. This passed and the agenda was amended. This agenda was adopted.

**4) Approval of the Minutes – 03/15/12 – Meeting #1**

On page 3, the final count of the AUS General Assembly vote was amended to display the correct numbers: 495 for to 609 against. The minutes were thus amended and adopted.

**5) Approval of the Minutes – 03/15/12 – Meeting #2**

Councillor Kunev amended to strike “He is speaking against a need for quorum” on page 6. The second amendment was a misspelling, and in all instances FEARC should appear instead of FIERCE. A motion to adopt the minutes passed, and the minutes were adopted as amended.

**6) Report of the Steering Committee**

President Knight stood for questions.

Vice-President Fraser said President Knight was not at the meeting, though the minutes list her as present. President Knight said she was not there, as she was at the Scarlet Key ceremony.

Councillor Clarke asked the purpose, and the end goal of the discussion about the strike which is on the agenda for this evening.

Vice-President Fraser thought it might come up during question or announcement period, so it might as well be brought up on the agenda.

**The steering committee report was adopted.**

**7) Announcements**

Councillor Winer announced that next Tuesday April 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5-8pm in Lev Bukhman, SSMU will be hosting a clubs feedback forum planned by Flint, the SSMU intern. Everyone is encouraged to come out, and a lot of topics will be discussed. There is a conference titled Charles Taylor at 80 happening next week. He is an eminent and social philosopher.

Councillor Doyle announced that the A Final Affair event is taking part at the loft hotel. The dinner is sold out but you can buy tickets for the dance. Also, AUS teaching awards wine and cheese reception will be acknowledging professors and TAs with teaching excellence awards, as nominated by Arts students next Friday April 6<sup>th</sup>.

Vice-President Clare said that the deadline for applying to the Awards of Distinction is April 1<sup>st</sup> so please submit your nomination.

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Councillor Chaini said all those part of clubs and services should know that applications are open for advanced room bookings for Fall 2012.

Councilor Niu said that SUS is having their grad ball tomorrow with a reception at 9pm.

Councillor Uribe-Arango announced that RezEx is happening, which is like TedEx for rez.

Vice-President Plummer said SSMU Awards are happening on Wednesday April 11<sup>th</sup> at M Vice-President Sports Bar. Invites will be going out tomorrow or Monday.

Councilor Paterson said if you are looking to become an orientation leader summer 2012, there is a first year office form you should sign, and faculty-specific frosh. If you want to do frosh or other first-year related activities, sign up using those forms.

President Knight announced that President-elect Redel wants to be able to see what happens in Council. When he is in charge of making sure everything is happening next year he should know what is going on. Seeing no objections, Chair Tong approved that he could stay.

Councillor Clarke said that the LSA is having dogs in the law building from 11am-1pm tomorrow. Secondly, in Florida there was racial profiling and one of the comments stated was that someone was killed wearing a hoodie. There were 150 students and a few staff involved, and it is a fiasco. We should keep this in mind, as racial profiling is here as well.

Councillor Fletcher said this week is undergraduate research week with the AUS. In the gallery, there are a couple of representatives who were recently elected in the AUS elections and will be serving as Executives, Senate, or on AUS Council next year.

### **8) Question Period**

Councillor Fletched asked why the unapproved minutes are on the SSSMU website. President Knight said all documents go online so that people can see them. It is responsibility for speakers to show whether they are for approval or approved but it is standard procedure that they are online.

Councillor Dinel asked to see expenses for past six weeks, and for the past seven months, in the portfolio of the Vice-President External. She asked to see where each dollar is going.

Vice-President Patel said that anyone can check these figures and come to see him in his office. These have been audited. Bylaws say that every expense above \$100 is public and it is every Exec's responsibility to report above \$500 to the executive committee.

Counillor Clarke said thanks to the Vice-President External for responding to the law student who had a question.

Councillor Fletcher said he had a question about it last week, and he has another question regarding pro-strike events on facebook. If SSMU is attending an event, what message is that sending? He said he received an invite from the SSMU to an event regarding CLASSE economic disruption events and thought this was not appropriate because this Council has not discussed CLASSE's actions. Also, the event said that there was a possibility that students could be arrested and Councillor Fletcher does not think it's ok for invites to be sent to students if they could be arrested. He continued to receive information about the event.

Vice-President Pedneault said that he has been engaging with Councillor Fletcher by e-mail about these issues. That event was created using the tuitiontruth website and a SSMU staff member sent out info about it via SSMU's facebook page. As for the question that SSMU had not addressed this before, it is important to acknowledge that the event was taken off the SSMU facebook page, and all queries by e-mail were met with response. Vice-President Pedneault said that the student staff member took the text from the event, and sent a message to all those attending to do another event on his behalf. The message was sent to all those who had clicked attending on the SSMU event. Vice-President Pedneault said SSMU doesn't actually endorse this and actions were taken when it was discovered that the invitations were being sent out from the facebook page.

President Knight said part of it is an HR issue and the facebook event was created without Exec's knowledge and approval. It was discussed and Vice-President Clare and Vice-President Pedneault were called. SSMU's facebook account password was changed. There is also a notice on the profile with an apology. They are aware that it was a mistake and took what they believe to be appropriate actions.

Vice-President Plummer said that he, as responsible for communications, was last to know about this.

President Knight said that she was sure he had not initiated it, it was Vice-President Pedneault's student staff. President Knight apologized and said that she should have talked to him about it.

Councillor Kunev asked about the vaginal fisting workshop and there was a comment from Vice-President Fraser about this event not seeming to be out of the ordinary. Some engineers said it doesn't seem necessary in terms of sexual health. If we are going to do this kind of thing, we might as well have a blow job workshop.

Vice-President Fraser said it is not out of the ordinary because it has happened before this year. About the necessity of it, women's sexual health is not something that's talked about enough in our society and it should be talked about more on campus.

Councillor Fletcher said he has been having an exchange but asked why the SSMU has not issued a public statement?

Vice-President Pedneault said that SSMU's facebook wall has SSMU's friends on it. Writing out a formal apology would publicize that the fact that it happened even more. That would not solve any problems, it would just create more problems. Council could pass a motion to saying that SSMU should write a formal apology.

Councillor Fletcher said he was banned from the mob squad facebook group and he can't see the event on his personal facebook. He asked why he is still receiving messages from Kevin Paul if the event was deleted.

Vice-President Pedneault said that if he clicked attending on the event he could still be receiving messages. The facebook event is no longer part of SSMU's page, nor is it affiliated with SSMU. Kevin Paul is sending out messages about the event.

Councillor Fletcher said he is banned from the mob squad facebook group and strike occupy blockade group created under the mob squad group. He has a secondary facebook account and wanted to know exactly where to stay away from when he joined the event. When he clicks on the event it says that it does not exist. This is a lie, because the event is still live, it was just transferred in ownership.

Vice-President Pedneault said that there was no lying. The tuitiontruth event does not exist anymore, and there is a different event which is private. There is no SSMU event. Councillor Fletcher asked why he is still receiving messages.

Vice-President Pedneault said he can't explain Councillor Fletcher's facebook profile.

Vice-President Clare asked if Councillor Fletcher could talk to the student staff in question to clear this up.

Vice-President Pedneault said that he and Councillor Fletcher could clarify the situation now, in a way that he attempted to clarify over facebook. Those attending were invited to another event on facebook, which was not a part of SSMU.

Vice-President Pedneault said that if the issue raised is that Kevin Paul is still inviting other people to events in his private life, he would not be able to talk about that.

## **9) New Business**

### **9a. Discussion Re: Strike**

A committee of the whole began on this topic. Speaking time is 1 minute. Chair Tong will alternate between speakers from the gallery and speakers from the Council, starting with the Council.

Vice-President Pedneault said student strike has been lasting on student strikes built steam around the beginning in March and McGill later in month of March. The government is negotiating with students starting today and last Monday they announced that they would be willing to negotiate financial aid and considering post-graduation tax. It will be an interesting 2 weeks when the strike continues. Whether the strike will continue and see whether they are interested in opening up negotiation table.

Councillor Clarke posed a question to anyone able to answer. He asked if Minister Beauchamp had discussed the prospects for financial aid and whether that offer was well-received or not well-received.

Vice-President Pedneault said that the core issue of the strike is over tuition increases. It is not a gesture of good faith to say that negotiations will begin on another topic, and the issue that people have voted to strike on is tuition increases. Within 2 weeks the pressure has increased, and hopefully they will discuss the proposed tuition increases.

Councilor Paterson said that the concerns that she's heard from constituents are hard

pickets result in a lack of safe space. She heard complaints from students with classes in Leacock and arts. They have no access to their classroom and feel like they don't have safe space on campus. She tells people to call security because she is not sure what else to do when they say that. Soft picketing using aggressive tactics or hard picketing is not a safe space.

Councillor Uribe-Arango asked if students from other campuses have been hard-picketing on the McGill campus.

Vice-President Pedneault said that he knows that people from other campuses have been doing events on campus flyering and doing what they can about the strike.

Haila Herbert U1 English from the gallery asked if Vice-President External can disclose the total amount of money that's been spent on anti-tuition hikes and on the strike.

Vice-President Pedneault said that he could speak to tuition increases and strike. External affairs and campaigns budget are under his jurisdiction and he has mandates for accessible education, so a good chunk of his budget has gone to that.

Haila Herbert asked how much of those funds were allocated to mob squad.

Vice-President Pedneault said that mob squad is a facebook group and a listserv and you can't cut a check to mob squad.

Haila Herbert asked why reimbursements were made to Kevin Paul, Molly Swain, and Micha Stettin.

Vice-President Pedneault said that they were all carrying out SSMU's mandates. Molly Swain was reimbursed for flyers for the general assembly. Vice-President Externals cannot do everything for campaigning, and she was reimbursed for printing flyers that were directly supporting the portfolio.

Councillor Fletcher said that hard picketing and drumming is no way to get people to support a cause. He said don't interfere with their lives and don't drum—that is not a way to get anyone on your side.

Councilor Bi asked how much of the campaigns budget and extern budget have gone towards the issues that Kayla has raised.

Vice-President Patel said that if you have specific questions, you should come see him. Today during report you will get additional report of financial transactions as per that transaction. He is not computer so you will have to come by the office.

Councillor Fagen said we are extremely late at this but it would be a positive move for us as Council to come against hard picketing and disruptive tactics. Even if it's all over it would be a smart thing for us to do. Not that we were connected to it, but for perception's sake.

Jeremy Miller U2 philosophy and political science asked if Vice-President Pedneault has participated in picket lines outside of this university.

Vice-President Pedneault asked if it's true that he's been to picket lines outside of this university. He was at Concordia once in a soft picket line.

Jeremy Miller asked if that seems highly inappropriate.

Vice-President Pedneault said that he meant to liaise outside of McGill, and visiting

strike lines is not inappropriate given his position as a Vice-President External. Councillor Fagen asked if it's possible to start drafting a motion that would respond to the discontent.

Chair Tong said that a motion requires two movers like all motions and much be physical thing.

Councillor Dinel said that all of the information about spending is available, and she is wondering why he can't disclose the numbers spent.

Vice-President Patel said that the information is on specific accounting software and it's in the office right now. He said his duties are to be here at Council.

Councillor Dinel asked if they could be printed out.

Vice-President Patel said his duty is to be here at Council but it would be possible for him to get them.

President Knight said there is clearly an interest in seeing how money is being spent. It is not reasonable to give accurate numbers at this Council and a full report could be given on those particular issues. That would take time, in consultation with accounting staff.

The Vice-President Finance should address concerns of financial transparency, but it is unfeasible to do so without prior notice.

Councilor Kunev said that it's important to be available to constituents when they ask. He said more generally that the manifestation is a great initiative. But, this mandate being organized with ASSE does not make sense. They are advocating for free education which is unrealistic. A lot of students are quite frustrated with the way that it has been going this year. He wants to contribute but wasn't asked.

Vice-President Pedneault said that Councillor Kunev might be misunderstanding. SSMU never indicated they are interested in joining CLASSE or ASSE. From Fall 2011 general assembly, accessible education is SSMU's mandate. If you think enough students disagree with it, you can bring it up to Council or general assembly. Also, he ran on a platform on opposing tuition increases and has received a lot of good feedback about that mandate. There is a growing student movement in Quebec and the McGill student body has been more involved than ever.

Brendan Steven U2 political science and Canadian studies asked why Vice-President Pedneault was banned from campus for five days

Vice-President Clare said that committee on student discipline is completely confidential, so this is not a public matter.

Vice-President Pedneault said that he outlined what happened clearly in his external report submitted to Council. On Monday morning there was a UQAM class happening at McGill and he was invited by the science student association at UQAM. He went into the class and explained that there is a student strike going on with the science student association. There was a discussion, it was very cordial, and there were 5 student activists banned from campus. Vice-President Pedneault talked to the member of McGill security and explained to him that he was talking to UQAM. They decided to ban him from campus for 5 days. He said there are other issues surrounding the ban, not just what happened. He suspects it is politically motivated and the events that they mention are not out-of-the ordinary.

Councillor Uribe-Arango asked if any SSMU funding has ended up in the hands of CLASSE.

Vice-President Pedneault said that there is a participation fee for CLASSE congresses which is \$20-30, and he attended that. Also, \$1000 was donated to the CLASSE legal fund, which can be used by McGill students who are arrested at a protest or for any other legal issue. That was approved by the Exec Committee.

Vice-President Fraser said that she knows he does not coordinate stuff going on with strikes in general and what kind of strike activity is happening on campus and how students could get involved if they want.

Vice-President Pedneault said that the political science and law society at UQAM recently did a march with masks. It was based on a medieval European/Quebec thing and involved dressing in ridiculous costumes and making noise in public. People thought that was interesting historical thing, and the demonstration split up into four groups and one went through McGill. That is an example of one action.

Vice-President Pedneault said that art history and communication studies, maybe geography, philosophy, are on strike but philosophy is not picketing 200 level classes or 500 level classes because there are also graduate students there. He was impressed by that way of going about things. There are 14 philosophy classes and only 2 of them actually happened so profs are largely sympathetic.

Nicolas Rimozetti U0 wondering if it's true that he has given the printer code for the purpose of printing pro-strike materials.

Vice-President Pedneault said he's not the only one with his printing code. It's about \$350-400 that has been spent on printing all year.

Nicolas Rimozetti asked if it's been given to members of mob squad.

Vice-President Pedneault said it's been given to the student staff who work under him—Kevin Paul, and Amber Gross.

Councillor Winer said that the trajectory that this conversation has followed has not been positive, despite disagreements on the issues. Whether tactical or ideological this Council has been able to distill those differences in the past. Vice-President Patel and Pedneault are being singled out in this discussion. It may be more appropriate if the whole Executive's decisions were discussed. All information being asked about is info that is already public or has been divulged. He does not want anybody to get the impression that Vice-President Patel or Vice-President Pedneault are not transparent.

Councillor Paterson said people are confused and frustrated and does not think that is the intent is to single out anyone. She said she does not doubt the character of either of the Vice-Presidents or the President. Had she requested budgets a few days ago, Vice-President Patel has presented budgets before, and she is sure he would do that again.

Haila Herbert from the gallery apologized if her tone indicated any doubt on their character. She asked about what happened February 15<sup>th</sup> 2012 and asked whether he proposed a motion at the beginning of the year or whether policy has been made to

discuss this.

Vice-President Pednuealt said that he proposed a motion in September 2011 on free education which is not exactly the same as the one adopted in 2007.

Haila Herbert said it's not a policy, it's just a motion. Because it was specific to November 11<sup>th</sup> and Quebec tuition rise it would not be policy and will expire at the end of this year.

Vice-President Pedneault said that there were two separate motions at that general assembly November 10<sup>th</sup> and SSMU's position on tuition fees and accessible education. Knight said she can point to specifics in a couple minutes but GA motion is to uphold post-secondary education and "encourage its members to participate in November 10<sup>th</sup>," and another to "oppose current tuition increases in Quebec."

Haila Herbert said they were all within one motion?

President Knight said that it was all one GA resolution. President Knight said in its current form it is a mandate from a general assembly, not a policy under the policy manual.

Vice-President Pednuealt asked how long general assembly motions last.

Knight said she's going to refer to bylaws about specific part and will tell the Council when she finds it.

Vice-President Clare said that she appreciates that it is an interest of Councillors in trying to figure out what is going on. What's going on in Quebec is a province-wide phenomenon and McGill is part of Quebec. When we're trying to examine the role of Vice-President Pednuealt, we should remember it's a lot bigger than McGill.

Councillor Kunev said it's important to remember the McGill context, remember what students want and McGill at least 50% international students are not concerned with this particular strike. His political views on the strike aside, it's important to think clearly.

Brendan Steven said that the ends don't justify the means. Just because of a "historic student movement" in Quebec, members of CLASSE should not be allowed to have free access to office space, the SSMU subsidized printing code, or to interfere with another organization's general assembly.

President Knight cited the constitution in reference to the question about how long a mandate for accessible education lasts. Bylaw 1-10 article 1.5 describes that in the current context the resolution would be for one year and legislative changes were made in 2009-10. There is confusion around previous motions and this would expire after one year. One issue being addressed is potential use of SSMU resources to influence the vote in AUS general assembly. Between SSMU and AUS General Assembly. Perhaps this is an area where we need to have further discussion about what that looks like. AUS members are also SSMU members. If SSMU members taking actions based on SSMU mandates at faculty level some feel that's appropriate others feel that it's not appropriate. Some feel that it's appropriate several different faculties as they become interested. Area they are concerned about. Not come to a conclusive decision about what that looks like.



Vice-President Pedneault said that the printing code issue keeps coming up and that amount doesn't surpass \$400. The amount spent on legal fees is much higher, and even the amount spent on one legal case is at least 15 times more than money spent on one issue. If the Council thinks that no printing code should ever be given out that's a motion that could be submitted.

Councillor Paterson asked for time limit on the speakers.

Councillor Fletcher said it is about the abuse of student resources.

Councillor Winer said he is confused as to why individuals who use this constitutes a violation of SSMU's mandate in any way. Groups of very wide ideological orientation receive funding from SSMU. This allows people of different political orientation to express themselves. He is concerned about why particular this particular political orientation and its access to SSMU's funding, is being addressed this way.

Vice-President Fraser said she wanted to draw attention to duties of Vice-President External. The job description previously passed at Council indicates the following shall be a part of the Vice-President External's portfolio: Point 5 - organize participation in SSMU campaign accessible education, Point 7, Point 9 attend meeting of meetings which SSMU is or is not a member.

Councillor Fagen addressed the claims and concerns of Vice-President Pedneault to say that the perspective that we should keep in mind is not dollars and cents but what are student resources going towards or why SSMU should support external bodies. In terms of Winer's concerns, it is great that SSMU funds diverse groups but we shouldn't be trying to influence a separate group of the student body. We shouldn't be trying to manipulate what's going on in the AUS's general assemblies.

Brendan Steven from the gallery said the primary concern is that the Vice-President External, through use of the discretionary funding, as a member of mod pac and member trying to mobilize no vote for the strike. He would argue that through those actions, the Vice-President External is violating the will of many constituents.

Councillor Kunev said that about concerns about those individuals being kept specifically, he recognizes that they have been participating in disruptions in some classes. We need to consider that.

Councillor Clarke said aside from his opinions, the discussion that we're having is that External is using funds in illegitimate manner. SSMU's policies have already chosen one side over the other so as long as we do not retract those policies it is perfectly appropriate for the Vice-President External to do what he is doing.

#### **9b. Discussion Re: Updates on Lease**

Vice-President Clare said that negotiations have been reopened since their offer was rejected. There are large financial implications associated with this, and issue of HVAC

system having been in disarray for 50 years. For last four months she and Maggie have been meeting with Vilma, the lead negotiator on the lease for lease structure. Two mandates came out of it. One was that General Manager Gervais should attend all lease negotiations, and the second is that the SSMU will have some sort of public statements in terms of what's been going on in terms of progress. There are three key points currently being negotiated. First the term of the lease, second, whether or not the HVAC system will be replaced, maintained, updated, and third, the schedule in terms of repayments and cost sharing with McGill.

President Knight said that a memo was prepared after discussion with lease committee. In the last meeting, they weren't successful in terms of getting discussion or movement about key concerns. Financial stability and getting SSMU to plan is a concern. This is a concern not just at the \$400 level but also at the millions of dollars level. For the last two weeks we have been trying to negotiate more effectively on SSMU's concerns. There does appear to be more progress possible. Lease committee will continue to be more involved in that process. Any councilor is welcome to contact her.

Vice-President Clare said they are working on a timeline and one thing that they can say is that there will be a huge increase in terms of investment. In fall, ideally there will be a referendum for a fee increase.

President Knight said that it should take the form of two separate fee levies (base fee regarding utility costs) as SSMU must pay for percentage of utilities or else reduction of activities elsewhere and have a short-term levy in investment in the HVAC system.

Councillor Paterson said she understands if this has to be done in confidential session but asked what kind of increase we are approximately talking about.

President Knight said that is currently being discussed in consultation, and they are deciding. It may be \$5-12 per student per semester. Please don't take those numbers too seriously. Part of the reason going that this is going back and forth is because the SSMU feels they need to know what burden will be on students before signing.

Vice-President Clare said that they need to address the transition with new Executives. They are preparing for the worst-case scenario. She said that Councillor Dinell came to the last lease meeting and all subsequent lease meetings will be followed-up with her successor.

Councilor Chaini asked whether it's highly probably that the increase will happen and whether there's anything that can be done this semester to prevent it.

Vice-President Clare said the only way to prevent it the fee increase is if it doesn't pass through referendum. Every dollar they don't compensate for makes it difficult to pass. They will try to keep fees down as much as possible.

Councillor Kunev asked if administration dragging this out for next executive to be dealing with.

Vice-President Clare said she will tell him a story later on if he'd like.

President Knight said we can't say that, but people could perhaps suppose that might be

possible.

**9c. Motion regarding SSMU Legislative Council Statement on Hard Picketing on McGill Campus**

Councillor Bi said she is open to amendments. She was trying to get a sense of what was discussed earlier in relation to the strikes.

President Knight asked, regarding the first resolved clause, what is the intended definition of “illegal” and what is the meaning of “warranted.”

Councillor Bi asked if it would be better to clarify hard picketing.

President Knight said the legality issue may not be the one we want to get into.

Councillor Fagen said that it's not so complicated that when you're preventing people from accessing services that they paid for they are committing an illegal action. He doesn't think it's so complicated.

Councillor Fletcher said that he will be abstaining on this vote because he has been elected as next year's AUS Vice-President Internal and it is not in his jurisdiction to mandate AUS departments.

Councillor Crawford spoke against this because he believes there's a conflation between what a hard picket entails in English and philosophy department strike. He disagreed with the way English strike because unproductive. The philosophy strike is happening differently, and there are only hard picket lines on professors. He said that he's had productive discussion in hard picket lines which has had positive consequences. Not all pickets have been difficult for us to do. We have seen a lot of positive things.

Councilor Winer says he does share some of the concerns specifically that campus should be a safe space. He will point out a lot of little things. First, he does not know that it's the SSMU's role to condemn students. Will SSMU be condemning students who did some actions without policy on that action? These actions are not necessarily in any way illegal. SSMU does have a mandate to seek accessible education. Disciplinary officers and McGill security have been closely monitoring the picket lines and is wondering if the movers are wishing to call into question McGill's disciplinary officers. He wonders if they want to take on that role to interpret disciplinary position of McGill.

Vice-President Pedneault said that hard pickets have been held in many places on campus. Are we going to access all students? Is it just the printing code? Vice-President Pedneault said that it's a problem that SSMU is taking a stance on AUS's departmental assemblies. That is up to the general assemblies of the associations and he does not think that's appropriate.

Councillor Clarke agreed with Crawford that we shouldn't be deciding on this issue based on the first couple days of strikers. He questioned the strategy being employed now. He asked why they are only targeting professors and not students. One of the

biggest things during the Munaca strike is that we're all part of this community and he wants to hear rationale behind this decision.

Councillor Crawford said that the distinction isn't being made to alienate students. This is a PSA mandate and we saw a lot of clashes the first day of English department strike. Students get more opinionated. We want to disrupt opinions within philosophy because that was voted on. About the class, we can't let professors in because do not want that to happen. He said he can't remember a professor today who chose to cross picket line after they had discussion with them.

Councillor Kunev said regarding departmental associations we do not condemn them, but it is the job of the Vice-President External to look out for the Arts faculty in general. Arts students voted for the AUS GA a few weeks ago. Departmental GAs are not entirely legal and democratic, it is a way to circumvent a democratic vote. It's job of the Vice-President External to say that's not entirely right.

Councillor Hernandez said he doesn't understand how it is productive to not allow professors teach their classes. People are trying to graduate and you're not allowing him to have the chance to do that. He doesn't think it's fair and he's leaving.

Vice-President Pedneault will be encouraging people to vote against this motion. There will be a more productive discussion with people upholding their general assembly votes. The point of general assemblies is having the discussion of their tactics. People should be able to discuss those tactics and vote on them.

Councilor Chaini said that she has not been able to vote in any GA yet, there was no vote in either of her departments. Yet, some of her classes are being picketed. If you're not in the faculty or department of the course that you're taking people are upset that they didn't get to vote but not sure about guidelines they are able to follow. It is a grey area where a lot of students don't have a say. Concerns are valid because haven't been able to have that discussion in that faculty.

Councilor Khan said that they were elected to represent concerns of students. Tuition hikes is concern of every single student. His response to the arts strike is that space was limited, everyone who came to vote was not registered, and if small associations decide on a strike we should respect that. Students were charged with disciplinary cases unjustly and SSMU needs to take a stance and it needs to be a clear one.

Councilor Bi said she respects departmental autonomy like SSMU should respect AUS's autonomy. It's not just English students who is being affected, because there is fluid member of students in and out of classes, so it is SSMU issue.

Councillor Uribe-Arango said he is for this motion change "illegal" to "hard" pickets. Professors are paid individuals and work very hard at what they do. Students have a great education here. It is not fair for students to come from all around the world here.

A friendly amendment passed to change “illegal” pickets to “hard” pickets in the motion.

Vice-President Fraser said she is opposed to this motion. The SSMU’s mandate is accessible education. She also takes issue with the word of safe space. According to wikipedia “...in schools, safe space... indicates that it doesn’t allow lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered people and tuition hikes will disproportionately affect LGBT students.” Queer people are discriminated against more in society would not have access to university education.

Councillor Kunev asked how many people have been attending the departmental GAs because it’s not more than the AUS Gas and 45% of all McGill students are not from Quebec and aspects from which they’re seeing tuition hikes is completely different. People in management can’t be forced to picket. Also the word “safe space” could be replaced by the words “quiet space” for studying.

Vice-President Pedneault said he’s concerned with the direction this discussion is going. These discussions belong with the discussions of student groups in question. Responding to something about number of people attended the GAs, this is like the question how many grains does it take to make a pile of sand. One, two, how many? Can this body decide on that? We don’t have the moral authority to say what hard picket lines are allowed when student associations have made decisions regarding hard picket lines. The SSMU is not a federation of student associations, they give a lot of space for autonomy of student organizations and takes a lot of issue with the way they are trying to undermine discussions in general assemblies.

President Knight made a motion to add a resolved clause after the first to say “Resolved, that the SSMU respect the autonomy of certain departmental associations and the means they determine to implement their mandate.”

Councillor Crawford said that respecting the means of departmental associations cannot be reconciled with condemning picket lines. He said everyone wants to respect the autonomy of other student associations. There is also desire to say that we don’t approve of hard pickets. To say that SSMU condemns or don’t support them is not to say that they won’t do it.

Councilor Bi said we have been here for a while and understands where this is coming from. This is unfriendly because we are discussing students doing an action, not discussing different departments. Some students are not following a mandate that belongs to them so this is not just an issue about departments within AUS. Councillor Bi asked President Knight to rescind this because does not want to engage in lengthy debate.

Councillor Fagen suggested that we add a qualification to the word “means” and say that there are certain means that we would have no right to go against, so SSMU would condemn against anything that violates the code of conduct.

President Knight said she is trying to fit we agree with most people. She thinks the idea

that they respect the autonomy as long as they agree with what they do is not ok. Student activist involvement and respecting autonomy is important as long as they do what we want to do. She would be happy to withdraw proposed amendment and does not support infringement upon autonomy.

Councillor Bi asked to replace “safe space” with “a space conducive for learning.”

Councilor Crawford asked if we have a stance on productive learning, given this talks about SSMU’s stance on a space conducive to learning.

Councillor Fagen said that being a student involves engaging in learning especially when you purchase and work hard to pay for services and that is hindered. SSMU should have a policy to support that.

Vice-President Clare said she has issue with first resolved clause. That would limit ability to support students targeted for undue disciplinary action. Costopoulos could see expulsion bans as possible site of abuse. Students shouldn’t feel like they are “condemned.” That would limit ability for SSMU to support them and student unions should have the best interest of the student body at heart.

Councillor Fagen said spirit of this motion is not to codemn students but to condemn students’ actions. Should not stand by students when their actions are not supported by other students. It should be clear that the SSMU would be condemning not people, but rather actions.

Vice-President Fraser said that the best way to respect autonomy of faculty associations would be to not pass this motion at all.

Councillor Bi asked to make a friendly amendment to change the word “condemn” to “disapprove of”

Vice-President Pedneault said that this is going around in circles. Someone raised the issue of condemning actions instead of people. About the idea that since you paid for a class you should go to it if you don’t agree with the strike. We live in something called society, and we make democratic decisions. We have to respect each other’s decisions that are made in society. It’s false that no learning happens outside of the classroom. A lot of what happens in this building are not regular university activities. The student strike is about learning.

A motion to previous question passed.

**With 11 for, 13 opposed, and 1 abstention, this motion did not pass.**

### **9c. Motion Re: Conflict of Interest Policy**

President Knight read the Resolved clauses. She spoke about this briefly about that at the last Council meeting. This arose out of the concerns last year, members of the bylaw

review committee this year looked over this, and she received confirmation from legal Council that he had no concerns about that.

Councillor Clarke said that regarding the ethics commissioner, it is stipulated that the commissioner has to have taken 2 years McGill law. All law students will have taken conflict of interest policy course during their second year and will be qualified for the job.

Councillor Kunev asked about members of council who know more about referendum campaigns, and whether this motion could be revised to allow Councillors to take part.

President Knight said that within constitution, Councillors can create yes or no committees. To say Council can create them but those who sit on Council cannot talk about them doesn't make sense. Conflict of interest and abuses of power are being dealt with here. It is not appropriate that no, a member of this Council can ever be on yes or no committee because we can vote for yes or no committees.

A motion to previous question passed.

**By a vote of 19-0-0 this motion passed unanimously.**

**9d. Motion Re: Policy Regarding Executive Officers' Contracts and Job Descriptions**

Vice-President Fraser/Vice-President Clare read the Resolved clauses.

Councillor Bi asked if we use McGill Students instead of SSMU members because there are McGill students who are not members of SSMU.

President Knight said we work with members of PGSS and MCSS so it can be appropriate to discuss with non-SSMU members.

Councillor Uribe-Arango if it would be ok to add after decision-making, "following consultation of SSMU membership."

President Knight said she respects the spirit of this but does not think it's appropriate here. Thinks that concern about consulting people is important, but is not sure that consulting SSMU membership is feasible.

Councilor Uribe-Arango said that talking to students is vital because we have to be able to consult with students and ask what they think.

Vice-President Fraser said that it's important to note that this is descriptive rather than prescriptive, not the way in which you're supposed to go about making decisions, or what you're supposed to do. It is redundant to have that.

Councillor Uribe-Arango asked if it could be added to a prescriptive section.

Chair Tong asked if he'd like to cite that.

Councillor Clarke asked if this would encourage SSMU Council to not reduce salaries

based on their job description.

President Knight said that you can always reduce salaries. It is important to put regular increase in a policy, however. About council being allowed to decrease if they so want is already part of constitution—all executives will decide with the Legislative Council. Vice-President Clare said it's good that if increases by at least CPI.

Councillor Bi asked to make amendments to the job description of the Vice-President External. She would like to strike the second sentence. Under governance “communication and organization” and “interested SSMU members.” Under number 4, amending to the words “such as” instead of “especially” was friendly. Which further “the mandates and policies” of the society instead of “goals,” of the society was unfriendly. Under 9, she would like to strike “attend meetings that are...” under “work complexity” instead of saying “convincingly convey the Society’s stances” and to strike “certainly” and also under impact of the decision instead of “as well as its ability to mobilize students” and replace it with “educate students.”

Vice-President Pedneault made a motion to discuss and vote on all these amendments as a block. Vice-President Pedneault said they seem to have the same sentiment. Vice-President Fraser made motion to straw poll not wasting time with debate if people have strong feelings about this already.

Councillor Bi asked if SSMU comes organically as opposed to being inherently political and not conducive to campus because it divides students.

President Knight said that the role of the Vice-President External according to the constitution is “to represent society taking positions and policies, to communicate...” she is not sure how we can define the position with this amendment. It's important to clarify who's responsible for this. Is it the Vice-President University Affairs, because it's an academic political issue? It is well-established under the Vice-President External's portfolio. If a majority disagree they have right to say they would no longer like someone to act in the position.

A motion to previous question passed to vote on the amendment to strike “in addition the vice-President external is responsible for...”, the second sentence of his job description. This amendment failed.

Councillor Bi said that her next amendment would be changed to specify that he works with “SSMU members.” We have established this position is going to be political but to say have to organize McGill students in what they want to do instead of all those interested to being allowed.

President Knight said she has difficult with the word “interested” because it is difficult to organize people who are uninterested. It is not fair to say that only SSMU members should be involved because the Vice-President External does work with campaign between McGill students in general and the Milton Parc community, so it doesn't make sense to exclude them. Members of the PGSS work with him also, so she is not sure this



is necessary.

Vice-President Fraser said she was thinking you need to keep SSMU members abreast of the issues. If that's the intent, it is already part of his mandate.

Councillor Bi said that there might be things that other members might participate in. about Executives, SSMU members should be paying for their SSMU executives to involve themselves in SSMU, and this should not mean other people taking interest over SSMU members.

President Knight said it's very clear in their constitution that SSMU members are the focus, but it would be unfortunate if the Vice-President External was talking about PGSS and could not say all SSMU members. Acting in the best interest of Society at all times is a primary mandate of any Executive.

Vice-President Pedault said that a Vice-President External would never put another group or association above the SSMU. He appreciates the interest people have in the job description. However, innuendo is being brought up. You can bring up a motion or discussion point. If you want him to be accountable for certain things please do so.

A motion to previous question passed.  
That amendment failed.

Councillor Bi said, regarding the next amendment, this is looking about the job descriptions in general and should improve and really clear mandate about what they can and cannot do, and this part about "social and environmental issues" falls outside of the mandate.

Councillor Kunev said it's vague to mention social and environmental issues not talking about economic and legal aspects of this. Either specify more or not be so selective in terms of the wording.

Councilor Winer said it's important to remember article 6 of the SSMU constitution to promote social justice and environmental protection. An executive officer of SSMU should not be charged with an outside mandate. Motion to previous question.

The motion to amend and strike "social and environmental issues" did not pass.

There is a motion to strike "but not limited to" regarding participation in student association gatherings other than TaCEQ and mandated affiliates.

Vice-President Pedneault said that there might be a time when it is useful to go to FECQ of ASSE, there is no specific thing that attend meetings that are not members. Wanting member of TaCEQ and should see if it's something we might want to be a part of.

A motion to previous question passed, and the amendment failed.

Another amendment under number 9 to change “mobilize” to “educate” was brought forward.

Councillor Fletcher said that this year, the term “mobilize” has taken on a negative connotation on this campus and “educate” is a better framework for interaction with SSMU members. SSMU may advocate a certain side for one issue, but educating is the role that SSMU should be playing, it is more appropriate and less divisive.

Vice-President Clare said in that order to be internally consistent, it is important to use the word mobilize. It is important that they’re mobilizing on all sides. There could be something that we want to all-inclusively mobilize on together.

Councillor Crawford said that education is itself a form of mobilization and discussions at events that could be considered mobilizing seems to be a contradiction in terms.

President Knight said it’s important SSMU has a mandate and is able to mobilize. EUS mobilized a bunch of people and to say that we don’t want to mobilize people isn’t accurate. Large amount of students show up and show support for mobilization this year. She does not think the word mobilize in the place of educate is appropriate.

Councillor Winer said that current phrasing is that SSMU is mandated to demonstrate leadership in areas of social justice. He is not sure why the Vice-President External would not simply to make students aware, rather the Vice-President External should be mobilizing students around these issues.

This motion did not pass.

An amendment was moved to say “mobilize and educate.” This was friendly.

President Knight made a motion to amend in Vice-President Finance and Operations Job Description to insert a new number “5. To review and present annually to Council the Society’s long-term financial plan.” This was friendly.

Motion to previous question passed.

**The motion Regarding Executive Officers’ Contracts and Job Descriptions passed.**

**9e. Motion Re: General Rules of Clubs, Services and Independent Student Groups**

**By-  
Law Reform**

Councillor Paterson read the Resolved clauses.

Councillor Clarke asked what the answer is regarding a blood drive.

Vice-President Clare said this was regarding blood drive.

President Knight said the specifics had to do with to participating in clinical trials

regarding non-university research, not third party. However, that would be a medical service not a third-party.

Vice-President Clare asked to make an amendment. She would like to add “shall only participate in the distribution, marketing, and committee, in consultation with the equity committee. “Non-academic purposes unless otherwise recognized by the equity committee.” This was a friendly amendment.

Vice-President Fraser said she realizes that this relates to minutiae but if there is an article 4.1.1, there should be an article 5.1.1 given that they are similar mandates. This was allowed

**By a vote of 20 for, 0 against, 1 abstention this motion passed.**

#### **9f. Motion Re: Clubs By-Law Reform**

Vice-President Fraser read the Resolved clauses.

Vice-President Clare said that in article 13, 13.3 should add “a land line” after “web space”

That amendment was withdrawn.

Councillor Clarke pointed to 10.4 because said all members of the student society, and no more than half of PGSS members.

Vice-President Fraser said that was duly noted. The first sentence 10.4 was removed. She would like it to say “at least half of the voting members of SSMU.”

Councillor Clarke said that someone from Concordia should be SSMU club but should refer to the memorandum that allows PGSS to be there.

President Knight wished to say “all executive officers and voting members of SSMU clubs must be members of the Society except for special agreements made by the Constitution” and “no less than half of the executive officers or collective members ... may be SSMU members”

**By a vote of 24-0-0, this motion passed unanimously.**

#### **9g. Motion Re: ISGs By-Law Reform**

Councillor Clarke made a motion to amend the numbering (semantically).

Chair Tong moved to previous question automatically given no other points or motions. This passed with 24-0-0

#### **9h. Motion Re: Services By-Law Reform**

Vice-President Fraser would like to insert an amendment in the section that begins article 6 and would like it to take the place it after 6.5 “When paid staff are hired by Services...”

This motion passed.

**9i. Motion Re: Handbook By-Law Reform**

Vice-President Fraser made a semantic amendment.

Councillor Paterson made a motion to suspend the rules to amend the agenda to move this point just after the motions, so it would be 9q. This was withdrawn.

There was a weird section before to do with accredited media. This is to do with student handbook and Old McGill for now, the old definitions were really confusing.

**This motion passed.**

**9j. Motion Re: Media Rules and Regulations and Schedule By-Law Reform**

Vice-President Clare read the resolved clauses.

Vice-President Clare made friendly amendments to the motion, including getting rid of 9.1.1, to replace it with 9.1.

**This motion passed.**

**9k. Motion Re: Revision of By-Law Book I-7 (Undergraduate University Representation)**

Vice-President Clare read the resolved clauses.

**This motion passed.**

**9l. Motion Re: Revision of By-Law Book I-9, I-10 and I-11 (Policies, Resolutions and Plans)**

**This motion was tabled.**

**9m. Motion Re: Electoral By-Law Reform**

President Knight read the resolved clauses.

She said there are two sets of amendments. The first has substantive changes based on discussions with steering committee, etc. and the other would be changes now effective immediately regarding the exceptional referendum period. Article 1.1.7 "External" affiliations should refer to positions outside of the society. At least 1 representative from the Society, McGill alumni association governance bodies. Or d. if the organization holds status in the society as independent student group. 14.11 should also be amended to say that posters must be down on the last day of polling. President Knight would like to cut down on wordiness and the word "democratic" is potentially debatable. She would like to amend 17.4 to read "no SSMU executive officer" instead of "no executive officer"

She read the resolved clauses with these amendments.

First, she would like to get rid of resolved clauses that would say "effective May 1<sup>st</sup>" and instead say "effective immediately."

The first set of amendments were put into full text.

Councillor Clarke said that changes were getting rid of redundancies. What were substantial changes including article 17 and the rationale behind it.

President Knight said there could be arguments about whether endorsement is campaigning or whatever. This seeks to address the desire of some groups seeking endorsements, making sure that it's fair. Out of discussions with chief electoral officer and other folks. One substantive change is the definition of "external." There are some tweaks here and there, like allowing campaigners to give food. Substantive changes were added regarding social media, and contact information or links to SSMU website.

Vice-President Clare made motion to previous question, and the amendments passed.

President Knight amended this to read "resolved that the following shall be renumbered as follows: Resolutions, Policies, Plans." This was friendly

A motion to previous question passed. **This motion passed.**

#### **n. Motion Re: Student Life Fund By-Law Reform**

Vice-President Clare read the resolved clauses.

Councillor Clarke would like to amend to strike 6.1. supposed to be prescriptive in nature. This doesn't tell anyone to do something so it's not a bylaw.

Vice-President Patel said that was added for historical information but doesn't know if it's a big deal to have it or not.

President Knight said it would be appropriate in the long-term financial plan. It should be as concise and easy to deal with as possible. That will be re-numbered accordingly.

A motion passed to amend to add "Resolved, that these bylaws should be renumbered accordingly."

Fraser asked about 6.7, which had a typo. Typos were changed.

A motion to previous question passed. **This motion passed.**

#### **9o. Motion Re: Revision of Library Improvement Fund By-Laws**

Vice-President Clare read this to read "that the SSMU Council adopt the SSMU Bylaws at outlined in this motion. This friendly amendment is numbering from 3.7 should follow with 3.8.

**This motion passed.**

#### **9p. Vote for "Councillor of the Year"**

At this point, as moved earlier, the Council decided to move into confidential session.

Knight asked if he could stay for confidential session. Wouldn't have voting rights but could be worthwhile learning experience. He will possibly be allowed to come back in. The Council moved out of confidential session. The motion on the floor was the following:

**Motion Regarding the Censure of Vice-President External Joel Pedneault**

Councillor Bi asked what the typical steps are to go about this process. President Knight said it's the same as a resolution except that voting would occur by secret ballot.

Debate began on this motion:

Vice-President Pedneault said it's a difficult thing, he imagines, for this kind of motion to be brought forward. As for the Whereas clauses he's wondering if they have not been substantiated in a way that makes sense. For example with the AUS and printing, he is wondering why that concern was not brought up earlier. In terms of after-hours access he is wondering what kind of after hours they supposedly have. He does not remember that happening. He is most shocked that it was mentioned that he was banned for a 5-day period. There is no recourse. Nowhere is it outlined where it is a bad thing to participate in student mobilization. It was outlined in confidential session how this could be discussed. He is not impressed by the level of bad faith he perceives in this motion. He would like Council to not participate in this motion, and finds it completely insulting.

Councillor Clarke said answer to second whereas clause not brought up before, he remembers the concern being brought up earlier, but regardless of that the fact that it was brought up one day or two weeks after he is not convinced that this is relevant for censure.

Vice-President Pedneault said he was aware that people were printing AUS-related material in the office. He didn't see a problem with that. This was happening for other departments and schools but not considered a problem. Other executives aware of that not brought up as an issue that had to be immediately addressed. The AUS strike vote failed. He wouldn't be surprised if some people accused others of being sore winners.

President Knight asked the Speaker to avoid the impression that we are interrogating any member of this Council.

Chair Tong said that anyone is free to respond to points brought up here, but no one is being forced to speak to any matter.

Vice-President Fraser said that the whereas clauses are really personally directed. It is irrelevant and way too personal to mention ban from campus. This motion comes from desire for SSMU to be an apolitical organization. It is in SSMIU's mandates that SSMU is an inherently political organization. SSMU has stances in terms of accessible education. He is not acting of his own opinion, not acting in his own bias. He is fulfilling quite well what his job is supposed to be. In terms of the first whereas clause, she wants it to be clear that not a lot of things are particular to the Vice-President External portfolio.

First whereas clause, providing resources to printing, printing is available from people from clubs and services also. The last whereas in terms of not controlling student staff, she said that the way situation was dealt with was really well-handled. People make mistakes. We really acknowledge that this was a mistake and that happened. This was already addressed quite well.

Councillor Paterson said it is in no way a personal attack. This really is coming from concerns not only from them but from constituents of SSMU. This is not condemning him as a person but regarding all of these actions. The fact that it was addressed doesn't mean that it's happening anymore. Some of these things have been mandated. There have been some problems about consulting the rest of the constituents. Groups who have to print a budget is different from printing a lot of fliers that are pro-strike. For her club she would not get \$400 worth of printing. She is not saying that he hasn't done a good job. She said if we do not censure him now when would we do it? Are we going to wait for something big to happen or take responsibility for something that stuff has happened?

Vice-President Patel said he doesn't think he's felt this strongly at Council before tonight. Vice-President Pedneault is an inspiration to us all. He is following his mandate not his bias. The issue of the GA is inherently problematic, not something that one exec was responsible for. The way that Vice-President Pedneault did with this was dealt with immediately. Lastly there was a point when would we censure someone if not now. Executives broke the law and it doesn't make sense that we would be censuring another executive now.

President Knight and Chair Tong reiterated that this is not an investigation, or a trial.

Councillor Kunev said that he was not fulfilling his mandate, this was about the strike. It's about his External portfolio. To say that he wasn't acting as an exec is not fair. He said he doesn't think this is personal but it's truly about something really serious and having strict regulations. If you're alienating people that should be addressed. It's not just the whereas clauses, it's more important than that.

Councillor Hernandez says that sympathetic about tuition hikes there are a lot of people on campus not on the same boat. As a public figure you can't impose your agenda on other people's agendas. He doesn't feel that it's accessible to submit your own agenda.

Vice-President Plummer asked that members of the gallery not roll their eyes because it's very rude.

Councillor Hernandez said if you were paying \$17,000 per year to school...

Chair Tong said that the point being made is not relevant

Councillor Hernandez said he thinks it is. It's unreal in a first-world country and it's unnecessary for someone to impose their personal views.

Councillor Paterson said she will make a motion to move into confidential session if we can't keep this discussion relevant and if the gallery cannot behave.

Vice-President Fraser said that Councillor Hernandez's point is irrelevant therefore he should not be allowed to continue speaking.

Councillor Bi asked to move back into in-camera session.

Councillor Winer asked if 2/3 majority is required to do that.

The motion is debatable and 1/2 is required to do that.

Councillor Bi said that a motion of this gravity should be taken by the soundest mind and the environment is not the best for debate. We cannot make a clear judgment right now in this environment.

Vice-President Pedneault said we're all adults here. He hopes they can stay and say something at peaceful level. He has nothing to hide and would like to trust that the claims that the movers are making are fair and true, which he would contest.

Vice-President Fraser said everybody in this room should take a chill pill and please keep things to the motion at hand.

Councillor Fagen agreed with Vice-President Pedneault and Fraser asked that Council and gallery recognize that side comments and other things will continue things unnecessarily.

Councillor Bi made a motion to vote on moving into confidential session via secret ballot.

Chair Tong said that he will entertain the motion to vote by secret ballot. That motion did not pass. The vote to move back into confidential session will not be by secret ballot.

This motion did not pass and the Council did not move back into confidential session.

President Knight said that censure implies misconduct, that policies, rules, or constitutions have been violated, not that someone's views are disagreed with. It is important for SSMU as we move forward that no Vice-Presidents be used as a scapegoat for policies that we disagree with. There are fora for people to change policies that we disagree with. It is not fair to censure Vice-President External because we disagree with the policies that SSMU has based on the policies enacted. Censure is a serious act. It says he did wrong and it is not something to be taken lightly. It will be in the paper and any time you google somebody's name it shows up. In the first whereas clause, she is not sure this is a violation of SSMU policy or procedure. If SSMU activists involved in SSMU campaign it is entirely alright for them to do that. SSMU executive and AUS executive is a new concern. They recognized why they had concerns. Spirit within which this was done was enacting SSMU's policies. No one said he should not allow that to happen anymore. She does not see how censure is appropriate. About the third whereas clause, she not sure this is borne out by evidence, we don't know what policies are in the past, and general ideas there should be supervision in the office, nowhere is this written. The fourth whereas clause, she is not sure this is shown to be true and concerns raised in the previous one there has to be a standard of proving this is against SSMU's rules,



regulations, and mandates. It has yet to be shown whether a 5-day ban will be considered to be legitimate. Not clear whether Costopoulos' letter was legitimate and without letter in question or evidence that this was just, it was simply just a decision made by someone. Vice-President Pedneault did explain earlier what happened, but her understanding is that there was no action of violence there was a desire for things to remain peaceful. Penultimate whereas clause she does not think that any involvement in student associations on strike is a bad thing, and showing solidarity this is not misconduct as far as she can tell. In the last whereas clause, actions were taken in a prompt fashion. As soon as she brought this to the Vice-President External's attention immediate action was taken. For all of those reasons she will be voting against this motion.

Councillor Paterson made motion to cap speaking time at 2 minutes. This motion passed.

Vice-President Clare said she won't repeat things Maggie said but lots of things brought up around Joel's actions so-called, many decisions were made as an executive. Allowing CLASSE to use space was made in Executive committee. It's not that Joel is a nebulous blob. He confers on regular basis and does not just go in and out. She has full faith in Pedneault as Vice-President External.

Councillor Clarke said that a few times people have mentioned the distinction on public and private life. He does not think that's a distinction you can make as Vice-President External of the SSMU. It's not possible to make the distinction between his own initiative and himself as a representative of the SSMU. Because the two are so related in this case, he does not buy the distinction between public and private life as a reason for sanction.

Councillor Winer said that he'd like to return to Councillor Hernandez's remarks. In justifying that this relevant to Vice-President Pedneault, he talked only about Vice-President Pedneault's support of tuition hikes. He has seen berefts against Vice-President Pedneault, not the Council or the Executive. If people were not ok with his platform as Vice-President External then perhaps people should have run against him. This motion is divisive, and it will make Councillors unable to work together, create undue pressure and condemnation to Vice-President Pedneault. The second motion sought to condemn or punish people. He has found Vice-President Pedneault and all members of Executive perfectly forthcoming, transparent, maybe people disagree but he thinks this inclination to punish Vice-President Pedneault is telling the truth. There are much more cooperative ways that this could pan out.

Councillor Dinel said that she wants to speak briefly to why she signed this, which has to do with the actions in this motion. It is mainly because a lot of students this year have felt that this is not the best representation of SSMU students and undergrads as a whole. It's not necessarily representative of all students.

Vice-President Pedneault said that regarding the ban from campus situation, the banning was in relation to an UQAM science class. The UQAM student association condemned McGill University's actions on the matter. That reflects an understanding of power which this motion does not reflect. On the issue of student staff, this is not fair because SSMU

student staff take political positions all the time on his own behalf. His name and reputation on the whole seems to be at issue. He has never heard about these issues before at Council. He would like to underline that a lot of stuff is happening on campus this year. Political activism is not just about him. He is not that big of a person, and can't be there all at once. There are hundreds of student activists making this happen and if you are going to criticize the student strike make it about the hundreds of people who have been involved.

Councillor Fagen said he wants to reiterate how different the printer usage is than usage by someone to print out the budget. He said this is far more similar to granting printer to one AUS election candidate over another. Similarly, when something happens with one side trying to push a motion at a GA, similar actions need to be raised. Like Councillor Hernandez was saying, accessible is a vague word very much open to interpretation. For us to legitimize actions against tuition hikes as more important than actions of other groups, evidence needs to be presented that education would be inaccessible to sizeable amount of students.

Councillor Uribe-Arango said that \$1,000 went to the CLASSE legal fund. What does legal fund do? Why is McGill being condemned by UQAM?

Vice-President Pedneault said that amount was approved by the Executive Committee. He pointed out they sent out broad toad for money for legal fund not affiliated with CLASSE at any way, but students who were in the wrong place at wrong time and may not even support the strike. That was coming from November 10<sup>th</sup>, and a few students were arrested on SSMU campus and this would be donation from SSMU's \$100,000 legal budget to support students. About UQAM, their university doesn't ban student activists from forming picket line so it is fundamentally more democratic than McGill. It should not ban strikers from the campus, so UQAM students voted to condemn McGill's actions. He hopes that McGill is becoming a more democratically run university and that this is changing.

President Knight said we're frequently returning to the issue of the AUS general assembly. Electoral bylaws indicate that SSMU endorsements are ok from AUS, but that is not the same in the other direction. This motion should not be part of some feud between AUS and SSMU which is not an issue and has been addressed by SSMU and the AUS Executive. This Council needs to take responsibility. If the Council not happy with the way Executives are doing things, there should have been a motion to say that they don't want them to do certain things. Councillors are now moving to censure the Vice-President for not doing it the way they feel that Executives should have done it. This is the second-highest governing body after Board of Directors and if you fulfill SSMU's mandates you should have done your job. Censuring personally is extremely concerning.

Vice-President Fraser agreed with that, and said that she feels this resolution would mandate him to not do his job which is a contradiction in what they should allow Executives to do. Vice-President Fraser said if you pass this resolution, doesn't know what Vice-President Pedneault is expected to do at work tomorrow.

Councillor Khan said we've heard a lot of issues raised by president Knight and other Executives not seeing answers from movers. Khan said he is an international student, and he respects Vice-President Pedneault for political ideology. He respects that Vice-President Pedneault is taking so many risks to do so much for students and thinks that this is personal attack.

Councillor Dinel said we are moving in circles.

Councillor Kunev asked if censure requires majority vote. This will be a majority vote even though precedent set the vote at 2/3 for a censure.

Councillor Winer said he recalled that it was said that it would be 2/3 majority and Robert's Rules overrules the standing rules of Council.

Councillor Chaini asked to require a 2/3 majority vote to vote on whether this should only be passed by a 2/3 majority. This motion did not reach a 2/3 majority and would require 2/3 majority to pass. The Council will be concerned with a majority vote.

The motion to move to previous question passed.

Councillor Paterson made a motion to vote by secret ballot.

President Knight said that it's highly recommended that censure be done by secret ballot—actually in Robert's Rules, it says that it's "wise" to vote by secret ballot.

Councillor Winer said this is a matter of very grave importance and does not want to see why people want to hide their votes.

Councillor Paterson said it's the people who are on the fence who don't want to come out as political affiliation.

Councillor Clarke said that people who do vote in favour of censure could have their working relationship deteriorated quite substantially.

A motion to previous question passed.

**By a vote of 11 for, 11 against, and 1 abstention, this motion did not pass.**

**9q. Notice of Motion Re: Adoption of a Sustainability Policy**

President Knight read out the resolved clauses.

**9r. Notice of Motion Re: Purchasing Policy**

Vice-President Patel read out the resolved clauses.

**9s. Notice of Motion Re: By-Law I-2 Revisions**

Councillor Doyle read out the resolved clause.

**9t. Notice of Motion Re: By-Law I-4 Revisions**

Councillor Doyle read out the resolved clause.

**9u. Notice of Motion Re: By-Law I-6 Revisions**

Councillor Doyle read out the resolved clauses.

**9v. Notice of Motion Re: By-Law I-8 Revisions**  
**9w. Notice of Motion Re: Creating of By-Law I-12**

President Knight read out the resolved clauses of the above.

**9x. Notice of Motion Re: Queer McGill Undergraduate Fund By-Law Reform**  
Councillor Clarke read out the Resolved clause.

**9y. Notice of Motion Re: Students' Society Award Of Distinction By-Law Reform**  
Councillor Clarke read out the Resolved clause.

**9z. Notice of Motion Re: By-Law II-8 Revisions**  
Councillor Clarke read out the Resolved clause.

**10) Reports by Committees**

**a. Funding Committee**

Vice-President Patel stood for questions.

Councillor Bi asked if figures in brackets are surpluses.  
Yes

Councillor Clarke asked how substantial were these grants  
Vice-President Patel said he is not sure but thinks they are more than \$4,000-5,000

**The report was adopted.**

**10b. Executive Committee**

President Knight stood for questions.

**This was approved.**

**11) Reports by Executives**

**11a. Vice-President Clubs & Services**

Vice-President Fraser said this was already announced during announcements. Please inform clubs and services you know about the advanced room bookings. For now, the deadline for advanced room bookings is April 14<sup>th</sup> 9pm. Service reviews are being done. There were about 8 service reviews and reports will be ready for next Council meeting. Get the vote out for the special referendum period that's happening. As Councillor Winer mentioned, he has been working with SSMU intern and will be next Thursday from 5-8pm.

Councillor Paterson said there are a lot of things happening and asked what's going on in the operations management committee.

Vice-President Fraser said she is not sure what's been going on with Operations Management. Only thing going on with it is, she believes, the student-run café.

### **11b. Vice-President External**

Vice-President Pednuealt said that he had originally thought of the idea of a student general assembly a couple of months ago. He had originally thought of it a month ago. There was no strong interest in the end toward that. It's a huge logistical task. All movers retracted their signatures on the petition and the assembly wasn't organized. He stood for questions.

### **11c. Vice-President Finance & Operations**

Vice-President Patel said that the financials are being presented from June 1<sup>st</sup>-December 31<sup>st</sup>. Vice-President Patel said he wanted to apologize for what he said before. He has maintained a sincere level of professionalism, but what was said earlier this evening was uncalled for. You don't have to believe him but that's from the bottom of his heart. About this report, all numbers in brackets in third column surplus and all things not in brackets not surplus. The general administration budget has decreased overall, but many aspects were actually increased. Something they are trying to change has to do with student fees not being allocated directly in each department. There is a report of financial transactions June 1<sup>st</sup>-December 31<sup>st</sup>, next Council will be Dec 31<sup>st</sup>-most up to date numbers with a report. The funding committee report covers funds. About payroll, the largest expense, not here because it's human resources. Departments not over \$1,000 are not listed here as bylaws state only those expenses over \$1,000 listed. The Council will have to approve this report for the revised budget.

**The report was adopted.**

### **11d. Vice-President Internal**

Vice-President Clare asked when the poppies are coming.

Vice-President Plummer said they are coming on Wednesday April 4<sup>th</sup> for 1 day.

### **11e. Vice-President University Affairs**

Vice-President Clare said because of discussions of equity complaints there will be amendments to equity policy that will be passed on to successor.

Councillor Clarke asked how the chat went with the AUS.

Vice-President Clare said that things were going well, but considering three Arts reps signed on to the motion today it will take time to process.

Councillor Fletcher asked if he has a right to respond. He said that has nothing to do with the AUS and SSMU Exec. That was an independent decision and the one Arts Rep who is an executive did not sign on.

Vice-President Clare said that's not what she meant to convey but thanks for the clarification.

### **11f. President**

President Knight said thanks for your patience. She is really excited we are passing the conflict of interest policy and job descriptions that are going to make SSMU better. In terms of Councillor Clarke's question, there was a useful airing of concerns. If Councillor Doyle is wishing to convey his thoughts, they would be more than happy to hear them.

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President Knight and President Calver did this together. There is potential for ongoing conflict to address when they're time and should work on that. She really enjoyed the Haiti benefit gala. Hiring is taking up a lot of her time right now and if doesn't pick up her phone it's because she's probably in an interview.

Councillor Kunev asked in regards to BOG, what was discussed in terms of asbestos. Some remarks in terms of chair and principal. He asked her to respond to that. President Knight said regarding Dean of Medicine's remarks, it has to do with the chair of the relevant department within measurement. It was quite lengthy and the chair remarked that in a way that is consistent with the messages. Councillor Kunev asked if the asbestos issue should come up in Senate or next year. They are still awaiting an internal investigation report. She understands that this process will be whether or not external input.

Councillor Doyle congratulated President Knight on recent scarlet key, and Councillor Clarke on his. He asked if they would be attending the open forum HMB will be attending on Tuesday. She has said she will be attending.

Vice-President Pedneault said there was discussion between AUS and SSMU and Jade Calver was to clarify with her any grey zones that might exist with campaigns, AUS, and SSMU.

**12) Question Period**

There were no questions.

President Knight explained that an in-camera session will be held to address an issue that she believes some Councillors have been approached by constituents about.

**13) In-Camera**

**14) Adjournment 12:53**