

Meeting of the Legislative Council

1) Call to Order 6:07pm

2) Attendance

The attendance was circulated.

3) Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of September 29th were approved.

4) Approval of the Agenda

A motion passed to suspend the rules and amend the agenda to allow speaking time for the Coordinator of the Interest Group Committee for two minutes. Representatives of McGill Food Dining services were also granted speaking time for 5 minutes following the presentation from the Provost.

The agenda was adopted with amendments to allow for two additional guest speakers.

5) Report by the Steering Committee

President Knight presented key points of the report, and announced that The Steering Committee met on only one Monday because of Thanksgiving.

The report of the Steering Committee was adopted.

6) Guest Speakers

6a. Interest Group Coordinator

Kaiti O'Shaughnessy introduced herself as the Interest Group Coordinator. She works under Carol Fraser who is VP clubs and services. She is the person of contact for those who want to start a club at McGill. She said thanks to the Council for letting her speak. She stood for questions.

Councillor Stettin asked how the IGC can be contacted.

Ms. O'Shaughnessy said that she can be e-mailed at igc.ssmu.mcgill.ca

Chair Nizam thanked Ms. O'Shaughnessy for coming.

6b. Prof. Anthony C. Masi, Provost, McGill University

Provost Massi said that last year he was on the clock for five minutes at a meeting of Council, but tonight he wants to take more time to talk about McGill's strategic academic plan for the next five years and receive feedback. The plan for the last five years was called strengths and aspirations. There is a strengths and aspirations white paper that is currently under review. Today, he would like to give a brief overview about what achieving strategic priorities for 2012 means and describe the steps that will be undertaken to achieve these priorities. Then, he will respond to questions. McGill University is comprised of 25,000 undergraduate and 8,000 graduate students from 160 countries around the world. Undergraduates at McGill have the highest entering grades of any university in Canada, McGill receives one more Rhodes scholarship than any university, and McGill has more all-Canadian students than any other university in Canada. Six years ago, Dr. Masi was named chief academic officer, which is the highest position in the university after the principal, and is the highest academic position at the university. All Deans report to him, and Deputy Provost for Student Life and Learning also reports to him. He is also responsible for setting the strategic academic plan. His second job is the chief budget officer (which is not the same as the chief financial officer). The budget is created so that it is in line with appropriate priorities, according to a

statement of the importance with which the university holds academic priorities. Aligning priorities is a task undertaken every year with the budget of the university.

The academic paper written in 2006 was a blueprint for the additions of academic positions, growth of student body, and funding priorities. For the 2012 paper, one focus was to shore up the things that weren't done so well in the last five years. There was a need to outline strategies to further improvement. There are difficulties given the resource space that McGill has (compared to natural competitors here in Canada and in the United States). Each point of the 2006 paper is shifting to a revised major strategic objective for 2012. For example, the university would like to have 1650 professors at McGill and implement a new way of thinking of academic hires. Another objective is to think about composition and experience of undergraduate students; and think about the university as a student centered, if research intensive, institution. Students coming to universities have much different skill sets than the professors. McGill is one of the most graduate-student intensive universities in Canada, which makes graduate students an important aspect of life here at McGill. He said that it is important to ask the question "How do we ensure that we build on the strengths of undergrads?" Dr. Masi said that one way for students to do that is to ground themselves in a specific discipline. McGill has not identified clearly all of the interdisciplinary programs that can be used to enhance the pedagogical environment. Also, the university will think about how to provide services to other staff and faculty members, and the ways to use training and development to aid all of the support staff. Professional productivity and support remain but there needs to be a way to figure out how to do this better. The university needs to measure itself against how well other universities are doing. There is a data-sharing arrangement with other universities based on several indicators, and the deputy provost brings surveys every year to figure out how student engagement is going; there are also faculty surveys. Moving beyond indicators, the university is looking at academic analytics. The last three points of the strategic plan are not offshoots from the 2006 plan, but these are new and will provide an important part of the steps going forward. McGill needs to make sure that impact in the local community and the world is clear. Diversity and organizational points were an offshoot on the Principal's Taskforce for Diversity, Excellence, and Community Engagement. Also, in the last five years McGill has not put lots of emphasis on professional education. Professional education (particular to certain faculties, such as engineering) will have more emphasis in the next five years. In order to meet those goals, Dr. Masi has set up 5 working groups:

1. "Academic renewal, hiring, retention, and leadership development"
2. "Best practices in supporting McGill's academic mission"
3. "Career development for administrative and support staff across the University"
4. "Service to Quebec, Canada, and the global community"
5. "21st century education for the professions."

The first group has to do with advising services, the second will look into better support for researchers, and make sure that undergrads get that value added by doing research with professors that gets into textbooks, the third is to modernize professional environment, taking into consideration the constraints that are there.

The strategic framework for the next five years has to be the framework for the budget, something that the general community embrace as their own. Dr. Masi will be hosting four town halls on this topic, and forming the five working groups (above). The strategic plan should be a roadmap to sustain McGill's leadership as one of the best in the world regardless of research deficits.

Dr. Masi said addressed two questions to the Council. Knowing that student groups are very active in the community, the university is not always aware of what student groups do. "How can we ensure our commitment to diversity and ideas? How can we get other students involved in consultation?"

Chair Nizam thanked the Provost for his presentation, and the Council and gallery members clapped in recognition.

Questions

Senator Crawford asked whether objective 1, the hiring of professors, has to do with hiring professorships or course lecturers.

Dr. Masi said that the goal is to retain the professors we have already recruited, and linking research and teaching. McGill wants expertise in the program, but in many programs we have to rely on course lecturers. Teaching support is depending on what the deans put forward for their faculties in that regard.

Councillor Stettin said that Dr. Masi had mentioned that social setting and personal expression will greatly affect any program. Councillor Stettin gave examples of the administration's engagement in systematic intimidation. A guard asked him to remove the green MUNACA button he was wearing and said that he was not permitted to wear it on campus. During students' peaceful demonstrations, students were being filmed by members of McGill Security. The injunction against MUNACA limits the ability of MUNACA express themselves. Overall, free speech is being limited in a campaign of systematic intimidation on campus. Councillor Stettin asked whether Dr. Masi thinks that this is affecting the social setting on campus.

Chair Nizam asked that question remain germane to the presentation.

Councillor Stettin said that believes his question is germane to the presentation by its relationship to the social setting on campus.

Dr. Masi said that he is open to answering any question. He said that the issue is more complicated than a facile indication like Councillor Stettin's addresses. He said that it is not that the university as a whole has a problem with his wearing a MUNACA button or showing his support. He said that that Councillor Stettin's statement had created confusion between freedom of expression and the university's conducting its business. There are rules and regulations that have to be followed. The injunction on the workers is there because they blocked access to the university and prevented materials for research purposes from entering the campus. The injunction does not say that anyone can't have freedom of speech. No one can prevent others from doing what they have the right to do. With the injunction, strikers can't block the entrance, use excessive noise, or infringe on other people's rights. There is also the right of access to education. There are rights to access the university, right to an education, and right to free speech.

Councillor Shahid said that Dr. Masi mentioned that there will be an increase of professors. He asked if it would be distributed among all faculties.

Dr. Masi said that the McGill ratio is among the lowest three of Universities in Canada. McGill tries to spread it out so that faculties most hard pressed will get most students. The university is sensitive to that question and is trying to address it.

Councillor Burnett said that he feels very comfortable saying that teaching assistants are very important in education. He would like Dr. Masi to speak to the role of teaching assistants.

Dr. Masi said that he speaks to the AGSEM student union every year. One question that was asked, when the strategic plan was being developed, is "What is the teaching assistant's role and what are the support budget for teaching assistants?" One of the problems faced is that professors' needs for teaching support change so the role of teaching assistants also change. Graduate students have increased six times. Teaching support budgets are put most in those

faculties with high ratios of students to staff. The university wants to make sure that grad students and professors work together to support undergraduate students' education.

Councillor Clarke said that one of the new priorities is attaining preeminence in the professional field. He asked whether there is any strategy to employ professional leaders or professors for those professional faculties

Dr. Masi said that he has asked all of the deans to think through their academic priorities aligned with these ten points and what the constraints are in their curriculum. Many programs require that engineers do the teaching. It is important to understand constraints in professional societies in their programs. One of the five working group is focused on this and there will be students sitting on that.

Councillor Love asked what he has in mind when he meant students' skill sets and technology and was wondering if technology is going to be more involved in teaching. Religious studies faculty has a lot of older students. Even a lot of younger students don't like the technology that has been required to be involved in their studies.

Dr. Masi said that diversity includes the skills that students bring with them. Every advance in technology is met with reluctance by professor but with enthusiasm from the students. WebCT was not well-received by professors at first, but students really wanted it and after a while everyone found it easier. Students have grown up in an electronic and digital age. Clickers change the way that courses work. Libraries are now a lot more electronic than physical. The skills that students have today are very different than they were five years ago. Across the spectrum there will be a change in technology. There is not one-size-fits all approach, but technology will be improved across the board.

Councillor Dinell said that he mentioned that McGill is a student-centered university. In light of research initiatives she finds that that is not the case. She asked how Dr. Masi would like it to be made student-centered University.

Dr. Masi said that six years ago there was no DPSLL. McGill is a research-intensive university and is also student-centered. Professors should have contacts not only with graduates but also undergraduates in their research. We've also tried to make sure that science students have the opportunity to have seminars. Each of the faculties through their associate deans have been asked to bring the research directly to the students or bring their own research directly to the professors.

A questioner from the gallery, Niko Block U3 History, said that AGSEM came to this Council and at one point indicated that since 2006 the TA to student ratio has risen from 12.5:1 in 2006 and since then the ration of students added to TAs added is 28:1. He mentioned that he would like to increase training, and asked Dr. Masi clarify that. Also, why do you feel that there needs to be an increase in enrolment?

Dr. Masi said that an increase of enrolment has been prevalent in other universities in Canada. The demand for increase is there. There has not been dramatic increase here at McGill. U of T is now 70 thousand students, UM is 60 and McGill is about 30 thousand. There has been proportionate growth with professors. There are different ways of playing with numbers. That growth rate is at the margins. However, the statistics are playing with numbers. They are apples and oranges. Sometimes the money used for teaching is not just used for TA but to other sources. The University is in favor of anything that enhances the skill sets of our graduate students or our TAs. On a point of principle, he has no objection to the idea that enhanced

training opportunities should be provided for all graduate students and all TAs; we have to find a way to fund it.

Councillor Paterson said that in the presentation there was a workgroup for career development and support staff. She asked what the actual plans are and how they will be implemented when the support staff are not allowed to work.

Dr. Masi said that the support staff walked out, so she should just tone down her rhetoric. Career development is an important point. The University wants people to see a career trajectory. HR has been working on ways to do that. He thinks that career development has to be important not only for professors.

Chair Nizam said that if anyone does not feel that exchange is respectful, to please direct that concern to the speaker.

Councillor Plummer said that everything (the DPSLL) Mendelson does affects students, including withholding fees, frosh, and closing the architecture café. He asked what was decided about Professor Mendelson's term and what feedback will be allowed regarding the hiring of a new provost.

Dr. Masi said that he had sent two letters to the SSMU. He takes full responsibility for the rehiring. Under his position as Provost, the Deputy Provost Student Life and Learning has taken on this position for the first time and has become involved with many of aspects of students life including residences. This created a need to assess the portfolio. He has decided that there is a need in thinking through the whole portfolio and there will be opportunity full consultation this year. There will be consideration solicited from Senate, the Board of Governors, and Administration. Deputy Provost Mendelson holds the student life and learning position for graduate students also. No one can make a decision without someone falling on one side and someone on the other. His voice is heard every week at the principal's table on behalf of students the university is looking to find a better way to represent students.

Vice-President Pedneault said that one of the strategic priorities is enhancing career development opportunities. Does that include providing MUNACA with a payscale?

Dr. Masi said that a pay scale and was negotiated in 2007. Regarding the strike, the university would like to resolve this issue. There is a conciliator who set rules for how the negotiations need to take place. As long as the conciliator sees movement, negotiations will continue. Career development has to do with different types of employees at the university. All kinds of training could also apply to lots of positions in the university, and the university wants to make sure that there is opportunity to move ahead,

Councillor Kunev asked what the plans are in regards to improving facilities, as some classes of 1300 people are in a room for 600 people.

Dr. Masi said that it is not just about technology, it is also about the content of the material being delivered and the environment in which learning can take place. The university overall has a very small base in student-space ratio. McGill is in the bottom three universities in Canada for student-space ratio, and all three in this province.

Councillor Winer said that he mentioned the undergraduate students' implication in the broader community and the need for McGill to produce students who will act in the broader community. Why, in that case did the department of earth and planetary science receive a donation from

SYSCO mining who is trying to get a village evacuated in Quebec for their gold mining project? The stated purpose of giving this donation was to develop professionals who could hire for CYCSO mining. Councillor Winer asked, regarding the responsibility to the broader community, why this is acceptable.

Dr. Masi said that the university does not accept donations if they don't clear the board of ethics. That donation also cleared the board. There are corporations that make up the community and the university has to decide what is needed in terms of those researches. Those donations have to be looked at carefully before they are accepted.

Councillor Crawford said that he is pleased that the Principal's Taskforce was included in this plan. It was recommended that a new (additional) deputy provost be implemented as a part of the plan. He asked whether or not an employment of a new deputy provost is possible.

Dr. Masi said that adding additional administrative positions is not priority, and must be done carefully. The policy and procedures deputy provost has recently added equity to her title. The goal is to get the projection outreach further.

Councillor Winer said that he is encouraged to hear that there is a committee on social responsibility but is wondering if there has ever been an instance which a corporate donation was rejected.

Dr. Masi said that donations have been refused on several occasions and denied our taking resources if there are constraints in which the university offers. An anonymous donor wanted to give money in the name of a philosophical novelist, which was deemed inappropriate. The university has also refused money for different donations. The university wants money to help support the things we think are right.

Vice-President Pedneault said that Dr. Masi mentioned increasing diversity of origin regarding students, faculties and staff. He asked what the plan is to reconcile that with tuition increases. Dr. Masi said that there is no correlation between tuition and access, and the student aid budget has increased considerably over the last 20 years. The university does not want to deny anyone who can't afford it, but there is a \$3,000 gap from Canadians and Quebec students. While the university gets \$2,000 in tuition from Quebec students, 75 million a year is available to other universities and not to McGill. Thirty cents of every dollar from tuition goes to student aid.

Johnathan Mooney, PhD chemistry and AGSEM representative from the gallery wanted to say that he was reluctant to speak, but wanted to respond to the comment on apples and oranges. The number of TA hours has dropped in the past few years while undergraduate enrolment has grown by 9%. He asked whether Mr. Masi considers this a concern and thinks that needs to be addressed.

Dr. Masi said that all of those kinds of concerns are legitimate and need to be addressed. He said that he was willing to look at those things that will enhance education for education support. Anything having to do with contracts must be at the negotiating table.

Myriam Zaidi from the gallery read in *Le Devoir* an Op Ed piece that was co-written by Ms. Goldstein and a VP international relations and research at McGill. The piece was written in French, and the English translation of the title is Knowledge Economy: Still a Lot of Work to Do. In French, the term "knowledge economy" not only refers to the economy of intellectual output, but also knowledge based on the economy. In the article it says that graduate students should see how they can make the economy more profitable. She said that she has seen quite a

few speakers that tend towards that ideology regarding making the market economy more profitable. She thought to herself—what if a student wanted to do research here at McGill wanted to do research on socialist economies. He might be turned off from it because it would not be profitable. His research might be an innovation in the world. Ms. Zaidi said that she had not seen research in history and philosophy being discussed, but they are future. There has been more talk about connecting research with corporations. Her issue is with academic freedom. If most of the research is going to making the market more profitable, there are not a lot of resources for this type of research. When will the administration realize that this system is pushing away important research?

Dr. Masi said that academic freedom is a very important concept. Everyone can find a hypothetical context that may not be a happy one. Mostly research is independently obtained from grants. The first budget is the operating budget which comes from the research grants. That's the operating budget of the university which is based on a grid of students that teach in different disciplines. One grant is for teaching. Conducting research is part of an academic duty. Professors are expected to make a service contribution to society with their research, and the second budget of the university is a research budget. On their own, professors have to fill out grant applications and apply for money for that research. Professors design their own research. It is almost impossible for universities to encourage researchers to do specific research. Academic freedom means that no one can interfere with the ability of the professor to conduct his or her work. Academic freedom is not a soapbox in which someone can stand up and speak about socialism. It requires professors who are experts in their field and they cannot find research with peers who think their work is worthwhile. The ability of a student to write on socialism is important. Dr. Masi said that he is demographer, and he studied steel mills and his interest is in studying trade unions. That was a choice and he was following his own path. Basic research is fundamental, and the university wants to enhance it. In order to do this, the university has to look to government. Professors may see an advantage in taking a foundation grant. The largest field of research is biomedical research. Sometimes that involves working with companies that manufacture drugs. Research choices are made regarding the research opportunities that can be found

Councillor Kunev said that we are all affected by the strike. Given Dr. Masi's position as second in command, it is good to say that there are dates being given regarding the negotiations. What information can be provided about the negotiations? Students have heard that in negotiations, the small points have been discussed. How can we improve this and stop the strike faster?

Dr. Masi said that everyone would like to see a fast, fair, equitable, and sustainable end to the strike. He has no more first-hand knowledge than Councillor Kunev do about the negotiating table. The conciliator sets rules and those rules are followed. Small issues have to be cleared off the table before the big ones can be discussed in standard negotiation procedure.

Councillor Shahid asked what ideas does Dr. Masi has for students whose courses are dependent on labs and who are graduating at the end of this semester, if the strike is not resolved until January.

Dr. Masi said that the university has an obligation to students and have constraints in operating on their resources including a six million dollar deficit for this year. He hopes that this will not have to be addressed, but there are contingency plans in place.

Vice-President Clare thanked him for coming. Regarding diversity, she is wondering if that encompasses or includes a question of representation. She is interested in encouraging senate to open up representation from unions such as MUNACA or AGSEM.

Dr. Masi said that was simply not addressed in the taskforce. The world is being petitioned many times in terms of constituencies. It is only 5% of the student body at Macdonald. So, the question is about what is being sought. Is proportional representation being sought or does every group have to be represented? Diversity should be incorporated into the large constituencies and we should be appreciative that that diversity enhances us.

Chair Nizam thanked the provost for joining the Council.

Dr. Masi said it is a pleasure for him to be here and he would be glad to be invited back. Since he has indicated that he is open to exchange, Chair Nizam would like Councillors to aid the steering committee to make sure that he comes as often as he can.

6c. Food and Dining Services

President Knight introduced the speakers Maria Mazzotta & Oliver de Volpi (who were here at the last meeting) and mentioned that they are here in consideration for the motion that will be coming up later tonight. This time is to ask any other questions for review.

Mr. Di Volpi said that he and Ms. Mazzotta are here to show off eco-clamshells and reusable travel mugs that could potentially be introduced in other food service locations here.

Questions

Councillor Clarke asked if these are available for all first-years.

Ms. Mazzotta said that they are given out to all first years at the beginning of their stay in residence. She thinks that they should be sold in other locations.

Mr. de Volpi said that all residence students this year and last year received them. Burnside, Macintyre, and the Trottier building will implement the eco clamshells soon. This is just one small part of what is being done. He said that when he went to find a take-out container to show the Council what had been used in the past, the staff had difficulty finding one. It is possible to use them but they are being eliminated from landfills now.

Councillor Kryluk said that she was in first year last year, and the eco clamshells can be washed at the next location at which they are used. It is a great initiative.

Councillor Stettin asked him to clarify the relationship between SSMU and McGill Food and Dining Services and what “support” means in the motion.

Mr. de Volpi said that the strategic plan has been written with the belief that it should be brought into use across campus. Food and dining falls under Professor Mendelson’s purview. If we MFdS does not have support and is going in the wrong direction, he wants them to be told that they are going in the wrong direction. President Knight read out the first Resolved clause of the motion: “*Resolved*, that the SSMU support McGill Food and Dining Services’ efforts at improving sustainable practices by formally endorsing its “An Appetite for Sustainability” strategic plan”. She said that both MFDS and SSMU are not saying that sustainability is achieved with this motion, but this is an important step. This is something that SSMU believes that relationship with MFDS processes and sustainability services is important.

Chair Nizam thanked Ms. Mazzotta and Mr. de Volpi for their contribution.

10d. QPIRG Representatives

Anna introduced herself as one of the two full-time coordinating staff at the Quebec public Research Interest Group at McGill. Tyler is also a representative present here, and he is a board member. QPIRG's mandate is to connect students with the community and environment with community in order to create a partnership. There are three public research interest groups in Quebec and 200 with this particular mandate. The heart and soul of the organization is its' working groups. Campus crops is one of the working groups. Another important aspect is the alternative library, and the community-research exchange. Lastly, there is a lot of popular education. An upcoming event is culture shock, which is hosted in coordination with SSMU. Anna said that there is not much time, so popular education events on campus are integral in a couple of the events. Radical frosh and social justice days are done in coordination with the SSMU. QPIRG has been with McGill since 1988. A couple of other QPIRG staff and board members are here passing out flyers regarding working groups and research. There is another document being circulated regarding the opt-outs. QPIRG is going to referendum and chose the route of getting student signatures in terms of showing support for QPIRG, but it also feels that it is important to have the support of Council. If there are any questions, the representatives are happy to answer. Tyler said that the volunteer board of directors are elected democratically and there is also a representative from the SSMU, Micha Stettin, who represents the dialogue of SSMU. CKUT will be presenting their question which is related to the QPIRG question. The materials being passed around explain the referendum question that is being discussed.

Questions

Councillor Paterson asked in regards to opt-outs, "What are your thought on in-person opt-outs not being a safe space for people wishing to opt-out?"

Anna said that in 1988 when QPIRG started there were opt-outs, and opt-outs happened in person for 19 years without incident. In 2007, without consultation with QPIRG, the opt-out system was placed on the Minerva system.

Councillor Bi asked "Could you make the operating budget available so that everyone could make a more informed decision?"

Anna said that the budget is open to all members (those who have not opted out). She said to e-mail her and she can get that to you.

Councillor Bi asked what the percentage was for opt-outs.

Anna said that last year and since opt-outs have gone online in general, there has been a spike. What they have seen is that the numbers across the board are equal and statistics can be made available to students. Students are doing "blanket opt-outs" without being informed of what the services are that they are opting out of. There is a serious impact on the ability to continue functioning at QPIRG McGill and at the Campus Community Radio Station because of opt-outs. Chair Nizam said that if the QPIRG representatives would like to send the Speakers information about opt-outs or the budget this could be circulated to Councillors via e-mail.

A member of the gallery said that she has the budget numbers for CKUT for those wishing to see them. Those will be passed around soon.

Councillor Clarke said that QPIRG has stated its commitment to a more accessible system, but how is something more accessible than online?

Anna said that accessibility is seen as students actually getting informed and making a decision themselves in an accessible process about whether or not they would like to opt-out.

Councillor Khan said that he read on a pamphlet which said that QPIRG was opposed to Canada Day and that QPIRG was supposed to address research of public concern and has failed on that mandate.

Anna said that a letter was published about the anti-Canada Day reference to explain it. Since opt-outs there has been a campaign on campus to get students to opt out of QPIRG's fee. It is very difficult for QPIRG to be in referendum mode when there is an opt-out campaign. The School Schmool is an agenda/info booklet (like the SSMU Handbook). On July 1st 2011, it said anti-Canada Day. The idea is that we should be questioning celebrating a day which also celebrates the massacre of indigenous people and to spark the thought of critical analysis. QPIRG does not organize anything for anti-Canada Day. She was surprised to read on a pamphlet that QPIRG is supposedly failing on its mandate in research. She can talk about numerous endeavors that started with research and turned into action such as recycling on campus. Recycling on campus began through QPIRG and was somewhat controversial at the time. There was one initiative about military research at McGill. QPIRG is always looking at institutionally responsible research initiatives at McGill. There is an undergraduate research project along with QPIRG Concordia going on right now.

Councillor Niu asked whether McGill is not responding to calls for an autonomous opt-out system or whether they are just rejecting concerns.

Anna said that when that happened, QPIRG and CKUT got a letter saying that the opt-outs would be going up on the Minerva web system. QPIRG has been coming up with alternative solutions and has had meetings with several administrators. All concerns have been shot down. The opt-out conversation is closed according to the administration. However, it is not closed and they believe that student autonomy is being taken away and they want to make sure it's not happening. Tyler said that there is a wider issue of administrators not privileging student experience at this school.

Vice-President Pedneault said that there is a broader political/social context of the opt-out campaign and is wondering whether they see a shutting down of social justice in general.

Tylet said that there has been a concerted effort of the conservative party in Canada to shut down social justice initiatives on campus. For example, the progressive conservative party in Waterloo was explicitly involved in trying to put funding online, misrepresenting what they do, and undermine causes because of ideological differences.

Anna said that Conservative McGill said that they would not meet with QPIRG about opt-outs or would only have one member of the group with them. Conservative McGill used to put its name on information about the opt-out campaign but no name is on opt-out materials anymore. However, QPIRG is accountable for every action that they do. The opt-out campaign is not accountable to anyone. QPIRG cannot leave glossy flyers across campus because they would have to answer for those flyers, while the opt-out campaign can do so because it does not have a group behind it, officially.

Chair Nizam said that if anyone has an issue and feels like they not being called on enough, please send a note or speak to her during a recess.

Vice-President Plummer asked if the representatives would say that faculty associations are equally affected by opt-outs?

Tyler said he is not certain but there is a valiant effort on the part of the associations to mount an opt-in campaign.

Councillor Kunev said that he would like to thank them for coming. Given the fact that some groups on campus have expressed opinions about QPIRG supporting a terrorist organization and this affects QPIRG's financial assets, is it possible for you to reconsider your relationship for this group and reconsider the name between the anti-Canada event.

Anna explained that Tedamon is one of the 20 different working groups and they work with struggles in the middle-east. The campaign from 2002-2007 was an autonomous group (so she may not know and questions should be addressed to them). The campaign was looking at the profiling of particular kinds of groups that were considered terrorist organizations. Hezbollah was blacklisted and they were talking about the delisting of Hezbollah. Tedamon stopped that campaign due to shifting in other areas. QPIRG supports Tedamon and their politics change over time. They chose to fund Tedamon this year based on what they are doing now. She was not involved with QPIRG at the time of the campaign, and would stress that QPIRG supports the work that Tedamon is doing. They bring in speakers, poets, and organizations. The QPIRG board did decide to fund them this year and believe that they do very much fit into their mandate in terms of what they are doing currently. QPIRG does not organize anything around Canada day or anti Canada day. That reference in School Schmool is to spark critical thought about celebrating the birth of Canada which represents the death of many communities.

Councillor Bi asked that opt-outs not be described as a miscommunication. She asked "Isn't that belittling to the students who choose to drop out?"

Anna said that dozens of students try to opt back in. When QPIRG representatives sit down and clarify to people that they do not support Hezbollah and they are an organization committed social and environmental justice, many people change their minds. However, some people do make informed decisions to opt-out.

Councillor Bi asked what the concerns were in the past having to do with right-wing parties. She asked "When you engaged with conversations with McGill about the program, what were those concerns?"

Anna said that QPIRG engaged in dialogue immediately and did not wait at all. McGill did not talk about the concerns that have existed with opt-outs. Anna said that she was not at the negotiating table when this was happening. Students were not coming with concerns over opt-outs. McGill was talking about how things need to be online. However, there has been a huge spike in opt-outs across the board. QPIRG is concerned about the ways in which it can advocate for itself. What QPIRG does is hindered by what the click of the mouse. There are financial issues for students and QPIRG recognizes the need for students to opt-out because of the cost of their fees and because of political reasons.

Councillor Shahid said that when students go online to opt-out, there could be a highlighted link to see what QPIRG is doing. Have you explored that? Secondly, he is more likely to opt-out if he sees that opt-out campaign has a huge following and QPIRG does not.

Anna said that there is a link, but the way the system is set up on Minerva, no one has to click on the link in order to clarify what QPIRG does before opting-out. QPIRG has done a lot of

outreach to try and make what they do known to people. CKUT has a similar link. If students just see an acronym and don't know what they do it might be easy to opt out. The vast majority of graduate and undergraduate students are not opting out. There are a lot of e-mails and phone calls during opt-out period from people asking how they can help. It takes a lot of capacity to do classroom announcements, tabling, and getting the real information out there under our campus our community. There was a lot of misinformation out there, including libelous claims made by a campus newspaper. People did listen when QPIRG sat down with editorial boards. There is a limited budget and capacity with two full-time staff members and a board of directors.

Chair Nizam said that if anyone has questions that may not enlighten the group, those that are enlightening should be prioritized. Individual questions can occur outside of this forum, because we are seeking more participation from gallery.

Councillor Chaini asked why you are not allowed to publish information you can have. As a first year, she had no idea what the fees were about.

Tyler said that that there aren't any standing rules for opt-out period. It has a ton of influence and goes a long way but is not necessarily true. There was a pretty large campaign this year. Anna said that according to campus rules no one is allowed to leave flyers on desks but we are held accountable for our actions. QPIRG values its relationship with SSMU and looks forward to continued support.

President Knight said that additionally, campaign regulations are administered by SSMU and those organizations have the ability to disqualify candidates, but there is no funding for campaigns. It is difficult for anyone to chase you down and do anything when your campaign does not have a name behind it.

Vice-President Plummer is wondering why existence and opt-out strategy are being discussed in the same motion (both for this and the CKUT referendum question).

Anna said that there has been discussion with boarder membership about this. QPIRG cannot sustain itself with the drain, both financial and personal, from the opt-out campaign. There is a maximum 1% opt-out from the seven different groups. Since its existence is tied to the online opt-out system, QPIRG considers it the same question. The refund process was started in 1988 for a specific purpose, and it can still fulfill that purpose offline.

Councillor Bi said that everyone is asked to pay the QPIRG fee. SSMU services affect every single student. Is QPIRG coming up with events that every first year could sign up for? Could you theoretically provide services to 90% of the student population?

Tyler said that QPIRG is not under the illusion that all students at McGill are going to be asking for their services. For example, we all fund health care. QPIRG believes that people who are not as well represented on campus can be well-represented through QPIRG. It is not that every student is going to be using our services, but QPIRG is more than just a service.

Sebastian Forte, economics PhD student from the gallery he said that how many people do try to opt back in after they have opted out.

Tyler said that he does not have an exact number, but QPIRG is having a tough time explaining to people what it does. The campaign was about sitting down with people. There is a problem with a misconception about what QPIRG does. There are certainly a bunch of people who stop by after they have opted-out to ask about how they can support QPIRG and what they do.

E-mail qpirg@ssmu.mcgill.ca for more information.

Councillor Nizam said that the following Q and A (for Johnathan Mooney and Shelvin Brandt) will be limited to 8 minutes.

6e. Johnathan Mooney and Shelvin Brandt

Johnathan Mooney wanted to give an update about progress with negotiations with the University. As AGSEM representatives, they went to the Provost to get a mandate for the core issues that they are discussing: an increase in total hours assigned, paid pedagogical training, ensuring that TAs meet with supervisors and numerical limitations on the number of students in conferences, labs, and other TA sessions. There was a meeting on September 29, October 5 and then finally on October 12 the administration said that they cannot do anything on almost every point. Regarding training they said that they would meet with more people and get back to them. Next Wednesday, there is going to be a special General Assembly of all AGSEM members. There will be a vote on the table as to whether or not they will pursue pressure tactics. A yes vote for pressure tactics excludes a strike. To try to bring things not just to the bargaining table but to the public sphere to get a better idea of what is going on and get their voices heard. They feel that they need to go into the public sphere and make demands well-known. Shelvin said that they love SSMU, and if the mandate passes for pressure tactics which exclude a strike, he hopes that SSMU and others will support the TA role on campus. He would like to see that support in the next couple of weeks.

Johnathan Mooney said that members of Council have not upheld certain commitments. A motion last meeting resolved that a letter would be sent to the Provost expressing support for AGSEM, which was not done. Also, there was a line in the minutes that was inaccurate and he had asked that be brought up and fixed. Chair Nizam said that the minutes were already adopted, but that can be brought forth to the Steering Committee. There are three minutes for questions.

President Knight apologized on behalf of the executives for the letter. Currently, Vice-President Pedneault and Vice-President Clare are working on a draft. President Knight said that they just need a little more time, like the McGill administration.

Questions

Councillor Chaini asked if they have talked to faculty and has contacted Professor John Golaty. He raised the question at the senate about TA hours are being increased.

Mr. Mooney said that MFLAG has been invited and they have sought support from other unions. It is possible that MGLAG is going to be professing a letter of support.

Councillor Stettin would like to note that the resolution included the Council and the Executive and that they the Executive should make sure to consult Councillors regarding the letter.

Councillor Crawford asked, given that Provost Masi's presentation had a high priority on hiring additional course lecturers and one-on-one approached with professors and course lecturers, are you concerned that the university is shifting pedagogical burden to other sources?

Mr. Mooney responded that there is this concern about technology and other concerns. The relationship between students and TAs is a very important one. It is almost the policy of the university to diminish the role of TAs in the community. TA hours have been decreased as enrollment has risen.

6) Announcements

Councillor Stettin would like to note that it's inappropriate that Tiki-Ming provided chocolates at this point and would not have taken a chocolate had he known.

Chair Nizam said that this and other questions about food will be brought up at Steering.

Vice-President Clare said that regarding the AGSEM letter, she will be working on the letter in the SSMU office on Monday. Also, Senate will be on October 19th in Leacock 232 and there will be a motion brought up at Steering.

Councillor Kryluk said that Councillors should not forget that this weekend is Homecoming.

Vice-President Patel said that next Friday is Octoberhaus at Gerts. Drop by because it will be fun and he will be busboying.

Councillor Stettin said that Culture Shock is starting on October 17th.

Councillor Paterson said thanks to Councillor Clarke and the law faculty for making an appearance at Fill the Stadium. Second of all she would strongly recommend that Councillors go to PGSS meetings. In effort to forage of supporting PGSS, she and Chair Nizam have been attending PGSS meetings. If anyone is interested they should send either of them an e-mail. PGSS meetings are the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm and there is food.

Vice-President Plummer said that this Saturday there will be a Homecoming breakfast in Gerts and they will be decorating posters, painting bodies, and getting very excited about the bacon. He also discussed the 4Floors event with staff recently. SSPN decided that the theme should be "the silence of the Martlets." The executive will be dressing up as Clue Characters.

Total eclipse of the chart is taking place in Montreal at three different venues.

President Knight said that there are three sports games coming up this weekend. Tomorrow, Friday, at 7pm there is Redmen hockey and Sunday at 2pm is Martlets hockey. Also, the Social Work Students' Association is spearheading an organization for students. There will be a meeting of the Bylaw Review Committee discussing the GA tomorrow at 11am. There has been a framework document created for GA reform. Also, the next meeting is November 3rd because of 4Floors and to allow you to be extra-productive as a Councillor (it is difficult to be productive within the two-week period).

Vice-President Pedneault said that regarding the Montreal Walks for Mental Health there will be a poster making session in Wilson Hall. October 21st is a family day organized by MUNACA. There may be some activities in the building. He will be sending out more details for interested student parents.

Councillor Kunev said that Blues Pub is raising funds for breast cancer research tomorrow. Every year they raise \$10,000. POW engineers and women will be hosting it.

Councillor Crawford said thanks to students and Councillors that were at the last demonstration in support of MUNACA and would like to see more student Councillors in attendance at these events.

Councillor Doyle said that this Monday from 10am-3pm on the third floor will be the AUS professional schools fair. Secondly on October 21st Oktoberjaus starts at 11am with a 1litre stein and coat check included in the price.

Vice-President Clare said that Saturday is Occupy Montreal at Square Victoria all day.

Senator Dinel said that the consultation fair is happening with PGSS, MCSS and other administrators and managers will be discussing consultation. Vice-President Clare said that Provost Masi is going to be there also.

President Knight said that there is a call going out for further topics of discussion for strategic summits. They think that an important part of consultation is allowing students to directly set the agenda. They would like a presentation of the main questions addressed at the summit. She would be happy to see any Councillors putting forward motions.

Johnathan Mooney announced that no one should go Tompson House for PGSS meetings in November, because the PGSS is going to have its meetings at Mac Campus during that time.

The Chairs announced that registration for TexEXMcGill is happening next week.

8) Question Period

Councillor Burnet is wondering what has gone on regarding MUNACA council resolution in terms of actively supporting the strike and informational campaigns to MUNACA members.

President Knight said the Vice-President Pedneault has been working on information sharing with campus unions. Vice-President Clare is working to convey to admin that this is having serious impacts to students. Vice-President Fraser is dealing with issues of the MUNACA strike for the building and trying to explain things to frustrated students. The Executive had hoped to have a campaign next week, but it has been difficult to get the degree of accurate information they would have liked. They would like students to understand the issue in a little more depth. Vice-President Pedneault said that a form was put up online so that students would inform the Executive on how their lives have been involved with the strike.

Councillor Paterson asked if there could be more explanation in what happened in EUS council last week regarding MUNACA motion.

Councillor Khan said that he and Councillor Kunev presented this motion. He was disappointed and saw some opposition from new Councillors who made some capitalist remarks. They were saying that McGill is a corporation and not a University, which doesn't make any sense. Some were trying to convey that Councillor Khan would benefit personally from the motion. Some of the EUS Councillors were against it and prepared for it. Councillors Khan and Kunev did not consult many Councillors beforehand to discuss the issue. Almost everyone did not even know what was going on with MUNACA. A survey got hundreds of signatures in two days from all different engineering departments. Councillors' point was that they are being affected by the strike because the staff is not coming in. The staff answers to McGill university. They said that the case is that the engineers should talk to the University. Some Councillors said that no Councillor could do anything. He was extremely disappointed that elected representatives felt that they could not do anything. He said that more work needs to be done to make Councillors realize that it is the students that really matter. There needs to be more consultation with Councillors. He hopes that he does not want his face on

a website or something. He could not see the decorum of the Council being maintained, but it was frightful that new Councillors were doing that.

Councillor Kunev said that the problem was that there was no discussion before. It was not brought up in the Council in the proper way. The decorum was an issue. In general, EUS Councillors feel that they want to be less political and that's why this didn't pass.

Councillor Stettin said that during his consultation with students, many people have been requesting that after each DiGrappa e-mail, the SSMU send out an e-mail on the strike. The motion supporting the strike says "including, but not limited to the following," so a mandate to send out an e-mail responding to the DiGrappa e-mail would fall under that purview. Since each Di Grappa contains half-truths it would be helpful to send out an e-mail response. He asked "Do we need a resolution or can we just make that happen?"

Vice-President Pedneault said that the Executive had thought of sending out a message on the next Monday. President Knight said that when SSMU sends too many e-mails, people stop reading them. It would be feasible to involve a standard inclusion of the MUNACA status on the listserv.

Councillor Paterson said that she supports the idea of some sort of notice going out, but asked whether Councillor Stettin thought that would be biasing.

Councillor Stettin did not think of it as biasing because the SSMU does support MUNACA demands. Sending out such a notice would probably rely on the Vice-President External and whoever else would want to help him because the Vice-President External and University Affairs deal with it most closely.

Councillor Chaini asked what type of progress is being made on the MOA and the lease.

President Knight said that at the last negotiations with McGill, both parties expressed an interest in completing negotiations by the end of next week. However, given previous assertions of her predecessor that everything would be done in two weeks at the beginning of February, she will not promise that it will be done by then, though she is hopeful.

9) Old Business

9a. Resolution Re: CKUT Existence Referendum

Vice-President Fraser read out the Whereas and Resolved clauses:

Whereas, Radio CKUT is licensed by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission as a campus-community radio station to broadcast at 90.3 on the FM band to the greater Montreal area;

Whereas, CKUT became an independent student activity in 1988 and has served the McGill and Montreal communities 24 hours a day 365 days a year, on FM radio and the Internet;

Whereas, McGill undergraduate students have supported CKUT with a fee of \$4.00 each semester since 1988, and whereas any student who pays said fee is automatically a member of CKUT, with all the rights and privileges pursuant thereto;

Whereas, prior to 2007 CKUT's fee was refundable at the premises of CKUT;

Whereas, the placement of CKUT's fee on the Minerva online opt-out system in 2007 has continuously depleted the financial resources of CKUT, thereby interfering with the ability of CKUT to serve the McGill and Montreal communities;

Whereas, in Fall 2007 a General Assembly of the SSMU passed a motion mandating the SSMU to take every reasonable action to put an end to the online opt-out system created by the University such that campus groups shall be in charge of their own opt-out processes;

Whereas, CKUT employs McGill undergraduate students, and includes McGill undergraduate student representatives on its Board of Directors, Steering Committee and Programming Committee, and provides internships and research opportunities for student members related to their academic fields;

Whereas, all undergraduate student members may participate in CKUT's annual general assembly, which is the highest governing body of CKUT;

Whereas, McGill undergraduate student members may participate in the activities and governance of CKUT as listeners, programmers, technicians, and receive training at CKUT in various aspects of radio production;

Whereas, CKUT is consistently voted as the #1 or #2 Radio Station in the Mirror's Best of Montreal Readers Poll;

Do you support CKUT continuing as a recognized student activity supported by a fee of \$4.00 per semester for full-time undergraduate students, which is not opt-outable on the Minerva online opt-out system but is refundable on the premises of CKUT, with the understanding that a majority "no" vote will result in the termination of all undergraduate funding to CKUT?

Moved by:

Carol Ellen Fraser, VP Clubs and Services

Shyam Patel, VP Finance and Operations

Radney Jean-Claude, Social Work Representative

Micha Stettin, Arts Representative

Zhizhen Qin, Science Representative

Vice-President Fraser wanted to make clear that the nature of debate is clear. There are two ways that a referendum question can be put forward to students. Either, students put their names on a ballot and it will be put forward to students if there are enough signatures. Or, the question can be approved to go to referendum through Council. What is germane to the debate about the question is the following: "Is this question a logical question to ask to the student body at large, and does it represent the spirit of the group and what it is trying to represent to the student body?"

The reason why this question has to go to referendum is because CKUT has an MOA with McGill, and they need to renew the MOA by first getting a yes vote in referendum. Also, there was a GA motion passed and is still in effect, that mandated the SSMU to lobby to try to get the opt-outs offline.

Vice-President Fraser moved to strike the word "immediate" before "termination" because it is misleading. The funding would be terminated starting May 2012. This is a friendly amendment.

Councillor Clarke said that SSMU referendums are only binding to SSMU.

Councillor Fraser said that certain referendum questions are submitted to McGill and McGill has to implement those things according to prior agreements. Elections McGill is in place to enforce that.

Councillor Bernard asked if CKUT understands that some people would vote no because people are changing the opt-out system not because they do not like CKUT.

Vice-President Fraser said that the question has come this far due to consideration of that fact. It shows just how difficult opt-outs have been to the station. They are willing to convince as many people as possible that this is for the benefit of the McGill Community.

One Councillor said that the online system seems to be most accessible. It might be intimidating for a few students to go and ask for a refund it purpose. They asked whether there was consideration to having something similar to Minerva in CKUT's own control.

Elise Burns spoke from the gallery. Ms. Burns works at CKUT and she said that prior to the Minerva system, the way for students to get a refund, they could log in and opt-out. They would publish this for 10 days in the fall semester. CKUT's website will also make available an opt-out form and survey; people can also pick up their fees from CKUT from the McGill administration.

Councillor Paterson asked whether CKUT is considered that having to physically opt out is not a safe space for people who feel pressured in going into that physical space.

Ms. Zaidi from the gallery is a member of the board. She does not see why there would be a difference between obtaining a refund from CKUT or returning something to a store. Anyone who is a member has a right to show up at the general meeting, so it is not in their interest to try to keep members who do not want to be members. She said that those who do not want to be a part of CKUT will be let go easily.

Vice-President Fraser said that there were no complaints when opt-outs were available on the premises in the past.

Councillor Winer said that there is not necessarily something wrong with an opt-out system where you go to the physical space but he would not feel comfortable going to their physical space. There are other ways of constructing an opt-out system that does not involve physically going to their space.

Councillor Kunev said that the way that it's framed is deceiving to the students and it's been acknowledged by members of CKUT that it is disturbing. He does not want people to lie to them to try to recognize a new system. A lot of students are used to the online system—it is just part of the world we are living in.

Councillor Burnett said that he has mixed feelings about the concerns that have been raised regarding whether refunds on the premises are a safe space or not. In terms of safe space, it has to do with people who are facing physical violence, he would like to reiterate the point that the point of this debate is to address whether or not this is within the capacity of students to decide on that question.

Councillor Dinel suggested that the opt-out could take place at SSMU because it is also a more central location than CKUT. Also, if there could be more information on an opt-out page that might have a pop-up box with a bio about what the organization does, that would be helpful.

Vice-President Fraser said that there have been a lot of questions. She would like to address them but first has a motion to amend. Instead of "directly refundable on the premises of CKUT" it would say "but is fully refundable directly through CKUT" so that the opt-out could be put on this website. In terms of what Councillor Kunev was saying that that is not clear or transparent, the one resolved clause is clear in exactly what is asked. She would like him to explain what he meant by his comment. CKUT is a media organization. There are fees for the McGill Daily and Tribune that are not opt-outable and CKUT is giving more by making the fee refundable. Students can still listen to it even if you have opted out of it.

A member of the Board of CKUT spoke from the gallery. He said that the amendment makes it look unclear and it might look like they are trying to hide something from students. He would like to object to that amendment.

Chair Nizam said that expressions of opinion from the gallery would change debate from those who are debating it so she will be careful to call on members of the gallery at her discretion.

Councillor Crawford would like a straw poll that may lead to previous question.

There will be a straw poll for all those who feel that it would be in favor of this going to referendum.

Councillor Chaini asked if this referendum takes place and is passed, is McGill required to take it off Minerva and give it to CKUT? She is unclear as to why this is being debated.

Vice-President Fraser said that her understanding is that when fees go to referendum through SSMU then they are implemented by McGill. McGill would be grossly delegitimizing democratic processes if the student body voted in favor of a question and they did not recognize the yes vote as documented by Elections McGill.

President Knight said that there is complexity in how this is managed. She does not think that passing a referendum would guarantee that McGill will do this. It shows McGill that students are in favor of the opt-out

Councillor Chaini made a motion to amend to add “(online on the CKUT website or on the premises)”.

Debate began on this proposed amendment:

Councillor Paterson said that implies that in any given year one could opt-out online or in person. The intent as it was declared earlier is to maintain the spirit of the motion. The spirit of this is to ensure that CKUT remains a service.

The CKUT Board member from the gallery spoke again. He is one of many who wrote the motion and said that this amendment deeply violates the spirit of the question. The initial question that was moved here is effectively a recapitulation of the exact same that this Council approved give years ago that was prior to the Minerva online system.

Councillor Kunev said that this amendment it more difficult to understand what the motion is about. If you put a question in another referendum question it does not make sense in this question. The SSMU should not be deceiving students.

Councillor Clarke said that he is against all amendments to this motion because this was written by CKUT. He said that we should let them create the referendum motion and students decide on whether or not to vote yes.

A motion to previous question on the amendment passed.

This amendment “(online on the CKUT website or on the premises)” failed with 4 for, 21 against, and 2 abstentions.

Councillor Stettin moved to previous question with several seconds.

Councillor Paterson asked what would happen if this went to the student body and failed.

That question is not germane to this discussion. This body is supposed to decide whether this is a legitimate question. The possibility of a winter semester referendum is possible.

The motion to previous question passed.

Chair Nizam suggested that people speak to CKUT during a recess if they have a problem with its policies.

With a vote of 23 for, 2 against, and one abstention, this motion passed and will go to referendum.

Chair Nizam said that they would prefer that Councillors show their appreciation with snaps as opposed to claps.

10) New Business

10a. Resolution Re: Endorsement of McGill Food and Dining Services Sustainability Strategy

President Knight read out the Resolved clauses. The full Resolution as it was approved is printed below:

Whereas, McGill Food and Dining Services (MFDS) produced a strategic plan entitled “An Appetite for Sustainability” in April 2011;

Whereas, the SSMU is mandated in its Constitution and its policies to support leadership in sustainability;

Whereas, MFDS has worked constructively with students and student groups to improve the sustainability of food provided on campus;

Whereas, the strategic plan states that MFDS is interested in continuing to work with applied student research to continue to improve sustainable practices;

Resolved, that, in light of the urgent nature of current environmental and agricultural concerns, that the SSMU support McGill Food and Dining Services’ efforts at improving sustainable practices by formally endorsing its “An Appetite for Sustainability” strategic plan,

Resolved, that the SSMU continue to work with MFDS to improve the sustainability practices of campus food providers to improve beyond current commitments in a way which includes students as campus diners, stakeholders in decision-making, and sustainability researchers,

Resolved, that the SSMU endeavour to achieve, at a minimum, an equal level of sustainability practices within the William Shatner University Centre as MFDS achieves elsewhere on campus.

Moved by:

Maggie Knight, President

President Knight said that this has been discussed before and was written with consultation of Councillors in mind. However, does not reach the be-all-end-all of sustainability.

Councillor Winer said that he will not propose an amendment but would like to voice a concern about the strategic plan. Many of the goals and directives of sustainability addressed in no way apply to the Armark locations. He would like to express reservation in the form of an amendment.

President Knight said that MFAS wanted this to apply to all campus food providers so they have been working very closely with Armark and Armark has agreed to many sustainable initiatives. While this could be amended to state something about Armark, this is an opportunity to laud some very good work. This does clearly state that the SSMU will work with MFDS to provide sustainable food service with all campus food providers.

Councillor Stettin asked if there was a referendum question floating around. It was not seen. Chair Nizam reminded the body that all literature at Council must be approved by the Steering Committee.

Vice-President Internal asked President Knight if, based on her knowledge of SSMU and sustainability, she thinks that this possible.

President Knight said that organic campus and midnight kitchen are already involved in this type of project. There is a notice that says “the SSMU shall endeavor to achieve” and in general this is quite sustainable in helping our people to endorse this. The SSMU will help leverage the institutional knowledge of McGill and work with MFDS to encourage sustainability.

Councillor Qin asked, regarding the second resolved clause, what is the current student involvement with MFDS in terms of a sustainability research.

President Knight said that The McGill Food Systems Project addresses sustainability already. Also, a course she was working on looked at sustainable seafood and feasible for implementation in McGill’s seafood sourcing practices. Also, there is a recommendation of the research group of the hiring the coordination for the research and work with smaller local providers. They have organized research projects for academic credit that have been quite well-received.

Councillor Stettin made a motion to amend to say in the first resolved clause “while admitting significant shortcomings and need for improvement”. The reason for it is that in the resolved clauses, there is nothing that speaks to their need for real and massive improvement, or the fact that this is not an acceptable plan. The SSMU will endorse it because it is moving in the right direction, but at this point it is not where the SSMU wants it to be and it is endorsed with caveats.

President Knight put forward a another motion to amend in the second resolved clause to add “to improve beyond current commitments” because her feeling is that it is helpful to be very strong in language but it may not be necessary for this to say that they are doing a good job and a “need for improvement” is stronger. MFDS is well aware of a need for improvement, and wants to improve. This will enter into the body of the motion because it is friendly.

The body will first debate Councillor Stettin’s amendment:

Councillor Burnett said that he appreciates the intent without feeling married to the language. He shares a few concerns involving things like sub-contracting and making sure that food is affordable for students. It is still valuable to support and encourage progress.

Councillor Winer said that it is important to say that although significant progress has been made it is not a fine step. There needs to be an endorsement that explains that this plan is not enough in and of itself. President Knight’s amendment said that. He agrees that particularly in the appendices they should be making more direct commitments but the SSMU should tell them that this is a move in the right direction.

Councillor Stettin said that the SSMU would be moving in the right direction. However, on the sustainability report it says that 2% of the eggs are organic. The SSMU needs to point out that there is a significant challenge. There is a serious crisis globally and though this is good in its direction, this issue is very large. Only putting positive language in it is not allowing that this is a serious and critical issue.

Councillor Chaini would like to add something like “by formally endorsing and providing suggestions for future projects” in second resolved clause.

Councillor Winer asked if Councillor Stettin would like to change his wording to say that there is a global environmental crisis and they should be addressing that crisis in a more direct manner.

Councillor Clarke said that he believes that this amendment burns bridges. He does not want to push away the MFAS ally with such strong language.

Senator Crawford moved to previous question on the amendment.
The amendment failed with a vote of 1 for, 20 against, and 4 abstentions.

There is a motion to amend from Councillor Winer. He said that in the second resolved clause, he would like to add an amendment. President Knight proposed the following “Resolved, that, in light of the urgent nature of current environmental and agricultural concerns” as a friendly amendment.

A motion to previous question passed.
This motion passed.

10b. Resolution Re: Executive Committee Transparency and Accountability

Vice-President Clare read the following Resolved clauses. The *whereas* clauses are also printed:

Whereas the Student Society of McGill University (SSMU) believes in accountability and transparency in all aspects of its organization;

Whereas the Society “shall act in the best interests of its membership as a whole”;

Whereas Legislative Council ought to actively redefine and push the boundaries of Transparency & Accountability;

Whereas the Society’s Executive Committee is a committee of Legislative Council, as stated in the Society’s Constitution;

Whereas the Society’s Legislative Members of Council as a whole reserves the right to know how the Executive Committee conducts its affairs and arrives at its decisions;

Whereas transparency at all levels of student governance, including the Society’s Executive Committee, promotes accountability to the Society’s membership;

Resolved, that at the request by any Legislative Member of Council, the General Manager will make available hard copies of the Executive Committee Meeting Minutes & Reports,

Resolved, that the Executive Committee may have *in-camera* sessions for the discussion of personnel, financial or other sensitive decisions,

Resolved, that the minutes of these *in-camera* sessions will be maintained by the General Manager and made available to the Members of Council after 2 years,

Resolved, that the Executive Committee & Legislative Council be mandated to develop a Transparency Policy and/or relevant by-law changes to be implemented prior to the end of the Winter Term.

Moved by:

Emily Yee Clare, VP University Affairs

Undersigned by:

Joël Pedneault, VP External

Shyam Patel, VP Finance & Operations

Todd Plummer, VP Internal

Carol Fraser, VP Clubs & Services

Maggie Knight, President

Councillor Stettin thanked the Executive for bringing this up. He is wondering if it is possible to specify what those in-camera sessions would possibly be, and whether it could say that they need to specify the exact reason for moving in camera.

President Knight said that the SSMU has no history of dealing with this explicitly. In the final resolved clause it opens up the reason why this would specifically be in camera. There are a number of other issues that have been discussed with the legal personnel. She really understands the concern and likes that concern but would ask Council's patience in specifying the need for in-camera sessions fully. She does not think that Council should make decisions without full information.

Vice-President Clare asked whether there would be another resolved clause talking about why the Executive would be going in camera. There are some circumstances in which it would say that there are "legal issues" and acknowledging that an HR issue exists is a violation publicly.

Zach Newburgh Arts U4 from the gallery, said that he agrees with the spirit of this motion. He said that all minutes of the Executive Committee are available after the term has been completed. He believes that the constitution states that any meeting of the Executive is confidential and that any minutes must be made available by the Executive Committee.

Chair Nizam said that as this did not come to the Steering Committee the Speakers cannot speak to the constitutionality of this motion.

Councillor Paterson read out a section of the constitution to support the constitutionality of this motion.

Councillor Stettin said that Council is not the public and it is not a violation to say that Council has access to confidential information.

President Knight said that in consultation with other members of the Executive, it has been determined that this motion is in order because bylaw 36.2 states that the decision to release the minutes is in the hands of this executive committee, so they can be released by this Executive. Part of the process of the final resolved clause would involve proposing a referendum question that would create changes to the constitution to decide whether or not they are going to be transparent or not. Thus, the minutes of previous Executive Committees are available to all. A policy could be adopted at a GA or through Council to mandate the publication of the Executive minutes for five years. An extension to the constitution is implied. The final resolved clause says that Executives figure out how to deal with transparency.

Councillor Burnett has a point of information for the President. In the part of the constitution that keeps the Executive minutes confidential until that term. She is concerned about the in camera minutes being confidential for two years. The third resolved clause could be stricken because it would make those minutes constitutional. It is a mandate to talk about bylaws but is also constitutional. That clause is not stricken from the body of the main motion.

Vice-President Clare wanted to reemphasize why this was drafted. As it says in the first whereas clause, the Executive is a committee of Council and it is important that they are reporting to Council. It is important to reemphasize that in the resolution and bylaws.

Councillor Winer asked whether in regards to the first Resolved clause he has to make a request for documents online.

Vice-President Clare said that there is a risk of confidential documents getting out, so it is important that the documents are not sent out online.

President Knight said that by providing a lot more information, there is a much higher standard in terms of confidentiality. Other Councils have not upheld a high standard of confidentiality. Last year there were instances of Councillors feeling that what they were being asked to do was ridiculous and decided to share some documents; providing access through hard copy via the general manager is a standard compromise.

Councillor Winer said that, first of all, confidential documents are already sent to them. Also, could an individual Councillor make a request to get it over e-mail?

President Knight said that great pains are taken to make sure that Council understands the reason why things are confidential. She is concerned about her capacity to do things that are really fair for everyone. Secondly, she thinks that having the minimum provision a hard copy would be available. People have concerns when it is a highly sensitive issue.

Councillor Winer asked, regarding the last resolved clause, whether one of the movers of the motion could speak to how that would actually take place.

President Knight said that relevant bylaw changes would be part of the bylaw review committee. There are three books of bylaws. There is a fourth person in the bylaw review committee (Councillor Winer) and he might be interested in policy development so that things don't have to be edited on the floor of Council, which is a nightmare. President hopes to get feedback on GA reform.

Vice-President Clare said that she does care a lot about transparency and accountability. When dealing with intense issues with the administration there have been multiple times where Exec committee needed to be a safe space to express feelings that she had. It is also to make sure that the sanctity of those comments remain within the context of the meetings.

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

11) Reports by Committees

11a. Executive Report

President Knight said that there should be an amendment to change September 4th to October 4th. She would like to thank the Vice-President University affairs for writing the report.

Councillor Winer asked about the culture shock contract which says that it would be automatically approved. He would like an explanation.

Vice-President Clare said that culture shock stipulates a certain financial commitment. Culture shock has been approved every single year for more than five years. Instead of going through the motions and for fear that it would not be approved, this would ensure that the contract would be approved on a yearly basis but objections can be raised if Councillors so wish.

Councillor Clarke asked whether McGill has responded to the statement regarding their Open House Booking.

President Knight said that there are two issues. There is no capacity to hold McGill's weekend bookings and allowing those bookings does not conform to the stance regarding MUNACA.

Realistically, McGill does not book space that often except for standard agreements. This will be on a case-by-case basis.

Councillor Winer asked whether the Culture Shock contract went through Council or funding committee?

President Knight said that this contract is similar to contracts such as PGSS which historically has a spotty record in terms of coming to Council or not in a way that is similar to a funding Committee application. This was done by the Executive and is an automatic renewal unless anyone has any problems.

Vice-President Patel said that he would like to address the Culture Shock contract. He thinks that this is something that was overlooked. In the future it should be encouraged that all relevant approvals that relating to funding should be brought to the funding committee and not to the executive committee. He apologized for not looking into this carefully. There was somewhat of a common consensus that all contracts should come to funding committee, other than during the summer.

Councillor Chaini asked whether there would have to be a resolution speaking to the contract to mandate that it is brought to the funding committee.

President Knight said that this is not explicit in any part of the legislation. Executive committee deals with a lot of contracts for a lot of different things so it makes sense to bring the contract there. It could be part of a process where the Executive addresses it. The expertise of the Executive is relevant. This should be looked into further.

The report of the Executive Committee was adopted.

11b. Community Engagement Committee Report

The Community Engagement Committee report was presented by Councillor Kunev. It was instituted as a successful referendum for the charity fund. The Vice-President External is Max Luke who started the initiative last year. The Committee helps to connect McGill students with humanitarian organizations and fosters community engagement through a set of criteria determined by the committee. Right now, they are looking at different organizations. Right now they are looking to create a mandate for the body so that community groups near McGill and Montreal are being brought forward and the community is being engaged.

Vice-President Pedneault documents that should have been sent around have to do with the documents that were discussed at a last Committee meeting.

11c. Interest Group Committee Report

Councillor Paterson stood to discuss the meetings of October 27th and October 4th. Some club applications were tabled because of confusion. Councillor Chaini said that there have been some issues about the constitutions and their wording. If there are questions by individuals, she and Councillor Paterson would be happy to address concerns.

Questions

Councillor Kunev asked whether a club can be rejected based on conflicts with other clubs' mandates.

Councillor Paterson said that clubs apply for interim status for six months. They submit a letter of purpose, and a constitution. The reasons that clubs gets rejected would be if it conflicts with the constitution or it conflicts with the mandate for another club. The Committee will encourage them to work with the other club or change their mandate and re-submit.

President Knight said that every club that wants to exist fragments the SSMU community. They ask for more specific mandates and clubs usually do come back with a clear explanation about how they are different from other clubs.

A motion to approve the report passed.

11d. Funding Committee Report

Vice-President Patel stood for questions.

Questions

Vice-President Plummer asked why the Muslim Students' association was given more than \$2,000.

Vice-President Patel said that they have an audit score of 5/5 every year. They are super active. Their budget is always sound. This year's Funding Committee has made it a priority to provide as much as it can to each club. This amount is consistent from last year.

Councillor Winer clarified that the funding coordinator looks at the budgets of groups that submit. Sometimes, they either ask for too much or too little money. Sometimes they do not know how much money they need to e.g. cover a deficit.

Councillor Uribe-Arango asked why the British students' society was given \$1,000 less than what they asked for.

Vice-President Patel said that most of their expenses were food and beverages, and the Funding Committee does not provide food and beverages.

Councillor Niu asked whether clubs that were granted more than requested were granted that much because it decided that their budget was done well. For Muslim Students' Association, how was funding determined?

Vice-President Patel said that 95% of the time, there is a calculation error in the budget of groups. There is not an automatic response for any group. The Committee will first look at an audit score. An audit score 5/5 over many years deserve more than requested. E.g. Women In House was given more money than requested because this event is successful every year. This year, more students are going to be able to go to this conference than they thought.

Councillor Paterson asked why the Christian association awarded \$6,000 less.

Vice-President Patel said that he does not remember exactly and does not want to give the wrong answer, but if she sends an e-mail he will detail. Councillor Chaini said that clubs are not given money so that they can donate it.

Councillor Dinel asked whether clubs received info that they were not getting funding.

Vice-President Patel said yes.

Councillor Bi asked Vice-President Patel to clarify what the cost was of radical frosh and how that was justified.

Vice-President Patel said that the funding coordinator has been away so he has been doing two jobs. If anyone wants to know about specific expenses, they should e-mail him.

Chair Nizam said that if Councillors wish, they could not pass part of the report and it will be brought forward at next Concil as old business.

President Knight said that a plethora of alternative froshes have begun to exist. There has been help from the SSMU to do rad frosh because it is fitting to some students who would rather attend that event. It has been a standing commitment over the past several years in recognition that it does provide an alternative option that is verified by a demographic of students.

Vice-President Patel said that there is good institutional memory and past budgets for radical frosh.

Chair Crawford asked if the socialist society is on this list.

Vice-President Patel said that this list does not include the latest reviews by the committee. Some club fund applications are being reviewed because over sixty in total were received.

Vice-President Clare said that in point 17.1, it says that the campus life fund \$200 went to the purchase of a single sled.

Vice-President Patel said that it seemed unfair for the group to charge registration when this equipment was all they needed to start. The 200 was to support them and let them start their group. They have been a good group at communicating with Vice-President Fraser, the IGC, and himself. He will be helping the Interest Group Coordinator in terms of quotes and sled purchases.

President Knight said that she appreciates that some Councillors have knowledge of specific groups but it makes it not as open for people to ask questions that they are specifically involved with. It is not the case that if you are on the Council your club will get approval.

12) Reports by Executives

12a. VP University Affairs

Vice-President Clare stood for questions.

Questions

Councillor Clarke said that he is aware that members of the senate who are not students have been approached. What is the response of those.

Vice-president Clare said that they have been approaching faculty member as well as non-academic support staff not specifically to the motion but also more generally. She touches base with a lot of them both before and after the senate meeting. They understand where students are coming from and are speaking on the issues

President knight said that anything that is said is recorded in the minutes and an academic amnesty motion is politically confidential.

Stettin asked whether she could elaborate on what is being done in regards to hacking student account opt-outs and whether the fee could be returned to those groups.

Vice-President Clare recieved this report in regards to a specific student. President Knight and professor mendelson will be meeting about this soon. They will be judging what is said on that meeting and she will report on this.

12b. VP Internal

Vice-President Plummer stood for questions regarding his report.

Questions

Councillor Stettin wondered about the section on campus community campaign. He asked whether the the free cupcake event was the event where HMB came to SSMU and if so he has two major concerns about this. First, he is concerned with the celebration of James McGill's birthday, as McGill was the largest slaveholder in Canada. Secondly, given the tense relationships that the student society has been having with the administration, was it appropriate to invite Heather Monroe Blum into the SSMU building?

President Knight said that this event was planned in the middle of July and President Knight herself is the co-chair of the campus community campaign. In general, the campaign does a lot of cute, happy events. They are at the lower and mid-level of administration where the SSMU works really well with SSMU issues that are less political. There was some pause for thought regarding the MUNACA situation and this event. However, since this event would be advertised they thought this would not be bad for the community to talk with the Principal directly. The point is well taken but when people from middle-level admin want to give cupcakes to students that should not be stopped.

Councillor Kunev asked why the bus company was a no-show at the hoedown.

Vice-President Plummer said that have not given him a valid reason. He had e-mailed them the details and phoned them. The students that did show up to go on the trip were understanding that there was nothing he could do. MCSS is very eager to reschedule, and some students from downtown did go, so the event still did happen. From a financial perspective, cost of the bus and security were not incurred.

Councillor Kunev asked whether it is possible to use the McGill-Macdonald shuttle buses.

Vice-President Plummer said that he was referred to the bus company because that is the company that does the McGill-Macdonald shuttle buses.

President Knight said that they do not run late (last is 6pm).

Councillor Paterson appreciated his new choice in typeface for his report..

Councillor Winer asked if there are any updates for exam time puppies.

Vice-President Plummer said no.

12c. VP Finance & Operations

Vice-President Patel said that he was thinking to himself about how he could serve Council and students better. He has started a progress report for himself. It was hard to find anything he has not done well (he joked). Although most of what he has done is in the reports it is difficult for them to read the reports. He would like to invite Councillors to come see him and it would be difficult to start things before the term ends if he is not approached soon. He said that a third of Councillors have come by the office to see him. He would like everyone to ask what he has been working on. He stood for questions.

There were no questions.

12d. VP External

Vice-President Pedneault had a couple of updates regarding MUNACA since he wrote his report. The update of the injunction (limiting MUNACA's ability to picket) is that it has been renewed until January 21st. A message was just sent out today on McGill mail, and the reason that date has been

chosen is the deadline that they have been able to agree on negotiations. He wrote about organizing the all-McGill assembly. There is an idea of organizing an assembly for October 27th. The framing of this rally could be to end the strike and tell McGill that they are sick of this dragging out; this is the biggest upcoming action that he can mention. Some Councillors are organizing the McGill Community Project for those who are not pleased with the current situation with administration. There is a really cool situation right now because the more the strike drags on, the more people can organize events to criticize the organization in a common fashion. Feel free to drop by his office.

Questions

Vice-President Clare asked whether it will be possible for Vice-President Pedneault to help people striking by bring things to the picket line, given the extension of the injunction. Councillor Stettin said that Vice-President Pedneault does not have to be the only one doing this and Council should be helping because they have mandated themselves to show support. Vice-President Pedneault said that it is better if people can come to him with ideas about how to help the strikers and would welcome such ideas.

Vice-President Clare asked what the money for the cost of the MUNACA t-shirts is going to. Vice-President Patel said that the \$8 cost is going to recovering the cost of the t-shirts.

12e. VP Clubs & Services

Vice-President Fraser was thanked for her report.

12f. President

President Knight was in England last week. She thanked everyone for their patience because she was not responding to e-mails as quickly as normal. She wrote her report from England and did not send the usual reminder she sends to Executives to send in their own reports.

She said that she spends a lot of time doing HR things which she cannot report to Council. It comprises about 15-20% of what she does. With regards to the Vice-President Finance and Operations discussion about progress reports, the Executive Committee discussed full report. Midterms are done with campus press and campus press is often not as comprehensive. There will be three weeks between this Council meeting and the next, which will help because the Council will be able to flush out ideas. President Knight would like to see amazing ideas happen in the next three weeks.

President Knight congratulated the Council for surviving September. Given porter duties, many were working long days without breaks. She thanked the Council for their support. Also, she said that all Councillors are required to have at least two hours of office hours a month. Send your office hours to secgen@ssmu.mcgill.ca so that an accessible master list can be made. President Knight stood for questions regarding her report.

Questions

Councillor Clarke asked for an update o the SSMU membership list request. President Knight said that there is continued discussions with legal Council and continued correspondence. The member in question is upset by the delays. Councillor Crawford said that this list can only be used to call an assembly of the members. He asked “Can we expect a call to assembly of the members in the months to come?” President Knight said that she cannot speculate about what might be done with the list.

General Manager Gervais asked the President to confirm SSMU’s insurance policy for Council.

President Knight said that members of Council and the Board of Directors are covered under SSMU's insurance. She will send information via e-mail on what that means. Essentially, that means that there is a certain level of protection. If you are sued for something that you say in your role at Council or as a Councillor you are protected by the SSMU. Obviously, Councillors are supposed to take care not to provoke a situation.

Chair Nizam asked whether the recording secretary and speakers are included in that. President Knight said that employees may be included, and she we will find out

Vice-President Pedneault asked what the discussion at the board of governors was regarding the MUNACA strike and increased tuition.

President Knight said that regarding the MUNACA strike, the preamble was quite similar to what was heard at Senate from the principal. There are very real financial challenges, and respect and integrity for parts of the issue. She conceded that it is not business as usual and thanked DiGrappa and his team for their hard work. Members of the board are the same as others. Many board members have received direct communication from MUNACA. They are all very aware this is an issue and some are becoming interested and exerting pressure on McGill.

Regarding the MBA there was much congratulations and the massive tuition increase was not stressed. The international faculty program was not in fact an issue that the Quebec government required. The people applying to MBAs went up since tuition went up. The other major thing that was discussed was rankings.

Councillor Kunev what the GA bylaw review will be trying to accomplish tomorrow. Can you comment on the GA and GA reform?

President Knight said that in Monday's edition on the Daily there will be a response from the SSMU Executive in response to a piece on the GA. One of the things that they said is that there was no reform but if this reform had been done in the summer they would not be very happy. They will be trying to boil down the key decision points that they need to look at, including quorum, the ability to introduce motion on floor, interaction of GA and referendum process, and there will be discussion about a survey that can be sent to student body with tangible questions that will be more concrete than previous GA consultation things.

Councillor Kunev asked what the timeframe is in terms of implementing reform. "Will a motion be brought to the next GA or Council?

President Knight said that the hope is to implement an initial set of reforms at the Winter GA. There would be a first reading at Council on December 1st and the final adoption would be in the first meeting in January. Also, this structure will be tested at the winter GA with some time to further amend things and hopefully resolve and fix the GA for next year.

Vice-President Pedneault asked what kinds of changes she had to intervene in things that were discussed.

President Knight said that given the composition of the Board of governors, it is easy to burn bridges when jousting when you cannot hit anything. A professor who is a member of the Board said that he doesn't think that professors understand the tuition structure. The principal responded to him saying that McGill makes more presentations than any other university. She mentioned that she thinks it would be helpful if the university could provide a more comprehensive document or set of documents that would lay out its case that is not a part of long documents. The principal was not very happy with her at this suggestion. There was one

other thing that President Knight spoke up about and two members of the Board acknowledged her useful contributions after the meeting.

13) Question Period

Councillor Dinel said that they were talking about political associations and she sat through ten minutes of class time where people described why they did not want to get involved in SSMU. When she told people that only 20% of people voted it made people think somewhat. She asked what the SSMU is doing to increase its accessibility and attractiveness to the student population. President Knight said that this is always struggled with and listserv is major means of communicating with everybody. The SSMU was present in a lot of things in September. There will be an attempt to diversify the ways in which we are reaching out. President Knight and Vice-President Plummer will be going into each faculty Council at some point. They will say hi and give a short rundown of what SSMU does before standing for questions. Innovative ideas on reaching out for people would be greatly appreciated..

Vice-President Pedneault said that something SSMU Councillors and Executives could be doing to get the word out more to get involved, by getting students to check out the website and say how SSMU is important.

Chair Nizam suggested that Councillors e-mail their ideas to the Executive or bring this to the steering committee. She and Chair Tong are going to faculty associations to support their speakers as well.

14) In-Camera Session

15) Adjournment 1:45am.