



Report of the Steering Committee of Council

Convened on October 16, 2012

Present: President Redel, Vice-President Dinel, Vice-President Reid-Fraser, Councillor Larson, Councillor Chaim, Councillor Rea, Speaker Tong

Absent: Vice-President Szpejda, Speaker Nizam

Guest Speaker

- There will be no guest speaker for this meeting of Council
- Potential guest speakers for future Council meetings include Professor Anthony Masi and Dr. Pierre-Paul Tellier

Motions from the Consultative Forum

- Four motions that passed at the consultative forum on October 15, 2012 were committee at the last meeting of Council to Steering Committee for further constitutional review, and to whether or not they should be discussed and voted upon by Council
- Steering Committee discussed whether or not these motions from the consultative forum would, if passed by Council, go for online ratification; the decision by Steering Committee was that they would not go to online ratification as Council is not taking the form of the SSMU General Assembly
- Steering Committee recommends that Council should operate in the direction that the consultative forum was taking on each motion, although any form of debate will be welcome and permitted
- At the discretion of Steering Committee, these four motions (Re: Accessible Education; Re: War in Iran; Re: Plan Nord; Re: Ethical Investments) will be inscribed on the agenda of the November 1, 2012 Council meeting under Old Business, and each motion will be allowed to be debated in the form they were submitted in by the movers for the General Assembly
- Steering Committee strongly recommends that the movers of the motions (that are Councillors) amend their motions during debate on them to apply the strength of Council, taking into consideration the discussion that was held at the consultative forum (available in the minutes for approval)
- Regarding the motion regarding Plan Nord, as it was submitted from the floor and not by Councillors for the General Assembly, amendments will not be considered “friendly” or “unfriendly;” they will all be accepted by the dais, debated and voted upon
- Steering Committee reviewed the substantive content of each of the four motions, and came to a consensus for each motion on whether or not it was “external, extremely divisive” as outlined in SSMU By-Law Book I article 2.3.2, which states that:
 - Council shall not take a position on external, extremely divisive issues (as determined by the Steering Committee) except by a 2/3 majority vote. Such determinations of the Steering Committee are subject to appeal and can be overturned by a 2/3 majority vote.
- For the **Motion Regarding Ethical Investments at McGill**, Steering Committee determined that this motion was not considered extremely divisive, and as such will require a simple majority vote to pass by Council



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- For the **Motion Regarding Opposition to Canadian Military Involvement in Iran**, Steering Committee determined that this motion was considered external and extremely divisive, and as such will require a 2/3 majority vote to pass by Council
- For the **Motion Regarding Plan Nord**, Steering Committee determined that this motion was not considered extremely divisive and as such will require a simple majority vote to pass by Council
- For the **Motion Regarding Renewing Support for Accessible Education**, Steering Committee determined that this motion was not considered external and not extremely divisive, and as such will require a simple majority vote to pass by Council

New Business

- The Motion Regarding the Creation of the Student Advocacy Resource Committee that was submitted for the November 18, 2012 Council was resubmitted to Steering Committee with a formal committee Terms of Reference
- There were no issues with the Motion Regarding M-SERT Fall 2012 Referendum Question Endorsement, the Motion Regarding CKUT Fall 2012 Referendum Question Endorsement or the Motion Regarding Work on the McGill Education Summit

SSMU Committees

- The four new Councillors elected to Council (Councillors Southey, Lubendo, Mossallanejad and Stewart-Kanigan) submitted self-nominations to the Speakers for vacant seats on current SSMU committees
- Councillor Southey was appointed to the First-Year Undergraduate Network; she also expressed interest to sit on the Athletics Roundtable (for which she will serve as the representative from the Inter-Residences Council), SSPN and External Affairs Committee
- Councillor Lubendo was appointed to the First-Year Undergraduate Network; he also expressed interest to sit on the Ad-Hoc By-Law Review Committee (which does not have a Councillor seat limit)
- Councillor Mossallanejad was appointed to the Student Equity Committee
- Councillor Stewart-Kanigan was appointed to the Ad-Hoc By-Law Review Committee
- Vice-President Cooper will no longer be serving as the executive member on the Student Equity Committee; this seat will now be filled by Vice-President Dinel

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Tong on behalf of the Speakers of Council