

# SSMU Council Meeting

Thursday, November 26, 2009

**Attendance:** Ivan Neilson, Alexandra Brown, Sarah Olle, Jose Diaz, Rebecca Dooley, Sebastian Ronderos-Morgan, Pauline Gervais, Janina Grabs, Lauren Hudak, Zach Newburgh, Joshua Abaki, Mark Bay, Emil Briones, Nicholas Drew, Connie Gagliardi, Marco Garofalo, Claudia Gucciardi, Daniel Keresteci, Annie Ma, David Marshall, Mitran Mehta, Joel Pedneault, Taunia Archer Rifai, Quyen Su, Zili Wang, Sarah Woolf, Sarah Lazure, Xiao Yu, Myriam Zaidi.

President Neilson: There is some housekeeping I would like to get out of the way about the procedure of the meeting. As a preface, we have been trying different procedures throughout the year. We have been experimenting, and it has been confusing for a lot of people and hard for the speakers, so we need to decide for one of the two systems. Just to remind you: System no. 1: The first meetings were like this. During meetings, there is one speakers' list, and councillors can be added to it. We would alternate pro and con speakers. There is no caucusing. System no 2: Instead of a list, there is an allocated amount of time. This requires the distribution of time for all pro or con speakers. After a speech, the time can be ceded to the floor, questions, or friendly speaker. We have amendments, and the amendment sheets can be deemed either hostile or friendly. In the other system, amendments are made by a simple motion. Perhaps we could keep the amendment sheet system. We would have the vote after the debate finishes or sooner. Those are the two choices that we have. Keep in mind what you thought was easy, what encouraged you to participate in the meetings, and what in your mind effectively manages the debate. Any questions? Let's have a strawpoll for system no. 1: 3 votes. And people interested in this year's system – that is the majority. This means we will keep this year's system.

## 1. Call to Order .....6.20

Newburgh: Before we begin, there are amendment sheets on your table. We have decided for the second way of procedure, and we will walk you through the procedure again. Please ask if you have questions. There is one piece of information that needs clarification. The "Point of information" has been misused. You can interpret it anyway you like to at home. But here, it is a question to the chair about a particular point that pertains to a motion or resolution.

VP Brown: Would the speaker direct the question accordingly to somebody else?

Newburgh: Yes, the question would be redirected to whoever could appropriately answer the question. If you have a question about procedure, please call a point of parliamentary procedure. Point of personal privilege is when the room is too hot, or you need to go to the bathroom or other points. This is important because there is a possibility of us losing quorum, so tell or signal us if you will leave the room. Then, just so that you know, Mike Vallo, the CEO of elections McGill is in the gallery.

## 2. Approval of the Minutes .....

Newburgh: All of you should have received the minutes by Madam Chair.

Mehta: Motion to approve the minutes.

**Motion to approve the Minutes approved.**

## 3. Adoption of the Agenda .....

Newburgh: We need to adopt the agenda according to the bylaws. Is there a motion to adopt the agenda as required by the bylaws?

Bay: Motion to adopt the agenda.

**Motion to adopt the agenda passed.**

Newburgh: And can we have a motion to adopt the latest agenda?

Bay: Motion to adopt the latest agenda.  
***Motion to adopt the latest agenda passed.***

**4. Announcements .....**

VP Brown: Happy Thanksgiving. Firstly, I would like to congratulate our new members to SSMU, and secondly I would like to remind people that the SSMU and Milton Holiday Fair will be happening on December 4<sup>th</sup>, and it will be a great chance to meet the community, snacks, music, etc.

Newburgh: Ghetto Shul is having a fundraiser, tickets are \$45, it will be Matisyahu, this Sunday at 9.30.

Hudak: Especially since last meeting all were so excited by the Sustainability Motion, please recycle or throw away your trash after the meeting.

Brones: Next week, there are a lot of concerts, on Tuesday there will be the Wind Symphony concert, on the third, there will be Chamber Music ensembles in Redpath Hall, and on the same day is MUSA Holiday Charolling, we have treats and we sing Christmas carols.

**5. Guest Speakers .....**

**A. Elections McGill .....**

Vallo: Last week, I announced all the results, they are attached to the report. I want to start with a quick note on transition from last year. Since last year's team resigned, we this year had very little transition period, so the beginning of the year was pretty hectic. We have overcome that by now, though. The turnout of this year was 25.5%. Quorum was 15%. Last year's turnout was 12.7%. This year was the second highest turnout after 2006. We also had a turnout of 17.1% for the First Year Council elections. The Faculty of Law had the highest turnout, probably because of the Legal Aid Clinic fee renewal. We also had the highest percentage of students in U0 and U1. We also included a chart to compare this year's turnout. We decided to prolong the nomination period, and have more advertizing and awareness amongst first years about the FYC. This brought us 12 candidates for FYC. We used newspaper advertisement, and ran 22 ads over 3 weeks, but when we did a small survey among the FYC candidates, no one knew about the elections because of the newspaper ads. First year students might use the paper less, though. Still, a reassessment is necessary because those ads are pretty expensive, and we want them to be useful. FB advertizing was pretty effective and cheap. But the best method was to send out information over the listserve. We were also able to use the First Year listserve, I was happy for that. We also have been increasing the polling stations quite extensively. Last year, they decided to have one rotating polling station, but we decided to have more stationary ones, also in residences. 21% of turnout was at polling stations. Bronfman didn't really work out, there were long period between classes when nobody was there. The residence polling was differently successful. New Rez was very successful, but RVC and Solin seemed to be the least effective. We needed to have a polling station in every rez according to a new rule that you need to do everything you do in every rez so that it is fair. Since there is polling online for every student, it was pretty fair as it is, so I would suggest to make an exception for this rule, in RVC for example we paid around \$5 for every vote because nobody came and voted. The online voting system was a source of some problems for us, since there wasn't much transition period in which to learn to use the system. We discovered a couple of days before that we had to update the voting system. The company told last year's team this about 6 months ago. But we got it in time. We had the same problem as last year that people who changed their original e-mail couldn't vote, but after they got in touch with us, they were able and we kept their names so that they will be able to the next time. We also needed 2 separate passwords for FYC and referendum elections, and the list couldn't be reconciled. We don't have access to all parts of the website, so we cannot change the tabs or post documents. We put documents on the SSMU site instead. We are not really happy with the website. Our main goal to be more accessible than last year, and we made a concerted effort to get back to e-mails or phone calls as soon as possible. My Deputy is fluent in French and takes great pride in his grammar, so he put great effort in to translate documents as well. Fractions nearly didn't happen. I also attached the Winter electoral period. That is it.

Bay: What are spoiled votes?

Vallo: If person didn't vote for that question.

Gagliardi: I received a phone call to vote for referendum. Was that you?

Vallo: No, but I am glad it happened.

Mehta: Will you make these dates public for all students?

Vallo: Yes, we will put them on the website and send them out when it gets closer to them.

CEO Elections McGill report approved.

**B. Lev Bukhman.....**

Newburgh: I would like to introduce Lev Bukhman. He was a former SSMU Senator and VP Finance and Operations, and is now on the Faculty advisory board of the Faculty of Arts, and as well as on the BoD of the Sinah Hospital Toronto. He studied at McGill for his undergrad degree, and got a Law degree at the University of Western Ontario.

Bukhman: It's a real pleasure to come back tonight. It was very interesting to hear the report of the elections officer. We work with 50 student organizations, and it is amazing to have a turnout of 25%, it is commendable. To be here today, and witness a civilized and organized council meeting, reminds me how unique SSMU is, and I am very proud with my engagement. I am the Executive Director of ASEQ, and my goal is to give you an overview of our services, and tell you what the Health and Dental Plan is, why it exists, what it does for SSMU, the history of the plan and what is coming up in the next months. So what is the SSMU Health and Dental Plan? Why does it exist? Why does it have to work this way? The plan exists because the public health care system isn't totally comprehensive in Canada. The things not covered tend to be the things that are disproportionately used by students and young people. The system is more designed for older and sick people. Dental care is an example. Vision care is not at all paid for and covered by government healthcare system. So there is a need among students to have a plan that covers things which are not covered by the public healthcare system. Why have a plan on a group basis? It is an automatic service of SSMU, and SSMU has a group insurance. There is the possibility of opting-out of the plan. Why don't we have a plan that students could opt-into it? It sounds counterintuitive. But I will show you the website that we have pre-set up. This is the website of a company called Blue Cross, they have a good online information system. This is the alternative to group health plan. This would be an individual health plan. Either you would have no plan at all – which could be good or not, depending if you get sick or not- or an individual one if you didn't have SSMU's plan. The individual health plan can be calculated here, and you can see for yourself how much that costs. The average student is a 22 year old female. Hospitalization and extended health care with dental benefit and prescription drug benefit as well as home health care would be approximately within 5 or 10% what SSMU health care costs. SSMU Health care costs 194\$ for students. What do you think would be the cost to buy a plan on an individual basis?

Garofalo: 300\$.

Bay: 301.

Briones: \$2000.

Woolf: \$800.

Bukhman: The options are 95 or 99\$ per month. That means about 1,188\$ per year. So the first thing to keep in mind is that the other alternative to SSMU Health care is certainly much more expensive, and SSMU is a much more affordable and viable option for students. It would be over 500% more expensive for individual basis. For Americans, this might sound familiar. The issue in America is very similar – what do you do with people who don't have access to a plan? In Canada, this applies only to health care systems not run by the government, whereas it applies to the whole system in America. The second issue is that you need to apply for an individual plan. If you want to get the insurance, you need to take a test, and these things are designed to screen out people out of the plan. If you have a pre-existing health care condition, you cannot have the coverage at all. The other reason why we have a group health plan, the major advantage is that it is not discriminatory. Everyone is covered, regardless of their age, sex or health condition. Those are the reasons why we have a group plan. My apologies to Blue Cross –I have nothing against them, they are just an example for an individual plan. The ASEQ SSMU health plan started in 1992, and 5 years later, the dental plan was launched. They were subsequent referenda, and all plans were approved quite strongly by students. They were created by students for students, and SSMU is responsible for the well-being of members. The plan is a very intimate part of the McGill landscape, and there is a great level of support among students. Who is ASEQ? We have a unique history, SSMU was our first client, our organization was created by

students. We are now the leading provider for student health care in Canada. You were the first, this is our original home, and we are very proud of our growth. What do we do? We make sure that the SSMU get the best deal from the insurance company. The insurance policy is defined within the company. We use the purchasing power of many members to get better deals. We process all the opt-outs and enrolments, and provide help for students through publications, our office and a call-center. We handle all the data flow between SSMU and the insurance company. We do all the behind-the-scenes work. We have also created provider networks and negotiated directly with health care providers, like dentists, to reduce the fees that dentists charge. Thus, we will have more coverage with less fees. Some of the highlights of the last couple of years: We have added benefits, we had increases in vaccination, especially since many students are in programs where vaccinations are mandatory. Our coverage for drugs was increased, the dental coverage increased, and a tuition insurance was added if you drop out of university for medical reasons. That is an important benefit, especially with the H1N1 over the course of this year. Some things to highlight in the plan – 10 years ago, there was the conception that the health plan was most commonly used for oral contraceptives. This remains a great part of it, and it is beneficial to all students, but today psychoactive medications like anti-depressants are the most prominently claimed medication. Then there are vaccines and antibiotics. This tells you a lot about what happens at universities. We also did a research project last year researching student health issues, and we saw that the greatest issue is stress for students. It is very important to know this – we often tell the statistic to people and they are shocked, and even student leaders are surprised to see the numbers, because people who are engaged seem to be less affected by it. The role of SSMU to create vibrant student life is very important, we want to create an environment where people are connected, and create a purpose for students, that is very important for the mental health of students. That is the end of my presentation. Coming up over the next couple of months – one big project will be the analysis to look at plan, use of plan is increasing, spring 2010 will have review process for updating plan for next year. Probably leave report for council of this or next year. Do you have any questions?

Wang: Does this plan extend to part-time students?

Bukhman: It extends to all SSMU members, includes all undergraduate students except for visiting students who do not pay fees to SSMU. International students are covered in the dental plan only. They are covered through the McGill university international health insurance, this has been a customary development in Canada that the university covers international student but the students' society covers Canadian students.

Abaki: What do you think about student awareness?

Bukhman: We do periodic surveys, and typically we see the awareness levels are over 90%, there is a good awareness on campus. As to utilizing the plan – the benefit is the ability to claim, not the actual claim itself. If you have a house insurance and the house doesn't burn down, you still have the benefit. 60% of students will use the plan within 3 years, so there is a high level of mobilization.

Abaki: How does the process of renewal work?

Bukhman: Each policy runs from September 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>. Any claim that is within the policy year can be submitted up until November 30<sup>th</sup> of the policy year. It is a very timely question, claims must be post-marked within 3 days of this year.

Woolf: What is the ASEQ's cut?

Bukhman: It has a set fee, we do it on a set fee basis as opposed to a percentage basis, and if we are advising on a benefit, we aren't included. It is approximately \$18 per student, less than 5%.

VP Ronderos-Morgan: Are there any states or data how many people supersede the amount?

Bukhman: The answer is that the average use of the plan plus administrative expense equals the premium. The cost is set year to year, to reflect the total use of the plan divided by number of students. You cannot claim more than the average, because the average has been set for the group. Some students will claim much more out of it than they put in, but if we look at financials of the plan, we look at the total use across the board and make sure that the total cost is set to reflect that average cost.

VP Ronderos-Morgan: In terms of the network of health care providers, you can access them outside of Montreal as well?

Bukhman: I can explain how the networks work. There are different dental plans – check-ups and cleanings are covered to 70% in the insurance plans. All will be covered anywhere in the world of 70% of Quebec cost. But many doctors provide additional coverage. The combined level of coverage is 100%. You can visit any of these networks and receive these benefits from them.

Abaki: Has there been the suggestion that the international students be included?

Bukhman: Yes, we have been looking into it. Another topic that is very important to me is that mental health issues are a hidden problem on many campuses. It is a problem for the whole community, and on many other campuses as well. It is my personal mission to advocate and draw attention to the fact, which is often overlooked by people in leadership positions. There is a pattern that I have noticed – the people that are leading are often in the spotlight and not always aware of people who are in the shadows, so I urge you to be aware of that. I believe it is an important issue for the whole community.

VP Diaz: could you talk about the continuum plan?

Bukhman: It was launched last year. There are many students who enjoy the coverage when they are students, but when they graduate, the coverage terminates. We wanted to have an option for people to voluntarily choose to be covered by the plan, with a higher cost than the student group plan, but approximately 40% less than comparable individual plans, you can automatically choose to switch into the plan without going through a medical. It is meant to be a simplified option for people, and we have had last year's results that were very positive, and 5% of revenue go back to SSMU which you can use for whatever projects you wish. It is a good program because it allows people who would otherwise have no coverage at all to stay in the plan.

## **6. Question Period .....**

Newburgh: I would like to introduce another member of SSMU in the gallery, Anushay Khan, she is IGC of SSMU. Are there any questions on the floor?

***No questions on the floor.***

## **7. Reports of Officers .....**

### **A. VP External, Sebastian Ronderos-Morgan.....**

VP Ronderos-Morgan: As for TaCEQ – I spoke about the AFELC referendum last time, it didn't achieve quorum, so maybe they are going to have a GA later on to decide on that issue. We will be meeting for the annual general assembly on December 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, it is not a very useful time because it curtails my plans to invite more students to see the TaCEQ operate, but these are the days that everybody can be there. I am working on the website right now. Earlier this week, I had a phone conversation with the political attaché of the education minister, and unfortunately the governance bills are going ahead, they were only pushed to next session after Christmas. I took CADEUL's word on this and then called the attaché to hear the official word. She promised to have the document for the conditions to be recognized in February. On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, there is a protest about a Canadian Grant program which is organized by ASES. They don't provide adequate funding for people in financial need. I have had a lot of good progress on CARE program, I had approval by the McGill admin and the Milton-Parc assembly, so right now we are informing all stakeholders. The Holiday fair is going ahead. We have music coming in, and some activities as well. We will be having some free hot beverages and baked goods, courtesy of Cafe Supreme. It will be outside of the ballet school on the corner of Hutchison and Milton. Cafe conversations and Burst your Bubble are going ahead too. The transit survey is being released on McGill website, it is important information about the usage of public transit by McGill students, in order to negotiate with STM. I encourage you all to participate in the survey, it is important for us to get as much feedback as possible. There were some successful External Affairs meetings as well.

Garofalo: How was the date of December 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> decided upon?

VP Ronderos-Morgan: We were supposed to have the meetings last weekend, but there were unforeseen complications that affected the abilities of one of the organizations to be present, and it wouldn't have been appropriate to go through with it, since we want to make it as accessible as possible. I was for pushing the meeting to January, but the executives were given an interim mandate in June and currently they are looking to have the mandate made permanent, and they didn't want to push it to January, because that would be only a few months before March, when new elections would be in order. We finalized the final draft of bylaws, but have not adopted them as a body yet, though we adopted them in our appropriate associations, so the final document needs to be produced. Some of the members were very interested to have the meeting before Christmas.

Garofalo: You will not be bringing reporters? Do we need certain number of students there?

VP Ronderos-Morgan: No. I wanted to have the opportunity to bring reporters of the three press organizations, and several representatives of the executive or external affairs committee with me. I want to get people interested in TaCEQ, and wanted to make it as accessible as possible. Of course, we will have the opportunity in March, it is not lost.

**B. VP Finance, Jose VP Diaz .....**

VP Diaz: For Gerts, things are fine, there is not much going on. We had a detailed food analysis, and the bottom line is that pizza is bringing in a 20% margin, whereas SmartChef is having a 44% margin. In October, we had some issues in inventory control, but overall, we are making net profits out of food, so we have decided to change the staff structure to have two bartenders in on busy nights, so that they would be able to deal with serving and having food as well. Also, the menu for some reason is in English again, but that will be changed again. We are working on a new menu for where Al-TAib menu is in the evening. Then, we had a Haven meeting and we went over some publicity. The manager ordered bookmarks, it is a ruler with Haven information, it will be distributed around, and then we also have some submissions in papers, and some sponsorship for the Science Carnival. We will have book drives in residences from December 10<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>, in the afternoons, and we discussed the fact that Solin wasn't included but we will add it to the list. Also, Haven will be having some study guides as of next term. We worked with the faculties in order to have study guides especially for tutoring groups too. That will be a potential extra source of revenue for Haven and useful for students. Then, for developments regarding infrastructure, it is all looking good, and we might be running the new inventory system by the end of this year. Furthermore, I met with Sarine, the member of Greenpeace, about the motion regarding seafood, and we went over the steps to follow to have it implemented. They will be doing a study with all the tenants and report that with me. We will have meetings to discuss suppliers as well. As for the sustainable initiatives for the 5 year plan - we talked about paperless accounting and finance committee meetings, and will be working on a series of studies. I would stand for questions.

Wang: In regards to the seafood initiative, what is the reaction of the tenants?

VP Diaz: We haven't met with any of the tenants yet. I asked the students to check out which tenants have fish. Once we have the list, we will go ahead and meet with them to look at their suppliers. We are still waiting on people of that motion.

Mehta: Have you contacted departments for the study guides? What about notes?

VP Diaz: We are doing study guides as a compliment for tutoring groups, and we did talk about notes. We did not want to compete with MTC's, but we would be okay for centering them at Gerts.

Garofalo: I'm curious. How much money did we donate to Science carnival?

VP Diaz: \$200 in return for advertizing for Haven. That is the same as for Frosh. Gerts donates beer.

**C. VP Internal, Alex VP Brown.....**

VP Brown: I will be brief. I'm working on the Holiday fair. On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, SSPN will give out hot chocolate. We are also organizing the "Class 101" party series at Gerts on the 5<sup>th</sup> through the 9<sup>th</sup> January. In terms of communications, we have been doing a lot with the website. We made some improvements to the calendar, and we also changed the listserve. It is a lot shorter than it used to be. There are just short descriptions and a link to our website. That is really exciting. We had the second highest ever usage of website. For coffee and chat event last week, I think the event was pretty well promoted. I got a lot of response before, but unfortunately there wasn't a good turnout. If you heard about it and didn't turn up, please tell me why. Please enlighten me, it is totally cool. You should come and talk to me about it. I also met with Claire and Toby to talk about creating a Green events-basic self-evaluation. As for CAF - they organized a Queues de Castor event on campus, we had a huge turnout, but it was an interesting combination of a crazy situation beforehand, and A lot of happy students afterward. The sharing of culture was awesome though.

Keresteci: How was the Queues advertized?

VP Brown: On the listserve and the facebook group. We only got final approval the afternoon before. It was hard to miss if you were walking on campus.

Bay: Any more details on the big event you were talking about last week?

VP Brown: There are exciting things happening, and it is looking as though they are being confirmed, we will be the best and most badass SSMU ever. You might have heard them on the radio or a party, and we will bring it to you for much cheaper.

Garofalo: What are your thoughts for students not showing up to the coffee and chat event?

VP Brown: I have no idea, which is why I want to have feedback. There was a huge facebook event, and ads in both the Daily and the Tribune, it was well promoted, I don't know why people didn't come.

#### **D. President, Ivan Neilson.....**

President Neilson: Moving along, we had some excellent results in basketball. We did get in the student-run food service report, and we are hoping to get it up on the website soon. The H1N1 vaccine is now available for general public, so I would encourage you to get vaccinated. At the Presidents' roundtable, we talked about career services, and we will look into strategies for that. I also learned that McGill Faculty Relations is dealing with their MoAs, and McGill is requiring professional audits which can be very costly, so we will get an update on the 5 year plan. One of our environment commissioners will be leaving at the end of the semester, so we will have to find a replacement. As for the research policy – I e-mailed a memo outlining our comments to the McGill admin, and they were taken under advisement. I had a big two weeks for the board of Governors, we had a retreat and meeting on Monday. They want to start a series of Key Performance indicators for McGill. These were some of the meetings I attended. I stand for questions.

Pedneault: What is the MAUT delayed paycheck increases?

President Neilson: They delayed their pay increases, but also made a cut to the Faculty club. I didn't work on that, but I received this afternoon a memo of protest from MAUT, MUNACA and more – the benefits for staff was cut, the amount of coverage are reduced, and the out-of-pocket money that employees are paying is increased.

Mehta: Who can be talked to regarding research policy?

President Neilson: A lot of work is done at the senior table of Principle and vice-Principle.

#### **8. Reports of Committees .....**

##### **A. Executive Committee.....**

President Neilson: This is a little different, since we have regular business and extraordinary items. On the November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, we gave our approval to a \$1,000 stipend for 100 Years of SSMU and the Holiday Fair. On November 24<sup>th</sup>, we approved the second estimate for the outdoor sign, we needed \$150 more to cover website costs, and we gave the approval of 2 contracts and roughly \$9,000 for phase two of the interior signage.

Garofalo: Motion to approve the first part of the exec committee report.

##### ***First part of exec committee report approved.***

President Neilson: The second part is not typically the thing we just approved. We are trying to close the part of the cafeteria where the lines are on this plan with a folding door, and the shaded area will become a new meeting room. It will be a room very much like this one. This is the project – we received an estimate from McGill Facilities, and it would be roughly \$71,700. This is something we have prioritized, the clubs are always looking to book this room, and we could have folding doors in order not to lose capacity in cafeteria, or open this door and have an even greater meeting room.

Wang: Would the cafeteria lose capacity?

President Neilson: No. There are folding doors, so once that is open, it would be same capacity. The cafeteria would lose seating space, but aside from a small time period at lunch, it is never full anyway.

Abaki: Is there a cap of money we can get from CERF per year?

President Neilson: No. It is a good project for that money.

Abaki: For the year, how much do we expect to spend from CERF?

VP Diaz: At this point, there is no answer for that. Council would approve it on a case-by-case basis. There might be something later in the year coming out from Operations committee.

President Neilson: Right now we are spending \$0, and with this project we would spend \$71,000.

Pedneault: What would it look like?

President Neilson: Imagine something that would be in 302. It does feel that it is a completely different room.

Yu: Would it be possible to go through the budget? There is \$53,000 here, but there are additional costs on top of that.

President Neilson: On the first page, there are demolitions, partition, and some other minor renovations, that comes to \$53,000. The next series of lines are all charges that we need to pay to McGill, we need to go through McGill to have these projects approved, they are all percentages of the original project. The \$6,500 is only the project contingency, we could get that money back if we don't spend it all.

Yu: Do we have a choice regarding who they determine as contractors?

President Neilson: No. We cannot put it out for tender, we need to go to McGill and tell them what we want to do. Pauline, our GM, was looking into the costs, but that is just what we need to do.

Marshall: Will the folding board be soundproof?

President Neilson: Yes, it is supposed to copy this room, with good acoustics.

Abaki: Do we have an interest in switching contractor?

President Neilson: No, we deal with McGill, not with the contractor.

Abaki: Did we consider the possibility of doing it differently?

President Neilson: We explored every option, but that is just McGill standards and regulations, we have no control over that.

Abaki: Lev Bukhman provided some funds for this room. Could we look into sponsorship elsewhere?

President Neilson: I suppose we could look into naming rights or sponsorship afterwards.

Abaki: Couldn't we seek the sponsorship deal before approving the project?

President Neilson: We could do that afterwards. That has nothing to do with the project itself?

VP Diaz: Could we have the porters paint the walls? What colour?

President Neilson: The painting too has to be done through McGill. It is the contractor that handles everything. Once we approve the project, the design choices will be made later. Motions will be appreciated.

***Exec report adopted.***

**B. Clubs and Services Committee .....**

Khan: Sarah isn't here, so I will present this report. This time, C & S wasn't as exciting as usual, people are realizing that we may have exams coming up, and applications were less than usual. Karaoke Club – promote the culture of karaoke, lots of people would probably be interested, so approved. Then, the Golden Key Society, an organization that is for academic excellence, had problems for receiving recognition – they are an ISG right now, they have all the rights of a club, but are not accountable to SSMU for their funding. We tabled their application to become a club, since they have all facilities a club would have. Another club wants to promote 3-D engineering, it is formed from engineer students who wanted to promote the software on campus, it is high-tec and cool. Then, the charity organization No Hunger Left – Initially, I had a problem with this club, since many clubs on campus that deal with food for the homeless and meals, but this club explained that they dealt directly with left-overs from McGill cafeteria. Yet, McGill has already a project, so would be not necessary to bring in a student club. Please bring in recommendations if you have any.

Bay: Motion to approve the C&S Committee report.

***C & S Committee report approved.***

**C. Finance Committee.....**

VP Diaz: You have a list of all applications received. Interesting remarks – some clubs applied to CLF, and we feel that they encapsulated the spirit of the Ambassador Fund, so we approved their application out of the Ambassador Fund, and we felt like funding both of the teams. You have CLF applications, and applications to the Green Fund – for example the Red Herring go from normal to post-recycler paper, we gave them \$500 for their green initiative. The initiatives tabled mostly had no



comprehensive budget, and it was hard to figure out how much they were asking for. Some even didn't include a letter what they were doing. The Daily Publication was tabled for their application for funds to go to a journalist conference, it was just an application without many details, we tabled it until receiving the rest of details. As for Conservative McGill – we decided to increase their funding to \$550, that didn't include the initial \$200, so this is going back to reports for accounting. We received applications for members at large, the committee selected these three members. I stand for questions.

Woolf: Friends for Food – isn't that the column in the Daily?

VP Diaz: Yes. Both students submitted application for turning the column into a cookbook, to distribute a t a suggested donation of 5\$. They submitted a detailed budget, and they were not asking for a specific amount. That is why after reviewing their budget, and when we saw that they had a deficit of \$1,500, we gave them \$1,000 to support the project.

Woolf: What about the Carnival Teams?

VP Diaz: AS a member of the team myself, I abstained, just as the VP C & S, but the other members decided it was not in the spirit of the CLF fund.

President Neilson: How is the Finance committee coordinator?

VP Diaz: She is pretty good so far. I am leaving it open whether she wants to present reports, since we never exactly know when to report.

Keresteci: What did the Red Herring request? Last year, they made fun of SSMU.

VP Diaz: They were requesting money for a cost differential between normal and past-consumer paper. We have had a lovely relationship last year. We are still figuring out our relationship this year.

Bay: Point of Information – the Ambassador Fee doesn't exist yet, does it?

VP Diaz: FinCom came up with guidelines for funding, and they said that the CLF should not fund trips to organizations. When we gave that money, it was a symbolic donation, so right now will come out of CLF, and once the Ambassador Fund will come into action next semester, it will give that money back to CLF.

Bay: Why didn't you table it?

VP Diaz: That is because both applications were received early in August and September, had been tabled several times, and for both of these things, the teams need to fundraise a certain amount of money. It is important to let them know how much they will receive in terms of fundraising.

VP Brown: Motion to approve the report.

***Finance Committee Report approved.***

**D. Operations Committee.....**

Marshall: Operations Committee has been meeting several times. We have been focusing on a couple of different things, primarily Gerts. We have been looking at advertisement, and looking at more efficient facebook usage. We have 2 donated pool tables, and should get permits for them so that we are not doing anything illegal. The food is going great, we are having a 20 – 24% profit margin. So that is something we will continue. We are looking to spice up our drinks and introduce the Gert's. It will be Gert's signatory drink – either a drink or a specific way of serving it. As for renovations – the renovation campaign slogan is 'Raising the Bar'. We have three different documents – one that outlines three components of challenges which we are opening up to students, and we are inviting students to input ideas, a slogan, and the selection panel will be comprised of Operations committee and 4 members at large. The timeline for this is accelerated because it might take time to get McGill's approval. We need to get it in as soon as possible, so we want to get advertisement out before the holidays, and get everyone's attention for this. We also want to have advertizement during week 101. The basic timeline is to open the contest on January 1<sup>st</sup>, invite proposal for designs, and hopefully a selection panel will make it on January 5<sup>th</sup>. We will have one contest for the logo, and one for the art design. The members at large will be students, Pauline and hopefully a professor from the school of Architecture. We need to give students a good idea of what they have to work with. They should give a good detailed vision, but we are hoping of an actual expense of \$150,000. That will be the budget for the design. Our internal budget is \$200,000 to include McGill's mark-up. This is very much in line with the budget, since Gerts' revenue for this year is also \$200,000. We will ask for tentative approval

for \$150,000. We will be offering undying gratitude, a wooden plaque, and 3 promotional kegs for party in the honour of people who win the design competition. Are there any questions?

Yu: Are we applying one of the proposals regardless of whether it will be in budget. And how does the mark-up work?

Marshall: We had a discussion about how to bring it to council. We will need to give an opinion and factoring in the decision of whether the idea can stay under budget.

Wang: Can you elaborate on how to advertize these contests?

Marshall: We will use the standard method – facebook, listserv, we will talk about it at the huge event at Gerts, the Week 101, where students will get a feeling of Gerts, there will be posters, but the cornerstone is to get people into Gerts.

Wang: What about targeted advertisement – for example proposals to school of architecture?

Marshall: Yes, absolutely. We want to target many students from different faculties, the faculty of architecture will be specifically important, but we want to include everyone, also with the members at large.

Yu: The choice made by the selection committee will come back to council with a budget? Will we see all submissions?

Marshall: Not all submissions will come here, it will be a lot easier this way. If you would like to apply for a position on the selection committee, that is possible. We will not choose the proposal set in stone, if the council believes that it requires changes, that will be possible. But the vision behind it should come from the general student body.

VP Brown: the 3 councillors – does that include executives?

Marshall: Yes, member of operations committee, and Jose.

Drew: Motion to approve Operations Committee report.

**Operations Committee report approved.**

**E. Presidential Affairs Committee.....**

President Neilson: Just for your information, we have made some significant progress in this committee. We have our working membership, but there are still some spots open. We have established some guiding priorities, and some things we will be looking for when we will be revising committee structure. We are looking at research prepared by the secretary general looking at other universities, but we are unique, we are up there with UBC for most committees, on the average about 8 or 9. Other things – we have an approximate timeline for the things we will be doing. Hopefully, before the last council, we would bring in a final approval.

Keresteci: Why hasn't the equity committee submitted a report?

President Neilson: VP Dooley is not here, they have yet to meet.

Abaki: What is the reason for her absence?

President Neilson: She has gone home for Thanksgiving.

**9. Old Business.....**

**A. Budget Revision .....**

Briones: Motion to table until VP VP Diaz returns.

Tabled.

Untabled:

VP Diaz: I will just go straight up to questions since I have introduced it last week.

Abaki: What is governance and its revenues?

VP Diaz: A lot of operations of the society. We have communications, and Elections McGill. It is used by many faculties, they use the services of Elections McGill and pay us for it. Governance will encompass the executive portfolio, Elections McGill, FYC, Equity, the research and university relations

budget, external affairs, community affairs budget, GA, etc. General administration is a separate budget. Gen admin does not include exec salaries, but does include salaries of permanent staff.

Yu: Isn't spending \$17,000 on telephones a little extensive?

VP Diaz: That is a little out of our control, SSMU pays to McGill for the usage of its lines and all telephone lines we have. Each of the 6 executives has a line, the LPAC, Accounts Receivable, Gerts has a different line, and many administrators too. Also, SSMU does cover certain other telephone expenses, and for example up to 80\$ per months for blackberry expenses.

Abaki: What are the future expenses for Haven?

VP Diaz: A lot of those expenses is a lot of the development fees of the new inventory system. That is a huge part of it. We are running 5 terminals, the manager's computer and server. At book drives, we will set up terminals in different residences. That would be the cost.

Abaki: Why is there that much of an increase?

VP Diaz: Last year, when we got the proposal for ProphetLine, we had 3 different options, there were pros and cons for each of them. The quotes was \$3,500, but we are spending at least \$7,500. All the customizations, and the work we had to put into it was much greater than planned. We are changing our website, incorporating the search feature, etc, making it more userfriendly. We budgeted for that. Please ask for leave of council if there are more questions.

Abaki: Motion for leave of council.

**Motion for leave of council passed.**

Abaki: Old McGill – they continue to overprint. What steps are they taking to reduce the costs?

VP Diaz: They are not overprinting, the reason for the discrepancy was the issue how many issues were printed in the last accounting year. We published 2 last year. Because of a dispute of the printing company's contract, we needed to cover \$20,000 out of this current budget year instead of last year. That is a huge issue there, but overall, the Communications and Publications Manager is working really well this year, it might be profitable this year, last year there were some issues how we weren't able to sell as much. I believe this will be a conservative estimate. They will more than likely going to be favourable.

Abaki: The expenses of SSPN were totally funded through CLF?

VP Diaz: That is something else I presented last year. I met with the VP Internal and we went through all department under her. There are a lot of departments and we adjusted each and every one of these budgets. Some were doing better and some were worse than budget, and we came up with a surplus figure of \$3,000, which have been reallocated to SSPN which has the ability to organize any event on campus organized by SSMU. That is the approach we took – to reward the fact that events did better in general.

Abaki: The interest of money decreased a lot. Could we change banks?

VP Diaz: Last year, there was a huge economic crisis, countries all over the world took a huge hit. In order to combat that, central reserve banks dropped their interest rates dramatically, in Canada, it is 0.25%, affected interest rates that banks all over the world granted. It is unfeasible for us to have a decent interest rate, changing banks wouldn't change the problem. Something we have done this year though is that we changed our banking structure, we have a small-business banking account, but excess money is put in short term GICs, so that might be favourable towards the end of the year. We changed from 0% interest into getting 0.75% on the small-business savings account and have GICs to compensate. It will be hard for us to anticipate good rates.

VP Brown: Motion to adopt the budget revision.

**Motion to adopt the budget revision passed.**

## **10. New Business.....**

### **A. Resolution Regarding SSMU's Support for the Campaign for Paid Practicum.....**

Newburgh: [reviews debate procedure]

Gucciardi: [reads be it resolved clauses]

Pedneault: Are practica unremunerated at all levels?

Gucciardi: Yes. Education is a 4 year program, and there is 1 practicum every year.

Briones: Are there any other stage-like courses in other faculties that students do get paid for?

Gucciardi: I bring that up during my motivation.

Yu: Who are the members participating?

Gucciardi: CADEUL, EdUS, and we are joining up with ALIES too.

Archer: What do you mean if you say that you take over 70% - 100% of cooperating teachers' course load?

Gucciardi: We are the stand-in teacher for 70 - 100% of their course load. The teacher evaluates and assesses us.

Bay: How much is the travel time?

Gucciardi: the minimum expected travel time is a daily 2 hours roundtrip.

Su: What is the tuition amount for a 4 year program?

Gucciardi: It is a bit more since we are credited for these stages, but otherwise it is a regular tuition for McGill.

VP Brown: Motion to debate.

***Motion to debate passed.***

Gucciardi: The EduS was asked last year to join the CADEUL's campaign, and we are only predominantly Anglophone school, so we decided to support CADEUL's initiative last year, I decided to bring it up again, overwhelming support within faculty for this motion. I would like to include a quote: "The ed program at McGill is professional program like any other. There are field studies at different locations, which include countless hours at the local of the fieldwork. Students take it very seriously. We are asking for support of SSMU to help this cause."

VP Brown: This is something that I have spoken about a lot of to my friends. It is a huge time commitment for people in education. As an Arts and Science student, I never understood it, but they are taking on full-time job while they are students and are not being paid. It makes a huge difference to those students.

VP Ronderos-Morgan: It's a project that can take a long time, and not something that will happen overnight, however it is really important that the initiative gets rolling. The education rep is very enthusiastic, and has initiated communication with other universities. Having McGill and SSMU on board would add a lot of support to initiative. This investment would mean that the campaign would have enough material- campaigns are never that expensive, the main spending is on visibility and campaign materials, posters, banners, buttons - the material that would aid to get the message out. It would also include the investment of time and effort of the people involved. It is nothing that would sink our organization, but it is very important for students we represent.

Briones: I'm speaking on behalf of the music education students. Although it is part of our course, in our stages, there are a lot of additional costs, when we are buying music for the kids, or even tutoring time -since we give private instruction time to kids without musical experience before. It is very important to remunerate education students. In the 4<sup>th</sup> stage, it is 8 credits worth that don't count for your GPA (they are pass/fail), but it is still lots of tuition money.

Gucciardi: It is not only the stage, it costs also money, every single year. We are looking to standardize the 4<sup>th</sup> year stage, it includes about 60h a week. That is the bare minimum. Also, we have to correct papers and prepare. People are expected to drop their jobs, and there is no particular funding set up for students who live on their own and have to support themselves.

VP Ronderos-Morgan: Stage is the French word that means practicum.

Bay: The idea of financial support is pretty vague.

Gucciardi: We let it vague, because we don't want to have a number that is too strong. We are expecting 14\$/hour from government. From SSMU, to pay for campaign materials, maybe \$250 - 300.

Keresteci: Are stages in other provinces paid?

Gucciardi: They have very different education requirements, they don't necessarily have to do a 4 year university program in other provinces. They don't necessarily need to make that many stages.

Ma: How far have CADEUL come from last year?

Wang: Motion to extend question period by 5 minutes?

Motion to extend question period by 5 minutes approved.

Gucciardi: They have a website, there was a rally last year which some members of EdUS attended. She wrote a press release and tried to avoid the issue all-together.

Wang: How does the stage work? The reason some are not paid in physiotherapy is that we are taking up a lot of our mentors time in physiotherapy. The person mentoring us is teaching us outside of their time.

Gucciardi: They are not teaching us anything. They are supposed to be in the class for safety purposes, and approve our lesson plan maybe. There is not much mentoring time done except in recess.

Woolf: Do you think that other faculties with similar practicum type models view this as precedence which they could follow up on?

Gucciardi: Sure.

Gucciardi: Since we are the translated version of CADEUL's campaign, they are looking to standardize the 4<sup>th</sup> year, and get this paid as other government internships at 14\$/hour. We are trying to write letters, write a petition, get as many schools on board as possible, hold a rally, we are joining with CADEUL and are joining in their tactics. There is no financial aid to help broke student teachers.

Bay: Move to previous question.

Motion to previous question passed.

***Resolution Regarding SSMU's Support for the Campaign for Paid Practicum passed.***

**B. Resolution Regarding the Self-Funded Tuition Model .....**

VP Ronderos-Morgan: Motion to table the resolution.

***Resolution Regarding the Self-Funded Tuition Model tabled.***

**C. Resolution Regarding the Use of Styrofoam.....**

Pedneault: Motion to table the resolution.

***Resolution Regarding the Use of Styrofoam tabled.***

**D. Resolution Regarding SSMU's Harassment Policy .....**

Woolf: [reads be-it-resolved clauses]

Keresteci: Will the policy be approved by council?

Woolf: Yes, just like any other report from committee.

Lesser: How would SSMU's policies are different from McGill's policies?

Woolf: We don't have one. It is an ad-hoc thing. If harassment happens within SSMU, there is no recourse. In anything else, SSMU has its own policies, but there is only a harassment policy from McGill, and if students feel harassed in the McGill sphere, they would go for that, but if it is under the SSMU sphere, there is nothing.

Su: What is SSMU jurisdiction instead of McGill?

Woolf: We are also a corporation, which seeks to deal with harassment of members and also employees, since our employees don't have McGill representation.

VP Diaz: We have 'no overlap' policies in their representatives of committees.

Woolf: I would hope that the Equity committee wouldn't appoint the president or the VP UA as representative. Harassment now falls under human resources, under the jurisdiction of president or GM. There is nothing guiding that.

Pedneault: Point of information: Can SSMU employees rely on labor protections?

President Neilson: All of our employees are covered by labour protections of Quebec.

GM Gervais: As an employer, we have to cover la loi sur les normes de travail. We never had to deal with any harassment issues yet.

Yu: Would we wish to increase our coverage of harassment that is not covered by provincial law?

Woolf: Many things are covered by the law, but that doesn't mean that SSMU shouldn't have a policy on it. We are a union. We are a corporation. If you go to any other business, you will find a harassment policy. Pauline told me that there was a process in 2004 to make one here as well, but it tapered out and nothing came out of it. So there is an institutional precedence in SSMU. We have not had to deal with it yet, but council should be proactive about it. If anything is addressed by the law, it should also be addressed internally, and thus should be harassment, specifically sexual harassment. This would include the appointment of a committee that would deal with this issue. It is ridiculous that we don't have a policy. We should have one.

Marshall: There is something to be said for a codified belief on our policies. If the individual does not know how our current process works, it is important to have an internal policy that is easily accessible to students. This concerns the protection of personal safety in the student environment.

President Neilson: For all the reasons stated, it is a good idea. Something stated in law doesn't mean we cannot have a policy, it should just be in line.

VP Ronderos-Morgan: I have come across a number of student associations with such policies, so the precedence exists at other universities.

Garofalo: Move to previous question?

***Motion to previous question passed.***

***Resolution Regarding SSMU's Harassment Policy passed.***

**E. Update on the 5-Year Plan .....**

Knight: We are supposed to report on the progress every semester. We have just gotten off the ground. We have a group of people working on it as volunteers with the execs and us environment commissioners. We have been working out means to implement this. The hiring section has been completed under the President's portfolio. The institutionalization of Plate Club has been partially accomplished, but their dish washer had been broken, so they should be running next semester. Composting at SSMU is not feasible to expand at the moment, but maybe in 5 years. Recycling signage is a great problem, we are talking to the sustainability office about it. All clubs and services should be mandated to have some standards, but SSMU does have Green events guide and there will be workshops to introduce them. We are also working on a preliminary guide to a self-auditing process. Then, we are working on a sustainable wine list for wine and cheeses. As for the Finance and operations portfolio – we are looking at vending machines and how to put them into an energy saving mode over nighttime. There are things about bottled water in the 5 Year Plan, we have the prohibition of bottled water in the building, and we will talk to Sarah about incorporating use of bottled water in club audits. We are also working on making computers more energy efficient. Also, eliminating paper use is in work. We are in contact with Dooley and the office of Sustainability, and putting emphasis to move forward in a coordinated fashion. We are in a continued discussion with Sarah and Denis about how to meter our energy use. As for Organic Campus – the Generations Pact project is looking into having a permanent storefront in the building, and we are looking at how we can increase student access to local organic food. We will be meeting shortly with Sebastian, Jose and Pauline to promote local food in cafeterias. The portfolio coordinator is in Architecture, so he is working on guidelines for renovations for tenants. That is essentially the update. Environment committee has been doing well this year, we had two more staff positions and 12 official volunteer roles, and were able to do a lot more outreach. We did outreach to faculties as well, that was an exciting opportunity to get together. There are some big motions on campus, the Sustainability Projects Fund was passed for example. We also did much advocacy. We are planning a visioning at the beginning of next semester, and more decentralized environment actions.

Briones: Where are those things advertized?

Knight: We run a website and send out information on our own listserve, and we also send out announcements in general listserves and on the SSMU website.

VP Diaz: As to going paperless for club audits. Knowing that the amount of paper used is minimal, how is the sustainability compared to effort of digitalizing it? Has there been any effort to look into it?

Knight: In the sustainability assessment, it depends on the usage. If you have an audit that you look at it only once, it is more sustainable to have a digital copy. We don't need to go entirely paperless, but looking at an obvious benefit, we could look to submit Green Fund applications online.

VP Diaz: In terms of Fincom, has there been a yardstick established? We all know how we get the applications, they get handed from one person to another, etc. Has there been a ratio of what would be the goal of it?

Knight: I haven't been working on the particular portfolio, it is definitely the goal to eliminate the obvious problems first and then enter in much more conversation, we are aware that this is an issue.

**11. Confidential Session .....**

No confidential session.

**12. Adjournment.....9.57**