



Students' Society of McGill University  
Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

**Office of the Speakers**  
Bureau de Présidents du Conseil

## Meeting Minutes of the SSMU Legislative Council

November 17, 2011

**1) Call to Order** 6:11pm

**2) Attendance**

The attendance is available in a separate document.

**3) Adoption of the Agenda**

Item 10b will be stricken in favor of item 11b. Vice-President Fraser submitted a motion on behalf of Vice-President Pedneault regarding the addition of New Business 9e. MUNACA Letter.

The agenda was adopted with the above amendments.

**4) Approval of the Minutes – 11/03/11**

On page 10 “Ridel” was amended to “Redel” and on page 12 “Rafe” was amended to “Raffe”. Also, on page 13 “former” should be added before Vice-President. These were adopted without contest.

On page 10, “Kojima” and one of the times that it says “QPIRG” it should be changed to “CKUT” on page 13 and “except this time the fee is not opt-outable on the online system” will be added.

These motions were adopted with the above changes.

**5) Report of the Steering Committee**

President Knight stood for questions on both reports.

Councillor Clarke asked, regarding Councillor Love’s resignation, whether Councillor Dinel now gets two votes.

President Knight said that she has been in touch with the religious studies society to get another representative. The point is that religious studies is represented here and that will not be lacking at this point.

Councillor Kunev asked why Councillor Love resigned.

President Knight said that a reason was not provided.

Vice-President Fraser is wondering about point 1, HMB coming to visit council, and asked whether the Council will be visited soon.

President Knight was asked about December 5<sup>th</sup> and she said that this was not an appropriate time for students. They will be looking for further scheduling options; President Knight had conveyed that might not be the best time to have a nuanced conversation with the principal.

Both of the reports of the Steering Committee were adopted.

**6) Guest Speakers**

### **6a. Trenholme Colleen Cook, Dean of Libraries**

Ms. Cook, the newly appointed Dean of Libraries, said it is truly her pleasure to come talk. She comes from Texas. She said she would like to hear feedback from the Council. She thanked the students very much for the Library Improvement Fund. Since 1996 it has amounted to over 5 million dollars and the results are visible. There is about \$600,000 in the fund as of last year. Some projects that have been funded by the library improvement fund are extended hours, the Gelber library and humanities improvements, and more student hiring. She extended heartfelt appreciation because this would not have been able to be done without students’ help. Library spaces are most



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important to undergraduates in terms of services and programs. During the work disruption, the Schulich library and Humanities libraries were kept open for 24 hours. As she said before, she is new and her research has been on understanding library services. As 30,000 people, undergrads are the leading stakeholders on campus. Desks are no longer staffed at 8 in the morning, based on student schedules, but buildings are open 24/7. Seed money that was given to open up libraries longer was hugely significant because money was put where the Council thought students' most important needs were. Now, longer opening hours are not funded by the library improvement fund, because money has been moved from other priorities to keep libraries open. If you tell us the things that you want and are willing to put up some money for it, we are going to go the extra mile. We are engaged in improving library facilities. The Redpath hall is the library's historic reading room. In the first floor of the redpath building at the wall of MacLennan that parallels Sherbrooke, facing the common lower campus and MacTavish; there are 60 people who occupy offices in that space. Ms. Cook wants to open up that entire space to student needs. This space would range from an informal type of library space with a coffee shop where you can eat, leading to different spaces which would end with a ninja-quiet space on the South side of MacLennan. Think of the cybertheque, but some of the spaces in the cybertheque are not flexible enough. There needs to be more furniture on wheels, group study spaces, and soft chairs where you can take a nap if you need to. Some students will be asked to be an advisory group and to help think of a design. After that information, there will be questions about the furniture, the furniture will be brought in, and then students can vote on it.

Councillor Bi said that one idea is putting more money to course reserves and textbooks for introductory courses. Will there be more money designated to that?

Dean Cook said that you can go into the reserve system mostly for electronic data. She said in terms of textbooks, more will be bought.

Dean Cook asked the Council if resources would be more helpful electronically. She said she would like to understand what students' needs are in terms of books vs. online resources.

Vice-President Clare said that if she is in front of her computer screen too long she gets distracted, and a lot of students end up printing out a lot of their online readings. For people who want to come in there should be a couple of copies.

Dean Cook said she is not surprised by the idea that students would like to have a little bit of everything available.

Vice-President Fraser said that a library is a space even more than the information that it holds. She said that more group space is really good but asked that it not include only tables and desks.

Dean Cook said that there is no doubt that the life of the mind is phenomenal. Libraries with stained glass and other stimuli are important; she will keep those spaces around. The new area that will range from a coffee shop to ninja-quiet is arranged in different areas to reflect that the needs of users are very different. We have beautiful spaces already and we will keep those, but change others.

Councillor Niu asked about the exam services on the website. He said that exams can be outdated up to ten years. He asked what other materials students might be able to find so that resources for studying could be more up to date.



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Dean Cook said she was not aware of that, but her e-mail is [colleen.cook@mcgill.ca](mailto:colleen.cook@mcgill.ca). She said she was very interested in hearing students' concerns "please meet with me." She also wanted to bring up that right now there are only 33 people who are providing face-to-face services to everyone. She said she can imagine what the answer is regarding the availability of alternate exam resources, but would like to double-check. She always welcomes anyone in the office.

Councillor Chaini said that she really likes the 24-hour library system but there were only a couple of students in the library very late at night. She asked about the monetary considerations.

Dean Cook said that they are keeping track of statistics and keeping it open only with one security officer. She said she has been there in the early morning and there are students there at any time of the day. If it's cost-effective, and it's what students want, and students will use, then it will be done.

Vice-President Clare asked, given Dean Cook's past experience, what the biggest difference is in the way that libraries are approached in Canada versus the U.S?

Dean Cook said that her only experience is with McGill and her only U.S. experience is in Texas. The university of Texas A & M and Texas at Austin are the libraries she knows. In the U.S., and particularly where she was, she said there was a whole lot more and better space. The collections were not necessarily better overall, but in books alone they were better. For teaching and research missions, the collection is just adequate because of the availability of electronic access. Just in the book world it was not like that. Libraries are just catching up in Canada in terms of resources because there is an orientation to search online. She said that if students give more money the spaces get better. She said that she and libraries simply have to be responsive to the people who give more money.

Vice-President Fraser asked a question about the library improvement fund. She said "after a certain point, will these services become a normalized part of library and the library improvement funding will get moved to other things?"

Dean Cook said that the extension of hours amount, which had been coming from the library improvement fund, has been taken over (and normalized in the library budget). The money that is freed up should be used for renovations of one of the floors of MacLennan. Students and graduate students are consulted on how that money will be spent.

Councillor Bi heard there was a plan to add to the size of the cafeteria in the basement of MacLennan/Redpath.

Dean Cook said that there is going to be a larger eating area on the first floor. It will not have exactly those same things that are now present in the cafeteria. Options will be explored.

President Knight asked whether there will be a commitment to not just a coffee bar with cookies but whether there will be an opportunity for full meals, given students' tendency to live in libraries around exam time.

Dean Cook said that is not what library space is for. It's not going to be another dining hall, but there will be more than adequate food which students can remain healthy on.

President Knight asked if the amount of "real food" will be increasing or decreasing. It is cold in Montréal and the McGill dining halls are not open as much as they possibly could be.

Dean Cook said she's not sure what it's going to be but it's not going to look like it does now.



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It's going to be food that the library can manage in terms of not trashing the place all the time. The cafeteria space is currently very messy all the time. She said that students are going to love what's upstairs.

Dean Cook said that she has the best job on campus and the best thing she gets to do is make people happy. That truly is a privilege in this job, and would encourage others to become libraries because libraries get to make others happy all the time. She asked Councillors to e-mail her for more information or to meet up.

Chair Nizam said that anyone can e-mail the speakers with questions for the Dean as well, and thanked her for the presentation.

### **7) Announcements**

Vice-President Fraser and President Knight postponed the strategic summit on student space to next semester. It is a really important issue and will be dealt with then.

Councillor Uribe-Arango said that the ERC is having a party tomorrow at Champs. The theme of the party is anything but clothes.

Councillor Hernandez said that this weekend there are several games. There is Redmen hockey vs. Queens. There is market basketball and Saturday there is a track and field McGill open in the field house. Another team will be in Halifax.

Councillor Kourilova said that the CASCO charity dance and fashion show tomorrow at the Telus theatre. There is an early bird registration discount for management thing and very successful hype week.

Vice-President Pedneault said that there is a working group on McGill's governance structures on the second floor starting at 5:30pm, beside BDP.

Councilor Lessard said that on 20 November at 2 there will be a flash mob in commemoration of the declaration of the rights of the child in Philips square.

Councillor Chaini said that the Pakistani association and collaborators are holding a formal tomorrow night at the Holiday Inn. The cost is \$25 for members and she will get Councillors in for member price.

Councilor Bi said that Saturday is AUS's Stash Dash. If you are looking for tickets, ask Councillor Doyle. Councillor Doyle said that tickets will be sold from 1-3pm in Leacock tomorrow.

Vice-President Clare said that next week on Wednesday from 11-3pm there will be a student services town hall. She and Jana Luker are getting all of the directors of student services to be there. Check out more information the listserv. Vice-President Fraser said that if you want to know how the MUNACA strike has affected student services, come out for that. On the Thursday there will be McGill Legal Clinic, the Office for Dean of Students, and there will be ability to file incident reports



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about the police, and information on complaints about McGill security will be coming up soon. Let her know if you would like more information.

Vice-President Fraser said that advanced room bookings are pretty much done and will be confirmed on Monday.

Councillor Hernandez said that the varsity blood drive is coming up the week after this coming Monday.

President Knight said that there is a notice of motion today for changing the General Assembly bylaws. That will probably not be the final version that is passed and there will be a town hall to discuss this document more thoroughly which has not yet been asked.

### **8) Question Period**

Chair Nizam said that this is an opportunity to ask any questions about November 10<sup>th</sup>.

Councillor Clarke said that one recommendation at the event on Monday and at Senate was to naming the James Square Community Square, and asked what SSMU is doing to support that. President Knight said that ultimate decisions are made on the BOG. She and Vice-President Clare will be meeting with the Secretary General and bringing this up.

Vice-President Clare asked if any Councillors feel that SSMU should be providing more support services.

Councillor Uribe-Arango asked if she could list off the support services that are being offered.

Vice-President Clare said that there is active listening to be provided by Nightline and SACOMSS. If all Councillors feel that this should be extended further, or if you have any ideas of what you can do in the upcoming weeks, she would welcome that.

Councillor Bernard asked if the number of calls to Nightline and SACOMSS was more than they could be sustained. She suggested hiring a social worker or psychologist if that was the case.

Councillor Kunev said that there has been a differentiation between what the occupiers said and what the administration said. He asked what would be the proper avenue to address this and get to the truth and is there anything else we can do in helping the investigation.

President Knight said we don't have a completely unbiased, everything-recorded version of the events. She said she would encourage people to submit things to the investigation. Also there is an independent student inquiry ([independentstudentinquiry@gmail.com](mailto:independentstudentinquiry@gmail.com)) so you can submit things in writing or set up interviews with them. SSMU has been collecting testimonials as well. We will see a concrete series of events hopefully come forward through these.

Councillor Clarke said that while he understands the importance of a student inquiry, he is concerned about the lack of confidence in the Dean of Law's testimony. He asked "do you hope that these testimonies will be sent to the Dean of Law, as well, as his testimony will carry more weight?"

Vice-President Clare said that the people who wrote in to SSMU needed to write in to engage in some sort of healing process. She has sent e-mails in response to each of the e-mails received and



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asked if that could be sent to the Dean and to the Inquiry and whether it could be shared at Senate. Each respondent has requested different things in the ways that they would like their information to be shared.

Councillor Chaini said that opening up the SSMU office is a good thing. A lot of students are traumatized. She asked if students know where to go. She said that a lot of students want to have more information from SSMU.

Vice-President Fraser said that there could be a reminder about all of the services being offered and QPIRG and McGill Counselling are organizing more time for sessions. There is information on the website which should stay up-to-date. She said that for herself, things have been really hard this past week and she wanted to make sure that everybody is seeking support for themselves. It might be hard to seek support for yourself especially if you are in a leadership role.

President Knight said that an MRO sent by the Deputy Provost had a link to the SSMU blog post as well as other services. In terms of providing more information, they would like to have faith in the Dean of Law's investigation. More information could be sent out to students as a response after the investigation is published.

Councillor Hernandez said that there was a perfect opportunity to use the emergency communication service on November 1.

Vice-President Clare said that on Friday, they met with Professor Mendelson and the Dean of Students and different members of university safety. They said if they sent out the wrong message, there could be an inundation of students coming in to see what was happening. She said that Montreal has a significant history of having to clear people out of areas. Vice-President Clare said that the Dean will not be focusing on what the police did. She said there are remaining questions about why students weren't told not to go inside and, why students were not allowed to access medical care in McConnell.

Vice-President Pedneault said that he has less enthusiasm than some Executives in terms of the Dean's investigation. The way that the investigation is framed is supposed to "reduce the likelihood or occurrence" of this happening in the future, which opens the doors to securitization. This campus is already pretty heavy on security guards and one conclusion of the report could be to have more security guards or give them more police powers. Testimonies might be used in a way that a lot of people might not look upon favorably.

President Knight said that testimonies could also include a statement that this was due to a ramp-up of securitization on campus. In advance on Monday's event there was a worry that there would be increased security presence, but they were aware this would be inappropriate.

Councillor Kunev said that the Dean will not be compiling testimonies. He asked if Executives can require the Dean to take more reports from security and said that there is some talk that they have been employed by a private firm but that is important.

## **9) New Business**

### **9a. Notice of Motion Regarding Reform of the SSMU General Assembly**





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Councillor Burnett would like to group his concerns in three categories. There have been structural problems in the process and not addressing the root problems of getting students involved in SSMU and things like online surveys about whether or not we should vote online. The second category has to do with the type of reforms that have been proposed. These things good ideas and some are things that students have expressed in but others are not being addressed; for example there is something to do with accessibility to francophone students, but he does not think this is enough. Thirdly, the ratification of general assemblies by referendum in the bylaws (28.1) says that the society is allowed to change anything except those provisions outlined in 28.1. It is not within capacity of bylaws to expect that decisions will be finished. If the executive were to move referenda against decisions, that could happen under current provisions.

Chair Nizam said that questions can be brought to the movers of this motion at this point, as this is only a notice of motion.

President Knight said that she would not go into the specific concerns of Councillor Burnett's right now. This is not the ideal solution at this point but if this should be changed before February that will not be good. She said that the overview of how this process would be conducted was provided a long time ago. There was an online survey and two town halls. She said that she hoped to have an ad about consultation in the tribune. His has been a substantial improvement and this is coming forward to the Council for approval in two more weeks. She would not like to hear that there has not been enough time to consider. People have not been considering proactive input. She asked the Councillors please take the next two weeks to seek information and provide input.

Councillor Bi said that she attended one of the town halls and the people who attended were in very much in favor of an online vote. She is wondering why the online aspect hasn't been added to the proposed reform.

President Knight said that various concerns were raised both pro and con regarding an online system. On the pro side, it is physically impossible to be informed space and debate does not happen as well online. We have to discuss this further. The town hall and survey are important forms of consultation but neither of those forums were a representative sample. If you have questions regarding the substantive aspects of the motion, please bring it forward.

Councillor Kunev asked how article 28.1 is saying that this motion is unconstitutional. He said it doesn't refer to the fact that it's wrong or not and does not see a problem.

President Knight asked that this conversation be brought outside of this body, but that this is not unconstitutional.

Chair Nizam said that this can be brought to the Chairs for their consideration of the constitutionality of the motion.

Councillor Burnett asked what is the point of a notice of motion

Chair Nizam said that it is to make Councillors aware that they will be voting and to expose glaring errors.



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Vice-President Fraser asked if this will be brought to next Council. It is her understanding that this takes three readings.

President Knight said that the second reading will be at the steering committee and the third will be at the Legislative Council's next meeting. The deadline for reports is Friday at 5pm.

Chair Nizam said that any questions should be brought to the Steering Committee.

### **9b. Motion Regarding SSMU Council Meeting Time Constraints**

There was a change to the resolved clause to read "end by 1:00am"

Councillor Kunev said that the aim is not to reduce debate but just to standardize the time for Council but to make sure that there is a large quorum. There would be a special Council meeting if one session ends up being too long. Other student groups have expressed an opinion that SSMU takes too long to make decisions. We need to be more effective.

Chair Nizam said that the one-minute maximum speaking time will be very strict.

Councillor Winer said that he would like to express his sympathy but still support it. When discussions go late at night, it is because we should take the considerations further. He said that after the last in-camera sessions, SSMU said that they would fund cab rides home. He asked if cab rides could be provided home if Council ends too late.

Councillor Uribe-Arango said that he would like to agree. He said that he goes brain-dead past 2am, he has 8:30 class every day, and does not have the mental faculty to make a good decision at 2am.

President Knight said that she sympathizes with this motion. Late-night meetings are never a good time, but she is concerned about the constraints that this puts on Council. It can be allowed to table motions. This can be a right that Council uses its time more effectively. She said while she thinks it is a good motion and requests that the speakers be more fierce, she would not like business to be potentially arbitrary. The idea of holding unfinished meetings on the following Thursday (between regular Council sessions) and restricting access to this room every Thursday would limit clubs and groups trying to book space.

Councillor Bernard said that she agrees with the restriction on guest speakers. This took a very long time last session and said that the second part of his motion should stay in this motion.

Councillor Chaini said that even scheduling every other Thursday has been difficult and moving clubs' bookings is difficult. She made a motion to strike the first three clauses, but to keep the time change and number of guest speaker change.

Debate began on Councillor Chaini's unfriendly amendment:

Councillor Burnett said that it's important for Council to make time-sensitive decisions.

Councillor Clarke said that students have an uncanny ability to repeat debate claims. He is not in favour of this change.





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This amendment to strike the first three operative clauses passed with a vote of 15-4-5.

Vice-President Fraser made a motion to amend this motion to say that the speaking time would be a maximum of five minutes as opposed to two minutes and instead of one minute for question and answer she would like to have two minutes.

Vice-President Plummer asked whether the Council can move to change speaking time by suspending the rules. Chiar Nizam said yes, and if a speaker needs more time to answer she will exercise discussion. Vice-President Fraser rescinded her amendment.

Councillor Jean-Claude said that debate should be done on urgent matters. He asked that at 11pm there could be a vote to reconsider the agenda. This was ruled redundant because anyone can move to amend the agenda at any time.

Councillor Chaini made a motion to previous question.

Councillor Kunev said that in terms of the maximum number of minutes his first priority is to make sure that there is enough time for important sessions. The spirit of the motion is also about having respect for Councillors who cannot be there after 1am or 2am. He said that they can be required to stay very late after their vote.

Chair Nizam said that Councillors can motion to table a topic at any point.

The motion to previous question passed. With a vote of 20-3-1, the amended motion passed.

### **9c. 2011-2012 SSMU Budget**

Vice-President Patel said thank you Madame Speaker. It is his honour and privilege to present the revised budget of 2011-2012. He said that you will see that there is a table of contents immediately after the title page. He encouraged Councillors to take some time to actually look at it and not just go with it. There is a lot of money that we're spending. He said he would take time to go through most of it, but the Finance Committee will be yielded some time to talk about it. Vice-President Patel thanked Steven Tamas and Pauline Gervais. He said he is proud to be sitting next to them today and be presenting this budget because it is very student-oriented. This budget will be presented three times for Council. The first is today. In February, there will be an update on the finances. The last presentation will be of the budget in 2012-2013. He said that the most significant change is in the salaries to the general administration budget. The only departments where this isn't true is after-hours agents, security, Gerts, services, and mini-courses. Other significant changes are funding—the club fund has increased for SSMU full-status clubs at \$100,000. Funding overall has increased and opt-outs were the same as last year. He is really happy about this. He said one other note he'd like to make is sponsorship. James Campbell, the marketing manager, was thanked for an increase in sponsorship last year. He already exceeded the budgeted amount from last year's Council. Vice-President Patel said that page 5 is a budget break-down for those who want to understand how the budget works. Page 6-7 is a breakdown of fees. On page 8 is the global budget (the whole budget for the whole year) including all of the departments. General administration, security, and building are included here even though they have their own departments. Clubs expenses are on page 10 in a beautiful graph. On page 11 there is the big bad budget, General Administration. Salary



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increases are here and there is a graph to show changes from year-to-year. Salaries have gone up not just for student staff salaries but staff salaries. Two new individuals were included (HR Advisor and Sustainability Coordinator). On the next page is a breakdown of professional fees including legal fees. Right now, there are a lot of fees including the MOA and lease, anything to do with tenants, the membership list, and the audit by Richter. Salaries for the after-hours agents are listed under the Security budget. There is an amount for approval tonight which is different from other which has to do with assets. Revenues and expenses are been discussed in the building budget because rent has been increased to the university (this is not confirmed but was kept high to be conservative). Under Operations, Haven Books and Book Bazaar have no budgets anymore. Gerts and Mini-courses had a small surplus. This is a conservative estimate just to be safe, because actual will be more available. In Governance, there is a budget for each portfolio. Vice-President Patel's Operations budget has money for food for committees or supplies like binders. These are lower because salaries for student staff have been transferred. These have been most relevant to the Vice-President University affairs and Vice-President External. Events are mostly relative to the Vice-President Clubs & Services and Vice-President Internal. This deficit is projected to be realistic. Students are not charged more for the event and SSMU pays for part of it. The biggest change is the sustainability case competition being led by the President. Actual from last year were quite expensive. Homecoming as a huge event was not supported, though there was an event at Gerts.

Questions:

Councillor Latham said that on page 19 funds are discussed, and asked for more information. Vice-President Patel said that there is a \$40,000 increase in funds including \$34,000 increase in the ambassador fund is because of the increase brought forward to referendum. These funds are distributed to campus groups. Environment fund has gone down to pay environment commissioners.

Councillor Bi said that Media and Communications should be closer to breaking even because revenue generated from the handbook is greater than the cost. She would like SSMU to make more money.

Councillor Kunev said that in terms of services, revenues here do not include the fees.

Vice-President Patel said that this is the end of the budget. Student groups have put forward first. He said it is pleasure to serve you. He would be happy to listen to concerns.

Vice-President Fraser asked why there is no revenues for Nightline, because they have an opt-outable fee.

Vice-President Patel said that revenues listed on services page are not the revenues that they make on their own.

Councillor Bi asked why the Council budget has been slashed on page 16.

Vice-President Patel said that some of that amount went into the Executive Committee budget because it was put towards the Executive retreat. This year it the retreat amount was calculated separately. President Knight said that stipends for speakers and the recording secretary are under general admin.



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Councillor Paterson asked what the external affairs covers and why it needs \$12,000, on page 16. Vice-President Patel said that some money from external affairs was put to campaigns and that is why there is less than in previous years. In terms of what each Executive does with their budget is dependent on the Executive. In the vice-president External's case, money could apply to a bus trip, for example. Regarding specific transactions, he would be happy to see specific information. In 2006-7 the external budget was double what it is right now.

Councillor Bi asked why there are bank charges because we have no loans Steven Tamas said that the bank charges are automatic for the use of the money. Checks, deposits, payroll, and statements are charged.

The budget for the 2012 school year was moved for approval. The budget was approved unanimously.

#### **9d. Committee Elections**

Chair Tong said that elections are being done for the three Councillors who have recently joined the Council. Councillor Hernandez, Lessard, and Uribe-Arango will be joining committees. Also, Councillor Winer has expressed interest in taking Councillor Love's spot on the Interest Group Committee.

Councillor Winer's seat on IGC was ratified.

Chair Tong said that Steering Committee requires two Councillors. SSPN also requires one Councillor. There will also be two Councillors on the Building Committee.

President Knight said that every Councillor may sit on at least one Committee. Steering Committee needs to have its two seats filled. Additionally, the building committee seats need to be filled. There are other Committees have an unlimited number of seats. We will have to elect other Councillors to those seats if they need to be filled.

Councillors Uribe-Arango and Councillor Lessard were approved to sit on the Steering Committee.

Vice-President Fraser said that there isn't a lot of time in the operations management committee to address building issues. On the building committee, there would be Wallace the security supervisor, the General Manager, the Clubs & Services Representative, and a porter are part of the committees.

Councillor Hernandez and Councillor Wunn were welcomed to the building committee.

Councillor Kryluk put herself forward to sit on SSPN and her place on SSPN was approved.

#### **9e. Letter Re: MUNACA**

Vice-President Pedneault send this letter to the Executive Committee who agreed that this should be brought to Council. MUNACA marched today to the Minister of Education's workplace. This letter has already signed by others like AGSEM. If they wanted to sign off on a modified version they would have to re-draft it and sign a different letter. This letter involves a stance on last week's protests.



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Questions:

Councillor Bi said that she is looking at this letter and is confused about paragraphs two and three. She thought the sit-in was to do with tuition hikes. She asked if he would be open to striking paragraph three.

Vice-President Pedneault said that he is not really comfortable re-drafting it but would be open to that. He would recommend signing the letter as it is. What happened last Thursday was not just in relation to tuition hikes but also in regards to MUNACA and the general state of the world. This mentions tuition hikes and the presence of police on campus because they are all related and this is a wise and symbolic step to retaining justice.

Chair Nizam said that the question is whether to sign this letter as it is. Otherwise, it could be sent with edits.

Vice-President Plummer said that he is uncomfortable signing this based on the first sentence of the third paragraph. He said that is not true as it was told to us. SSMU does not have enough information on both sides of the story about what happened. The occupiers themselves will be biased about this.

Vice-President Pedneault said that the people who said that this was not peaceful was the administration

The peaceful not

Councillor Clarke asked if there are actual instances of staff being threatened

Vice-President Pedneault said that this is probably referring to one professor whose job was threatened when she was known to be teaching off campus

Councillor Chaini said that this has already been signed as is. She asked about a change that would be grammatical.

Vice-President Pedneault said that we might as well just sign because a lot of unions would have to ok this. Small grammatical changes would not need to be changed if we basically want to sign this as it is.

Chair Nizam said that smaller edits would have to be approved by a number of unions and it would be better to either re-draft the letter, or send it exactly as it is.

The floor was opened to debate on whether or not to sign the letter:

Councillor Uribe-Arango said that on the first line of the third paragraph he asked what would happen if the Quebec Minister disagreed with this in principle.

Vice-President Pedneault said that this has already been signed and sent by others. There will be a response given to the letter if more people sign it. Vice-President Pedneault said that this should at least be a starting point so that SSMU can take a stand in order to provoke response. Having a large number of groups sign on would give an opportunity to point out the situation with the government and all of these groups would like to change the situation and get MUNACA back in negotiations.



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Councillor Kryluk said she is confused about the objective of the letter and wants more clarity about how the incidents are related. She understands why we might want to see the same letter.

Councillor Paterson said that the third paragraph is something that she does not agree with. She said that MUNACA is fine, but things about November 10<sup>th</sup> aren't.

Councillor Winer said that he doesn't think this letter makes a coherent point. He appreciates the sentiment. He asked if there is a point in trying to redraft this letter. He said he would happily work on that and bring it to the next Council.

Vice-President Pedneault said that he would be happy to send this letter to the Ministry of Education. This administration made some interesting moves, for example structuring Boards of Governors with external representatives. He doesn't trust the administration to act. He was at the MUNACA protests today outside of a Minister's office. The ministry's decisions to raise tuition fees and not allowing people a decent wage is part of the ministry's responsibility.

Councilor Burnett said that the relationships between 2 and 3 including but not limited to undergraduate students, there has been a larger use of securitization to limit political activity on campus. Something they are disturbed about as a community are peaceful demonstrations by MUNACA and others and more recent events that culminated in riot police on campus.

Vice-President Clare said that SSMU can talk about the events of November 10<sup>th</sup> more succinctly than this letter does. She said that it is good to bring multiple perspectives that argue the same thing through a different lens.

Councilor Kunev said that he does not agree with the intention of this letter. He said that we need to be looking more into the events on the fifth floor. Being critical is not very good at this point since HMB has talked about being more open to students. Getting the truth about the fifth floor is possible. Further, Councillor Kunev would like to establish a better policy about security on campus.

Chair Nizam said that the debate is about signing this particular version of the letter.

President Knight said that the tone SSMU might wish to express would be a bit different. Police on campus is not very pertinent here. She suggests that tacit approval be decided by e-mail.

Chair Nizam would like to have three categories in the upcoming vote-yes, sign the letter, no, do not sign any letter, or write our own letter.

Councillor Clarke asked if the spirit would remain the same for the third letter.

Chair Nizam said she would entertain debate about that.

Councillor Bi said that as a person who's worked in receiving offices these letters end up on interns desks. If administration sees these actions go on we might get more retribution and less attention.

Vice-President Fraser made a motion to previous question.



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**The vote was two for yes, six no, seventeen for writing our own letter, and one abstention.**

Vice-President Fraser proposed that the Vice-President Pedneault write this letter with any interested Councillors and proposed that it keeps references to November 10<sup>th</sup> with a nuanced understanding and be a bit more carefully written.

Councillor Chaini said that the writers of this letter were confused about the connection between these two events and would like this point to be made more clear.

Chair Nizam reminded that this letter is to be mandated to a committee, so suggestions should be sent directly to the Chair of that committee.

Councillor Bi said that when this letter is drafted, action items be kept to the last paragraph. This is too much a blanket statement and this should be kept short.

Vice-President Clare made a motion to mandate this to the External Affairs Committee. This letter-writing process will now go to the External Affairs Committee.

Vice-President Pedneault asked to discuss what the letter should contain.

Councillor Winer said that the way the student investigation is being run is not a good idea and McGill's investigation will probably not help, so this letter should address the request a public inquiry.

Vice-President Clare said that the minister probably does not have the capacity to call a police inquiry.

President Knight said that the focus of an inquiry would be based on the fact that this happened on a university campus. That is why she would suggest this. However, that is probably under the jurisdiction of the SPVM. She said many students feel that the type of policing was inappropriate for the type of campus setting and the way that students and professors were hurt on campus. She said she would feel comfortable asking the External Affairs Committee to further consider this.

Chair Nizam said that the initial confusion would be to address this to a particular bureau.

Councillor Paterson said that they would not address this.

Councillor Bi said that the public safety minister and the attorney general of Quebec would be the right people to conduct an inquiry.

One Councillor would like the external affairs committee to talk about specific things. He feels an opportunistic sentiment because supporting MUNACA is a good cause but the 10<sup>th</sup> November is different. There should be two different letters to the ministry about these two different things.





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Councillor Kunev said that we should separate the letter because McGill governance should support McGill.

Chair Nizam said that this will be circulated for debate at a further time.

A motion passed for the body to have a ten-minute recess.

## **10) Reports by Commissioners**

### **10a. Students' Society Programming Network**

Vice-President Plummer said that there is nothing written—he was informed that he would be reporting last evening. There were about ten members in attendance. Upcoming is the puppies event which has been changed to a dogs event.

Questions:

Councillor Paterson asked if Vice-President Plummer would reveal the theme nights of Week 101. Vice-President Plummer said on Monday January 9<sup>th</sup> there will be an awkward prom night. There will be 90s and early 2000s playing. Tuesday is an occupy stock market game for the price of drinks. Wednesday will be a flashy party. Thursday will be a fear-factor event.

Councillor Bi asked if the Vice-President Plummer had consulted the math and physics department about the awkward prom.

President Knight said that it would be unfair to restrict departments.

## **11) Financial Ethics Review Reports by Committees**

### **11a. Interest Group Committee Report**

Vice-President Fraser approved several groups. They talked about several projects including updating the club application process and a policy regarding clubs and services and making club transitions easier by making a basic spreadsheet about clubs.

Vice-President Clare said “given that the MOA has recently been signed, do you have a protocol on informing groups of their names?”

Vice-President Fraser said that the IGC gets in touch with the group about names and this will be put on the website to be proactive about it.

The report of the IGC was adopted.

### **11b. Financial Ethics Review Committee Report**

Councillor Qin said that it is her pleasure to present the FERC report. It was late but everyone showed up and everyone had an assignment or research to do. Two main projects were discussed: an ethical investment plan and purchasing policy. The ethical investment plan will be presented next Council.

Councillor Bi asked that the report look at the ethical investment plan and how that would restrict investments.



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Councillor Qin said that this report will be given to the next Council at which point questions regarding the report will be appropriate.

### **11c. Funding Committee Report**

Councillor Chaini said that \$2,000 was approved for clubs to order checks. The form for ordering checks will be up by tomorrow and clubs can order online through the SSMU website. If you have any question about specific clubs, ask the Vice-President Finance & Operations.

Councillor Kunev asked what clubs refused funding.

Vice-President Patel said that only the approved ones are listed.

Councillor Chaini said that you can always talk to Vice-President Finance.

President Knight said that decision does not always need approval. This would be legislatively inappropriate.

This report was adopted.

### **11d. Executive Report**

President Knight stood for questions.

The report of the Executive Committee was adopted.

Vice-President Fraser said that normally the attendance is recorded. President Knight said that she did not have the attendance in the minutes but that will be provided in further reports by the recording secretary.

## **12) Reports by Executives**

### **12a. VP Finance and Operations**

Vice-President Patel stood for questions.

### **12b. VP Clubs & Services**

Vice-President Fraser stood for questions.

### **12c. VP Internal**

Vice-President Plummer said that SSMU is hiring a new translator and alternative orientation researcher.

### **12d. VP External**

Vice-President Pedneault said that SSMU will be sending out information on how to be a good neighbour. He is looking for ideas about what to put in the report.

Councillor Kunev asked what the steps were that were discussed at the TaCEQ meeting.

Vice-President Pedneault said that it was discussed to organize symbolic actions on campuses, visit departmental associations, and a boycott. Vice-President Pedneault said that he was not at all of this meeting. He is not completely sure what the whole discussion was. He said that he brought up the fact that there was police brutality on campus on November 10<sup>th</sup>. The secretary general of TaCEQ and others were not interested in denouncing police presence, and they expressed that their concern was to appear that the demonstration had gone on without bumps along the road. What happened



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on Thursday was unacceptable and the response from some members of TaCEQ is that they were not available to comment.

Vice-President Clare asked if there has been any reaction from Hélène regarding the events of November 10<sup>th</sup>.

He is meeting with her tomorrow. Hélène is the Community Affairs Coordinator of the MPCC.

### **12e. VP University Affairs**

Vice-President Clare stood for questions.

Councillor Bi asked if she could discuss what happened at senate and correct her if she is wrong that some senators walk out at some point.

Vice-President Clare said that there was a 45 minute live streamed committee of the whole session. there was an emphasis on not laying blame on anyone. The conversation was dominated by student voices and senate caucus did an admirable job at representing the ideas of students that have come out since November 10<sup>th</sup>. She said that what she is about to say is only being addressed because Councillor Bi brought this up. Senator Crawford came out as one of the occupiers. The statement of the Provost talked about the events. There seemed to be some hyperbolization on part of the provost, through she does not make value judgments. Senator Crawford said that he would leave if things were said that he thought was a lie. He is upset.

Councillor Paterson said that she did work with Senator Diné to get a lot of things to get the livestream to happen. The administration did one thing right by making the livestream happen.

### **12f. President**

President Knight said that a lot of her role recently has been crisis management, as has frequently been required this semester. She noted that under administration and university of governance, she signed the MOA as mandated by Council on Tuesday.

Questions:

Councillor Clarke said that there was a 9.5% jump in voter elections and asked why and how this could be maintained in the future.

President Knight said that there is no data, but there have been a lot of messages going to the student community about political issues this year. Elections McGill did improve their publicity strategy.

Councillor Chaini said that the comptroller is resigning to take early retirement and asked whether that would have a great effect on the SSMU.

President Knight said that there is a long transition being planned

### **13) Question Period**

From the gallery, Daniel U3 Poli Sci said that he has heard that there is a problem with the lease and the restaurants on the second floor. He has heard that SSMU is looking for new tenants. He would



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like as much as possible to keep the tenants that are there stay there. He goes to those restaurants a lot.

President Knight said thanks for coming to voice your thoughts. He said that unfortunately there are legal constraints under which they cannot consult students fully about this.

Vice-President Fraser said that she forgot to mention this during elections, but there is one member-at-large spot open right now. She asked if Councillors know anybody who would like to be a member at large.

**14) In-Camera Session**

**15) Adjournment 12:10am**