

SSMU Council Meeting

Thursday, January 21, 2010

Attendance: Zach Newburgh, Lauren Hudak, Janina Grabs, Rebecca Dooley, David Marshall Marshall, Sarah Woolf, Sarah Olle, Tim Abdulla, Cathal Rooney-Cespedas, Barbara Dourley, Alex Brown, Nick Drew, Sebastian Ronderos-Morgan, Joshua Abaki, Marco Garofalo, Sarah Lazure, Daniel Keresteci, Myriam Zaidi, Joel Pedneault, Emil Briones, Ivan Neilson, Jose Diaz, Mitran Mehta, Gloria To, Myriam Desrosiers, Tom Fabian.

1. Call to Order6.16

Newburgh: I would suggest to call a time to adjourn for 10pm.

VP Olle: Motion to adjourn at 10pm.

Motion to adjourn at 10pm passed.

Newburgh: We have a very exciting agenda tonight, with great guest speakers.

2. Approval of the Minutes

VP Dooley: Motion to approve the minutes.

Minutes of 07.01.10 approved.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

Newburgh: We need to adopt the agenda according to the by-law.

VP Olle: Motion to adopt the agenda.

Motion to adopt the agenda passed.

VP Olle: Motion to amend the agenda. I would like to insert the report of Clubs and Services Committee at 7.D.

Motion to amend the agenda passed.

Newburgh: You have an agenda here again, which will be our actual final agenda and will need to be approved again.

VP Brown: Motion to adopt current agenda.

Motion to adopt current agenda passed.

4. Announcements

Briones: Music has officially announced the information of our Masquerade, it is the first big formal party that we are hosting. It will be at Thomson House, the entrance price is 15\$. For that, you get food at 9pm, 1 free drink, and Gerts-esque prices for drinks. There will be live music for 2 hours, and jazz-combos afterwards. There will be a coffee house 2 days before. All the proceeds we make there will go to aid for Haiti. Please come to the MUSA office to get tickets.

VP Dooley: Next Tuesday is the Sustainability Projects fund Community Forum, in the ballroom. That will be a chance for you to learn more about the project.

Dourley: the Management faculty is holding its Annual Business conference on sustainability, we will have a guest speaker on Thursday. Have a look at

www.mcgillcbs.com. The conference goes on for the entire weekend, there are workshops on Saturday too.

Garofalo: At AUS council, we decided to get involved in Haiti-relief. We have raised a lot of money, yesterday we raised \$700.

Drew: Management had a huge success at its Cancer Aid.

VP Brown: For the new councillors, welcome. I need to take a picture of you.

Rooney: There will be a fashion show at Metropolis by various Asian culture clubs, and all proceeds go towards a medical institute. If you want tickets, please come and see me.

5. Question Period

No questions.

6. Reports of Officers

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

VP Ronderos-Morgan: I apologize, my report was very late, I was very busy. Today, we will have the two executives of the TaCEQ come talk to us. They will be here to answer questions about the organization. As I mentioned, we are working on a new accounting arrangement to manage the finances, we are arranging an agreement between the organizations, we have a proposal, but there have not yet been any final commitments made. Then, there will be a concerted effort including the FEUQ to address the 4th year education practica. That is very interesting. I wrote an op-ed in the Daily about the TaCEQ. This Saturday at 11am there will be a rally to protest the prorogation of parliament. This has been seen as violation of the spirit of the constitution. Personally, I think that SSMU stands for democracy and that the government should be held responsible. I hope to see McGill students there. I had a couple of very successful meetings in regards of CARE, some faculties are becoming more aware, for example AUS. As for Burst Your Bubble – you can register online right now. The first event will be a tour of the Sufi-Centre in Montreal. I have also been working on Cafe Conversations, which will become a venue for students and community members to discuss pertinent topics with experts in the field. The first event will happen on February 2nd. I attended the CKUT BoD meeting. It seems as if the opt-outs have been very high this semester, the board was very disappointed. Students seem to be motivated by apathy, and are not encouraging the diversity of media on campus. CKUT was initiated by students in the 1960s, and constitutes a great connection to the community. Then, I would encourage you to take the survey that takes 2 minutes about transit usage by students. There are 5 free metro passes and 10 communaute memberships for participants. That will help us with our assessment of transit usage by undergraduates.

Mehta: Concerning CKUT, is it in a very bad financial position? How will it combat student apathy?

VP Ronderos-Morgan: Yes, most of the groups are being impacted by opt-outs which makes budgeting very difficult. It has been a very non-profit organization without much revenue. It doesn't have much advertizing, the only advertisement it accepts comes from community groups. This is impacting them even more now since they are already in a difficult financial situation. There are many ideas and plans developing how to raise students' awareness. They have the intention of promoting more visibility on campus.

Tonight they are bringing a local student band to Gerts to the Thursdays Alive night. None of the proceeds will go to CKUT, but it will raise awareness as it being a group beneficial to students. There are two strategies, there are also institutional plans – to fundraise better, and to increase visibility on campus.

VP Olle: Could you elaborate on the external affairs committee?

VP Ronderos-Morgan: We have committed to reviewing everything involved with our education policy. SSMU has 1 policy that relates to external student education. We could certainly have more, e.g. a policy towards student aid. We are compiling much information. We want to have a short-list of things that SSMU should have a policy about and bring that to council.

B. VP Finance, Jose Diaz

VP Diaz : The exec committee went over the financials of the month of November. The society is doing pretty well, we are above the budget right now. All of the operations are doing well. The ComptrVP Oller, the Investment Advisory coordinator and I met with an investment advisor about our strategy. Our portfolio is doing pretty well. We went over some of the things that we are doing. We have stayed out of the American market – that was pretty good. We went for corporate bonds, and they have a higher return rate. The current ratio should be up to a maximum of 70-30% of stocks and bonds. Right now we have 66 -33%. This is something that should be looked into. We were also discussing the financial ethics of SSMU, and two of the companies in our previous portfolio are oil-exploration companies involved in tar sands. We closed those operations. We currently do have one other stock in our portfolio, it is an uranium exploration company. This is something that should be looked into by FERC. All other stocks and bonds are in line with our policies. Gerts is doing pretty well, Week 101 was a great success. The renovations and the logo contest is going pretty well so far, we have been getting input, and we just get the French translation for the website, so that should be up pretty soon. Operations Committee will be meeting on Friday and selecting members at large. As for the Financials – we reviewed Gerts, and it’s doing way better than budgeted and almost \$10,000 better than last year. We got a new interac- machine that is portable and you can punch in the tip. As for Haven, the book-drives came in November, we got 200 to 300 books in. The manager came up with certain improvements. The store is quiet now, the rush is over. We are back to our normal hours. We had some issues with the search engine. While they were working on it, the link with the database wasn’t working properly. We have a disclaimer now about that issue. As for ASEQ – we are currently in the change of coverage period. That is important for students that come to McGill in the winter term, they need to opt-in themselves. The Minicourses made \$34,000 in revenues. Last Fall and this Winter, we have surpassed the records of the last 4 years of Minicourses. Also, Cafe Supreme brought back bottled water, so we will take care of this, and I am working with the 5 year plan people. I stand for questions.

Pedneault: Is the VP Finance aware that RVC is the major funder of tar sands?

VP Diaz: We established a difference between companies and banks that invest in tar sands. It’s hard to find banks that are not involved in the activity. That is up for consideration. It would be worth looking into.

Gallery: Erin Hale: Do you have the name of the mining company that SSMU still invests in?
VP Diaz: It's called Uranium 1.

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

VP Brown: Please remember this moment if you think I don't love you – I'm here on my birthday. If you missed Week 101, you missed out. It was great for Gerts, and was better for the environment and our finances than Snow AP. I'll make a final report on it. We had a smaller event for January first-year admits, nobody really acknowledges them. There is not a lot going on for them. We threw a mini-social event for them. We planned a "Meet and Eat" event. I showed them around the building, they were excited, and we had pizza. It was a surprisingly great crowd for a Monday. Movies in the Ballroom happened on Mondays and Tuesdays. Mondays are the worst days to have events, so people don't show up. People turned up on Tuesday though. We had free pop, popcorn and chips. This event cost \$30 to SSMU. I would like to do that again. I think it's cool because going to the movies is great but expensive. The Sustainable Projects Fund Community Forum is happening on January 26th, local food, beer, and music will be there, Jim Nicell is coming, and it's a great networking opportunity to talk about projects. You guys should pencil that in. Also, for March 24th – don't make plans that night. I can't tell you why yet. I'm doing something that no VP Internal has done in the last 5 years. Then, I have been flipping through old issues of the Tribune, and we used to do polling about student opinion. It helps us to give us feedback. I personally prefer personal contact, so I'm starting to put together a little poll, and we started a mini-survey in the student lounge. Tell me what you think please. As for the Committee on Alcohol Policy – I'm still talking about Frosh. There were a bunch of different reports. There are representatives from everyone at McGill who deals with alcohol. We advise on Alcohol Policies at McGill. There is a lot of exciting things happening on the committee. Post-Carnivals, there were many complaints, especially about Science. Nobody has made any big moves yet, but people were a little concerned. Health Services is working on a health awareness project. There will be photo booths on campus that ask you questions and you can take pictures for free. Look out for it, it will be on campus. Also, the university commission on alcohol on campus made an evaluation about all alcohol-related activities, I haven't seen it yet. We are trying to receive it. Western has a thing called "check your drinking". They like to make people understand what they are doing, and not preach. It calculates how much money you are spending with drinking, and also the calorie-intake. It was brought up as something cool, but I expressed concerns with the calorie idea, since we are already dealing with eating disorders at McGill. Then, the last thing in my report is the GA – ask how you can get involved.

Keresteci: Is the bus trip to Queens happening?

VP Brown: Last year it happened in October. The only away game at Queens this year was on Halloween and 4Floors. I haven't found another game yet. They aren't playing Queens anymore. It's a matter of finding a game that we can go to. My other solutions would be to either go to a game that is not at Queens or going to a game that is not hockey.

Mehta: On Tuesdays, Senate is having a special movie night. Maybe you could pick another day than Tuesday for the next events?

VP Brown: Yes.

D. VP University Affairs, Rebecca Dooley.....

VP Dooley: Senate – we had Senate yesterday, it the shortest Senate ever. We brought forward questions on snow removal on campus (they said that they were doing the best they could), why the athletics board wasn't meeting (it doesn't have a chair right now), and about Mac campus shuttle bus. The university has been clear that they had no intention on increasing the bus service. They think that it is being misused by students who live downtown and go to Mac campus. Mendelson said that if we wanted to institute a fee for students to support the shuttle buses, that were possible, but hopefully, we will be able to sit down with the Dean or Mendelson to discuss potential solutions to these problems. Feel free to talk to myself or senator Marshall. Another issue was that we had a basic motion to let senators have laptops. This led into a debate whether senate should be reported? Should reports be made public? You cannot communicate during senate. The argument was brought up that if we have a reported Senate, people wouldn't be able to engage in free discussion because it would make people feel uncomfortable. The issue isn't over, but on a whole it would be nice if senate were more accessible. From the Faculty of Science, we have Shacker and Lipsitz as new senators. They will be reporting to duty right away. We will be bringing forward some by-law revisions. There have been headaches with appointing new Senators recently. If you are interested on sitting on a student position on university committees, please tell me. Ivan and I had a meeting with the deputy Provost to start an initial discussion on the lease, and we also discussed using money from our IREF for the breakout room, and the lack of the French clause in many syllabi. Prof Mendelson ensured us that he would fix that right away. As to freedom of speech on campus – the deputy provost is considering drafting a more clear policy. Then, for the e-calendar, we will have new course calendars which are interactive and there are always up-to-date information on your courses. We met with the committee on student services and discussed budget priorities, we are pushing for them to make improvements to health services. This issue is brought up every year, but the lack of physicians will always limit the amount of health services that can be provided. We discussed the new administrative overhead charge. The charge will probably hit student fees around \$150,000. Students Services will probably not be going forward asking for ancillary fee increases, they might just take the \$15 of inflationary increases. If you are interested in more, please come and talk to me. Then, for the Sustainable Projects fund, we are creating a community forum. We are hiring a sustainable projects fund coordinator, and the working group will hopefully start meeting before reading week.

Pedneault: What is the procedure in choosing the new senators?

VP Dooley: We inform council when seats become vacant. The faculty associations receive applications. The candidates are interviewed by Senate caucus, and a senator is brought forward. I believe SUS had a group that consisted of the science senators and SUS executives. There is no restriction on our end for that process.

Abaki: Was the process democratic in both cases?

VP Dooley: I was told by SUS that they used members of their executive and the Senate caucus.

Mehta: We sent a listserve, we selected qualified candidates to interview, and the president, I and the other senator looked at applications.

VP Dooley: Have a look at McGill.ca/senate/law to get a look at the prospective new calendar. Hopefully, next year we will have a better, more interactive course calendar.

Pedneault: Why doesn't SSMU assist in the by-election of the new senators?

VP Dooley: We are in the process of reviewing that process, but according to the by-laws, this is the procedure to follow.

Abaki: What is not sufficient that needs to be changed in point 2?

VP Dooley: It wasn't clear by which the process we allocate seats to faculties.

Abaki: Didn't the Arts Council have a problem in electing a senator?

Newburgh: You are out of order, councillor Abaki.

E. VP Clubs and Services, Sarah Olle

VP Olle: The main thing I was doing was Activities Night, I planned this very thoroughly. We had over 200 tables booked. Not really many people came to see the clubs, only 700 people came. I like to think that Fall Activities night was so good that people already got into all the clubs they wanted. The Tribune was voted to move towards independence 2 years ago. We have been preparing from the SSMU side how they will be independent in terms of financial contractual matters. We decided that we will rent out our communications officer, who is doing the advertisement, and we are figuring out how much the Tribune would have to pay SSMU for that service. We hope that this preparation will make them not totally screwed, but only kind of screwed in the summer. It is very difficult. The Daily went independent in 1980, I don't know what they did, it's really hard. Jim Nicell and Chuck Adler came in to see the building, they are really helpful. They might be helping in long-term planning in the building, we are looking forward in getting their assistance. The C&S reps to council are councillors Rooney and Abdullah. Be nice to them. People came to the election, they asked questions, and cast ballots. It was great to see so many people involved. As to 100 Years of SSMU – it's really cool to know about the way we used to do things, it explains why SSMU is structured the way it is, why we have the weird relation with the faculty associations, all this sort of stuff is explained by looking at the history. There are also a lot of pictures in it, and graphs – please read it. Lastly, look at all the meetings I have gone to recently. I stand for questions.

To: Where can you find the document?

VP Olle: I e-mailed it out on the council listserve.

Rooney: Were there any immediate remarks about the building?

VP Olle: They acknowledged that it is poorly designed and hard to renovate. The central staircase is huge, we found out the reason it is how it is. Apparently the students who decided wanted to bring the energy flowing through the building. They recognized how frustrating it was that if next year's council didn't want to follow through with this year's plans, it just won't happen.

Omer: We didn't actually receive anything on the councillor listserve?

VP Olle: I'll send it out again.

Abaki: During the election, do you have scrutinizers? I think that is in the by-laws.

VP Olle: We double-counted the numbers. I had the CEO from Elections McGill there. You are welcome to see the ballots to verify my count.

F. President, Ivan Neilson

President Neilson: Much that I have has been touched on by other executives. I want to touch on the Daycare – for the agreement with the PGSS, we haven’t received anything back yet, the PGSS rep said that he changed some language, but otherwise that should be okay. As to the Ancillary fees – the total amount of these won’t increase more than \$15 in a year. Controlling for inflation, that is not that bad. As to the Sustainability project – I have had a coordinator working in the cafeteria on recycling and recycling polystyrene. There is a process to recycle it and it is turned into plastic furniture. As for the Generation Pact projects, I am still waiting for the second-phase projects. We are looking into creative accounting so that we can pay people although we haven’t received money. Also, some fees are expiring this semester. The Tribune will be renewing their fee and going independent at the same time. I got a proposal from the Plate Club for a long-term plan, as soon as they have replenished their group of volunteers, they should be up and running. We have also met with the Presidential Affairs committee, and we started drafting terms of reference, and looked into UA and External Committee. Then, the WUSC scholarship fee is used to bring refugees to McGill to study. They are having trouble finding eligible refugees, so they have their own ideas for broadening the terms of reference, but they also asked for ideas from us. As for the University Centre lease, I have submitted the proposal, it will be circulated among senior administrators. The schedule for GA is out – we already got on the faculty listserves, we are already postering. We tried as much as possible to start early with listserves. I scheduled meetings with faculty councils. On the February 4th meeting, I would like to distribute more responsibilities. The date should be February 10th at 5.30. I got to ask my question at Senate. They basically described what they did. We don’t have a formal body overseeing the fees we are paying Athletics. Finally, we are planning a succession workshop for interested students. It can be a big decision and help people to know what they want to do. As for the Presidential Round Table, I would encourage people to attend or to submit points to the agenda.

Pedneault: With regards to the WUSC – there are many refugee organizations in Montreal that might be able to give information?

President Neilson: They just wanted to loosen the terms of reference. It is conditional on them being accepted to McGill.

Woolf: I think the GA posters are great. Do you agree?

President Neilson: Yes. It was the product of some executive brainstorming, especially by VP Brown and our in-house designer.

Keresteci: Can we find the information about the GA on the SSMU website?

President Neilson: Yes. It’s under “about” and “GA”. The dates should be on the separate GA website.

VP Brown: There will be another listserv with a link to the GA website. There is also a pamphlet on decision-making bodies, with more information.

VP Ronderos-Morgan: Would you consider yourself a post-revolutionary conservative because of your quote at the beginning?

President Neilson: I just go to quotations page and pick ones that are deep and thoughtful.
GARofalo: What are the Dutch students going to do?

President Neilson: We have a tour of the buildings for them from 1 to 4 on Monday, and on Tuesday. If you want to come, they would probably be interested. They want to talk to as many students as possible.

Abaki: Does McGill advertize the scholarship to the wide public?

President Neilson: I believe that applicants are suggested to them by WUSC.

7. Reports of Committees

A. Executive Committee.....

President Neilson: Most of this is very straightforward. We filled the accounts receivable clerk's responsibilities temporarily.

VP Brown: Motion to ratify the Executive Committee report.

Motion to ratify the Executive Committee report passed.

B. Finance Committee.....

VP Diaz: We gave out money. I stand for questions.

Rooney: The McGill Debate Union should be self-funded, shouldn't it?

VP Diaz: They are having a conference, we already had funded them a lot, so we gave them \$500.

Keresteci: How is the Ambassador Fee advertized?

VP Diaz: It has gone out on the faculty listserves and clubs and services listserve.

Abdullah: Did those clubs file formal applications? What are the criteria?

VP Diaz: It is very similar to CLF. The application is prefaced by a list of requirements. It's for students that represent McGill either by hosting events on campus or by going to events for McGill. For example Law Symposiums, Management case competitions, etc.

To: Motion to ratify the Finance Committee report.

Motion to ratify the Finance Committee report passed.

C. Equity Committee.....

Hann: I'm dealing with planning the Social Justice Days, it will be really exciting. The membership – unfortunately, two memberships of the committee informed me that they are unable to take the commitment with this committee. We had to make a call-out for other members of the committee. Due to the lack of members, the new draft of the Equity policy has been pushed back until we have quorum again. Then, for the draft equity policy, the basic intention will stay the same, the old equity policy will be still there. It will clarify the main points and concerns of the Equity Policy. We had two meetings with Choose Life. We discussed each others' expectations of the process. There will be in camera sessions, and we agreed that it would be preferable to have closed sessions, because more open

dialogue would follow, and it is stated in SSMU by-laws that committees of council are allowed to have closed sessions. We had a rocky start to the first couple of meetings. We had to clear away misunderstandings. Choose Life emphasized that they thought they had done nothing wrong, and wanted examples with reference to SSMU's Equity Policy to what was wrong. The committee agreed that it would be better use to face the reality of the situation and to move forward instead of explaining the actions of SSMU Council. Choose Life understands SSMU's necessity of creating an environment that is safe for everyone. We started suggestions that Choose Life could do: For the distribution of false information, they stated that they would be more responsible, as well as correcting any wrongdoings so far. As to their affiliation with the National Campus Life network – the club assured us that they were clearly independent and that every event was created by them. In their mandate, they have educating and fostering an environment of safety and respect for all students, and that seems in conflict with comments from students and in council. They agreed that they wouldn't show images of violence without prior warning, would ensure accuracy of information to the best of their abilities, and clearly repudiate hate-speech and all forms of violence. The committee agreed that those were good started points and that at the next meeting, a draft will be made. Clear headway will be made, and hopefully a good agreement will be reached in the end.

VP Olle: In thinking about this issue, I feel really conflicted about Equity Committee's responsibility to make the club understand what they did wrong. It would be beneficial that they understand, but on the other hand, I understand that it shouldn't be Equity Committee's responsibility to explain a decision that this body has made. So, how were you handling that tension?

Hann: I completely agree with you. If we spend more time in every meeting with these debates and arguing, we would be nowhere. They bring something to the table, we bring something to the table, so that a document can be created whereby we can all live. There has been some struggle, that is why we felt it necessary to move forward and not linger in council's decision, since we didn't have any control over how council decided.

Mehta: By the end of the meeting – the first point doesn't really move anything forward. Do you find that point 1 is beneficial?

Hann: We are trying to move forward. We are trying to ensure that future discussions will be fruitful.

VP Dooley: That was also brought forward by Choose Life.

VP Ronderos-Morgan: They seemed to say that they are entirely independent, but on the first page of their constitution, they state that they are officially linked to the National Campus Life network. You also said that they are against violent content, but they would warn about the violent content they are about to show – how will this contradiction be solved?

Hann: Any imagery present that might offend someone will be headed by warnings before people enter the room. This is what they have offered us. We are in the process of reviewing what they have offered us and submitting our recommendations. You can address any concerns or recommendations to me or VP VP Dooleyey. They did say that their main mandate is their own mandate, and that they don't have to respond to any other organization's mandate. Every event has been their own responsibility.

Omer: As the committee of SSMU that has been charged with the review of the Equity Committee, don't you feel that the Equity Committee's report should depend on the decision of this body and that it should be able to explain decisions of this council?

Hann: we have spent a lot of time talking about that issue, once we reviewed the policy, it might be better to move forward with reference to the new policy.

Omer: Will the new policy apply retroactively or is any offense according to the past policy? Would they still have the right to inquire the committee's view on breaches thereof?

Hann: The new policy will be put in place to clear up definitions and put into place clear understanding. With the new policy in place, they will get a sense of what offenses have been committed.

Omer: Don't you feel that a specialized body in Equity would be able to offer a better insight in what action had occurred?

Hann: If you would like to present your recommendations to me, you are welcome to.

Rooney: How would you combat them from handing out false information?

Hann: They have come to us and said that there would be prior knowledge and responsibility of them for information.

VP Dooley: These things were given to us at the end of the whole meeting, we haven't discussed them in detail yet. We would be thankful for all recommendations, though.

President Neilson: Could you clarify the revisions?

Hann: We will be changing the policy statement, the complaint process, as well as other processes, and clarify the definitions so that anybody, regardless of their knowledge of equity, would understand it.

Woolf: Was this the first, foremost and very basic meeting of a very long process?

Hann: Yes.

Woolf: Would you say that the Equity Committee's job is to elucidate the policy to the club, rather than the decision of council?

Hann: Yes.

Pedneault: Is Equity Committee prepared that the club status may not be restarted?

Hann: It is obviously a possibility, we are hoping that this will never happen, we are hoping that the two bodies can come to an agreement and move forward the discussion, we haven't discussed it yet.

D. Clubs and Services Committee

VP Olle: First of all, I want to apologize. Clubs and Services Committee has been unable to meet this semester. However, it is unfair to clubs to not approve them in the timely manner. Me, the IGC, Councillor Omer, and Drew have reviewed those applications during this meeting, but we do not have quorum, but our recommendations are very conservative. Council does have the right to approve this anyway. To explain the tabled groups: For Enfants du Mekong: Certain of their events didn't have to do with their mandates. Then, the Society for a Pluralistic Middle East, Israel Peace Collaborative, Israel Club all applied – they are all the same, and we didn't know what they meant by members not being able to join clubs that go against their mandate. Humanity First – we don't know what they want to do besides having meetings and putting humanity first. We outright rejected the Student music Theatre group. There are already 5 clubs who do the same thing.

Mehta: What about Students Supporting Wikipedia?

VP Olle: After that, for three more club applications, we used Wikipedia. That proved to the committee that Wikipedia is useful. You should probably Wikipedia them.

VP Olle: Councillor Omer wrote some great by-laws about what a club is and what the process for applying is. If you are interested in discussing those, you can meet with him.

Khan: The Contradance Club has also been approved before the break.

VP Olle: I would like to motion to amend my report to add Contradance Club to the approved clubs.

VP Dooley: Motion to adopt this report.

Clubs and Services Committee report approved.

Drew: Motion to table Guest Speakers.

8. Guest Speakers

A. TaCEQ executives.....

Tabled.

9. Old Business.....

10. New Business.....

A. Notice of 10-Year Plan for Building

VP Olle: Next time I will bring the 10 Year Plan for the building.

B. Amendment Regarding By-Law Changes

Newburgh: [explains the procedure]

VP Olle: [reads be-it-resolved clauses]

VP Olle: I hope you had time to read this now. Our council by-laws were atrocious. The by-laws didn't say what councillors had to do. We Also wanted to clean up some procedural things – when we have to vote when to adjourn at the beginning of the meeting for example. The rules of procedure don't change that much, except for: Point 10.2 – right now, you are supposed to submit by-law changes 10 days in advance, and they are supposed to send it out to councillors 5 days in advance. We have changed the by-laws 5 times this year, and this by-law has never been followed. Nobody has noticed, so I took that by-law out. But it is fine if you want that, I'm sure that Councillor Abaki will submit an amendment if you want to.

Newburgh: Please consent to have a cordial, calm debate. This is a place of love.

VP Brown: When people want to run for council, many people have no idea what they are getting themselves into. Having these by-law changes will help many people who are interested in those positions. It will be great for more people to get involved. It would create greater accessibility, and those by-laws create a lot of possibilities for students.

Sarah worked very hard on in response to questions and concerns that people have brought up. I would like encourage you to vote for.

President Neilson: I find that the council section is poorly written and outdated right now, and as somebody who helped VP VP Olle with the wording, functionally, we aren't changing a lot. We are settling on a solution that works well for us. It allows council to govern itself and be more efficient. I will yield the time to the floor.

Newburgh: We received these friendly amendments: "Section 2.4.3 : Council shall not take a position on external, extremely divisive issues that are unrelated to the operation of the students' Society" – "In the event that a councillor deems an issue pursuant to the provision in 2.4.3, council may only take a position on the issue pending a two-thirds majority vote of council." And "Replace Article 4.1 with the following: Councillors joining at or after the second Fall meeting shall be 'elected by vote of council to a committee' instead of 'appointed to a committee by the executive committee'.

Abaki: Motion to bring up a hostile amendment: [reads hostile amendment 1: Revert point 7.1 and 7.2 to the original wording.]

Newburgh: Amendments cannot be made to hostile amendments. I invite the other of the hostile amendment to be the first speaker.

Abaki: Somebody said something for freedom of speech, I would like to bring forward more legislation for greater accountability. "As soon as possible" is not very clear. We have seen some motions brought before council that were very important. We haven't discussed 7.1 and 7.2. We did use it at the consideration of the budget. Changing bylaws is equally important. I strongly urge councillors to support article 10.1 as it was. There is no reason that the speakers can't post the motions on the SSMU website for general information. With more time, councillors can actually consider the documents that are brought before us. The by-laws protect the integrity of the Society. If you don't have time to look at any documents, look at the by-law changes. It is extremely important that councillors have enough time to look at them.

Yu: I think that the reversion of the original rules is unnecessary - it shouldn't be so urgent to change by-laws that we need to do it within a couple of days. Giving us more time to go through the documents wouldn't do that much harm.

VP Ronderos-Morgan: I am not inherently against giving councillors more time to consider documents. The process has been undertaken by the executives in light of the fact that the process is not in mind with what the by-laws say. The Recording Secretary Janina Grabs does not have the ability to send out documents, so sending her documents and having her forwarding them to the speaker seems redundant. I would suggest that the movers would amend that.

President Neilson: Reverting to the old language defeats the whole motion. It was amended because our process has changed, it is outdated. The spirit of the motion is that councillors can decide how important it is.

Woolf: It is our responsibility to read the documents, either 7 days or 3 days in advance. Things come up in a timely fashion and should be dealt with also. I would like to reject the motion.

VP Olle: There are some fundamental misunderstandings with council procedures. It just needs to be submitted before the councillors receive it, and they have to get it 3 days in advance. The budget was tabled because people needed to think about it, and you can do that at anytime. This means that if something is submitted on Saturday or Sunday, it needs

leave under the previous by-laws, but will be on the agenda automatically under the new ones.

VP Brown: Motion to previous question.

Motion to previous question passed.

Motion to adopt the hostile amendment failed.

Abaki: 4.3: "All committees of council, excluding the Executive Committee, shall be open, except in camera. Notice of in camera session, with sufficient reasons, should be given to council prior to the committee's meeting. In-camera meetings shall still remain open to councillors should they wish to attend."

Motion to move into a 2 minutes caucus period failed.

Woolf: I would like to divide the question.

VP Brown: Motion to debate.

Motion to debate passed.

Abaki: This amendment is important so that all committees are open to all councillors. In the end, councillors have to make decisions. If councillors need to make an informed decision, they should attend these particular meetings of the committee. If they really want to go to a particular meeting, they should be able to. This will increase accountability.

Yu: As a form of courtesy, if any member of SSMU would like to attend these meetings, they should be noticed if this meeting were in camera. Second of all, the councillor from SSMU attending shouldn't participate. The chair of the committee should have a full right to enforce that members of the audience do not participate. It will be a strong safe-check for years to come, and not only for this council. We owe this to the people who elected us.

Abaki: I know that we mentioned the Choose Life issue. If councillors could only decide about Choose Life's position through their own opinion, we should be able to attend the sessions. However, I ended to be locked out of the meeting, I wasn't informed that it was in camera, but I wish to know that councillors should be given this particular time if necessary.

Omer: I realize that these by-laws are very well drafted and that these amendments are tedious. Odds are that the vast majority of councillors won't take this extra step, but I don't feel that councillors should for no apparent reason be barred from attending this meeting. The interest in meetings and extra effort shouldn't be put down, especially since it is so rare. I don't see any negative consequences from this amendment.

VP Brown: Firstly, all committees report to council. All information that you would hear will be presented at council. It seems silly to me to discuss a sensitive issue with 35 people sitting in the background. That might be uncomfortable. I think the spirit of this amendment is misguided. If all business was done in council, we would be here until 3am every night. Everything is brought back. Councillors can mandate committees to share all information with you. That is your right. But to say that you must be there watching seems a bit paranoid. It exhibits mistrust to your fellow councillors. You are also welcome to talk to every single councillor.

Marshall: To say that the spirit of these by-laws is to restrict accountability is ridiculous. This is not made to hide ideas, everything will be reported to council. Provide regulations

that would make it easier for council should be the intent of by-laws. But needing to report and open up in-camera sessions would just make talking about some issues even more complicated.

VP Dooley: In camera sessions are very rare, this normally only occurs with very sensitive matters. If Equity committee would have had to come to council to have an in-camera session, it would have been stalled for 2 further weeks. There is an appropriate flow of business through reports from committees to councils.

Rooney: The best informed council member is someone who attends every committee every meeting. If a councillor wants to take part, he should join that committee for the whole term. I would be highly suspicious of a councillor who only wants to go to one or two meetings.

Garofalo: When this amendment first came forward, I didn't know what to think, but I'm not convinced by the con-side. You need to experience a meeting yourself, the synopsis isn't enough. The possibility of 35 members coming isn't realistic. In terms of putting more work on councillors – attendance isn't mandatory. Councillor Marshall has a good point. As to VP VP Dooleyey's point – in camera meetings being rare or not doesn't affect this motion, councillors should still be able to attend.

Yu: I know that we all get to see the results of the committees, but I don't see that this justifies not being able to attend. Also, if councillors interested attended those meetings, they would have less questions and council meetings would be quicker.

Motion to previous question passed.

Motion to adopt hostile amendment failed.

Motion to previous question passed.

Amendment Regarding By-Law Changes passed.

Motion to table guest speakers to 10.E passed.

C. Resolution Regarding the Constitutional Review Committee.....

Abaki: [reads be-it-resolved clauses]

Abaki: According to the constitution article 10, there is a Constitutional Review Committee that has specific duties. The entirety of the SSMU is enshrined in the by-laws. We do not have a constitutional review committee at the moment. People haven't really conceded at that time the importance in past by-law changes. I am very interested in accountability. If you are not interested in that, you will make the work of past councillors go down the drain. If you look at SSMU history, there have been contentions on by-laws, and I think having a Constitutional Review Committee is important. I did write an e-mail to Ivan and he did mention some ideas that he had in mind for committee review. However, the President doesn't feel that he needs to create a Constitutional Review Committee. If it is not there, there should be somebody looking at by-laws so that somebody other than council can look at by-laws. If the President sees that the Presidential Affairs Committee cannot handle these issues, me personally and other members would certainly be interested in sitting on it. I think that it is enshrined in the constitution and that it should be executed too. We did

make by-law changes that are conflicting with other by-laws. If there was a committee charged in reviewing it, such errors wouldn't happen.

Yu: I would like that we would put things in perspective. Our constitutional by-laws govern everything. This motion is one of the important ones. It does put another layer of bureaucracy on there. It's about by-laws, not immediate executive actions. I do not see how this motion could be opposed.

Omer: Would the existence of a Constitutional Review Committee need for every by-law change to go through the committee?

Newburgh: [reads mandate of Constitutional Review Committee]. If there are by-laws that come to the council, they can, but don't have to go through the committee.

Yu: On reflection, my answer is no.

Woolf: Point of Information – isn't the constitution only subject to referenda? Isn't it also at the Speaker's discretion if something is constitutionally valid?

Newburgh: The constitution can only be amended by a referendum question, yes.

VP Olle: Motion to overrule caucus time.

Motion to overrule caucus time passed.

President Neilson: I wrote e-mails with Councillor Abaki and raised some concerns I had. The Presidential Affairs Committee has been charged with specific tasks, we have enough business as it is, and I would not like to load it with more work. The committee was built in the understanding of having the duties that it is undertaking now. The Constitutional Review committee has not met for the last two years. The reason for that is that the function is generally not needed. By-law changes can be brought at any time, by every councillor. It is not that easy to change the by-laws, you need 2/3 of councillors to be present and also a 2/3 majority. I am pretty satisfied that the by-laws are protected in our constitution. Furthermore, this is something in the Presidential Affairs committee that I have been addressing, and this seems a stressed reaction without great benefit.

VP Dooley: I think that this motion is premature, I would like to see an effort of council to reinforce the Constitutional Review committee before referring its responsibilities to the Presidential Affairs Committee.

Mehta: Councillors may be biased. We are adding further levels to an already complicated organization, so we should make things easier rather than more difficult.

VP Olle: Motion to previous question.

Motion to previous question passed.

Resolution Regarding the Constitutional Review Committee failed.

VP Olle: Motion to move adjournment time at 10.30.

Motion to move adjournment time at 10.30 passed.

D. Resolution Regarding Haiti Relief Efforts

Abaki: [reads be-it-resolved clauses]

Mehta: Motion to debate.

Motion to debate passed.

Abaki: I really think that we are all aware what is going on in Haiti. AUS, SUS and other faculty organizations have done a fantastic job in reacting to the crisis. The AUS's fundraising efforts do stop on Monday, though. Many of us care about this issue. I cannot understand the pain that the people are going through. We are all going through many things, but the people in Haiti are going through a lot. We are very privileged, and we should show compassion. It would be in good faith for SSMU to go ahead and raise funds. The capital of Haiti has been reduced to rubble, so it will take a long time and require long-term as well as short-term measures. I know that there is already being things done, but here you cannot do enough. We can show our leadership and show how we care not only about students here. I have spoken to the AUS Council, the Black Student Network, and other organizations. But SSMU should provide all resources that they can. The VP External has expressed the possibility of starting off these funds. We are having a meeting later on to discuss our strategy. It will take Haiti a long time to recover, and SSMU can reach out to over 20,000 students. We should all get on board.

Ma: Efforts towards Haiti have already been started. But as SSMU, we have greater power to connect more people. We can make more happen for united efforts that will make greater achievements.

Briones: Some people I know didn't know what was going on, so having this motion passed will combat apathy and raise awareness for the poverty of Haiti. It will help Haiti re-establish itself. Yay!

VP Ronderos-Morgan: I am very in favour of this. PGSS has a fundraising plan of its own. Everyone should be informed what has been going on. This effort will potentially lead to joining forces with them, it is important that our initiative is in concert with other initiatives on campus. I really hope that council ends up being collaborative with other initiatives on campus.

PGSS Rep: I speak in favour of this motion. We had a panel discussion and will have a nd all aparty, money will go towards Doctors without Borders, there will also be many other events. We could have one pool of money coming from McGill students. It's a tragedy that affects all of us.

Korena: The AUS have been fundraising since the last Thursday, and are probably up to \$16,000 by Monday. McGill security is cVP Ollecting for the Red Cross, and we will be helping security do that. They want to have an agent walking around with a student. Please choose the Red Cross, Oxfam, or Doctors without Borders if you want to donate, as those are all very recognized initiatives.

Newburgh: There was a friendly amendment: "Be It Further Resolved that SSMU will donate \$400 out of the External Affairs budget."

Yu: I just want to raise the concern of who we are going to donate to. I don't think that the victims are victims of a natural disaster, but of poor infrastructure. It has gone from a self-sufficient economy to a huge rice importer, and the IMF has cut public sector income in half. So who are we paying? Port-au-Prince is under military command of the US Aircraft. Considering the US-Haitian history, the US controlling the airport isn't great. Are we paying for the airplanes circling the air, or the people on the ground?

VP Dooley: We should be aware that we give this to organizations that we can trust. This is setting a precedent, we haven't done this in the past and we should be aware that students might expect that in the future.

Mehta: I find this motion is very poorly planned, it should be very much more detailed who we are going to donate to, and apparently, the transportation of aid is difficult too. There are also way too many groups supporting Haiti, just starting up more and more small projects is worse than combining it all. I reject all but the clause that Sebastian contribute money.

Woolf: Maybe we should consider supporting a local Haitian organization instead of a great international organization.

Pedneault: I would hope that any long-term effort of ensuring stability in Haiti would take into consideration that many of our leaders – US and Canada – have been complicit in supporting the previous government and the ousting of several Haitian leaders. The fact that there will be a meeting in Montreal of Canadian, American and IMF officials amongst others is emblematic of the situation.

Newburgh: A resolved clause has been added: “Be it further resolved that council strike a committee to lead these efforts.”

Omer: Motion to previous question.

Motion to previous question passed.

Resolution Regarding Haiti Relief Efforts passed.

10.E Discussion pertaining to the Principals’ Task Force

VP Dooley: I got input from Councillor Keresteci, and this is what we came up with, it’s a condensed version of the main points. The Task Force is on Diversity, Excellence, and Community Engagement. It’s only an advisory committee, so we just want to get our main recommendations on the record, but the Principal will decide what to take up. In the topic of diversity, we will recommend that accessibility of education is key to reach out to marginalized communities, and it also needs an accommodating, equitable environment. Then, we asked the question, what even is excellence at the undergraduate level? McGill tends to measure excellence along external comparisons. We should recommend that internal evaluation of excellence is important too. We know that McGill is Montreal’s favourite institution and that they all love that we’re here. For some reason, Concordia doesn’t have the same problem as us. We should look into more engagement with local and community groups. If our local commuters feel like outsiders in our community, how will the local community feel?

Garofalo: What is wrong with the word diverse?

VP Dooley: How it is usually appropriated.

Zaidi: What you said about accessibility, McGill is having a double discourse; while McGill is planning to raise tuition, they want to reach out to marginalized communities.

VP Dooley: That is true. One thing that students have often brought up is that we are diverse in a racial or other way, but not economically.

VP Brown: Some feel that residences are an overrepresented minority of our students. There is an entire network of advisors etc for residences, but nothing similar exists for non-residence people.

VP Dooley: This is only a bullet-point form of our points. We reflect that, I believe.

Pedneault: Would no-tuition policy help to include marginalized communities? Would you like to suggest that?

VP Dooley: I would like to do that.

10F. Guest speakers – TaCEQ Executives.

VP Ronderos-Morgan: This is an important opportunity for you guys to meet them, and to ask them questions, it is the organization that we are member of, and we look for an opportunity to bring something back to us. It is the organization that represents our view. They speak English and French. Olivier Jegou is the External from CADEUL, Philip Verreault-Julien is currently a member of AELIES.

VP Brown: Motion to set the adjournment time to 11pm.

Motion to set the adjournment time to 11pm passed.

Jegou: It is a great pleasure to be here tonight for us. We had a great and charged fall by working on commencing the Table. It has been a great time, we worked on the by-laws, and now it is done. We have a lot of work to do this Winter, the Canadian Grant program is a negotiation of the government of Quebec for this winter, and we are working on a paper with more information on the implication of this program. Sebastian did most of the introduction that we planned to do.

Julien: It is a pleasure to be here with you, we have been waiting a long time to come and see you. We have different parents, we are not twins. I'm doing my Masters in Philosophy at the Universite de Laval.

VP Brown: Could you talk about your thoughts in long-term planning?

Jegou: There is the issue about the tuition freeze for the university, the last freeze of tuition increases is going to end in 2012. We are going to build up the great communication lines for a campaign. This summer, the issue of the four stages of fees is important.

Pedneault: Qu'est-ce qui s'annonce pour les lois concernant les étudiants lorsque le parlement revient en session ?

Julien: La prochaine loi revient à la fin de Mars après qu'on a une décision finale sur le budget, il n'y aura pas de grands modifications pour la loi 38 – la grande question va être avec la loi 44, ça va donner quelques indications qu'est-ce que le gouvernement pense.

VP Ronderos-Morgan : They are expecting the bill 44 to come back after the budget is released in March. Bill 38 will probably see some amendments, but the main points might see the same. The united consensus is that the decision on Bill 44 will show the direction the government is going.

Ma: What is the difference between the two?

Jegou: Bill 44 is for cVP Olleges and Bill 38 is for universities.

VP Olle: Could you talk a bit about how TaCEQ will compare itself to the lobbying methods of the FEUQ and other organizations?

Jegou: The choice between lobbying and big mass mobilization depends on the issue. Some issues don't need that many demonstrations, since the government might accept changes. With bigger problems, we will need more mobilization. It always depends on how the government responds to the student movement. If the government is open to discuss, then we can sit around the table. If they are not open to discuss, we need to earn our right to sit around this table. The FEUQ works more on the lobbying part than the ASSE which works more on the mobilization part, but all organizations need good mobilization because it is the students who make this movement and they should stay informed.

President Neilson: Ou voyez-vous le TaCEQ d'ici 5 ans ?

Jegou : Actuellement, le TaCEQ fait une grande différence sur le plan provincial. Des organisations indépendantes jadis avaient beaucoup de mouvement, et de pouvoir, et ça fait une grande différence. On crée une situation unique où on est entre un mouvement radical, et un mouvement très organisé. Dans 5 ans, on espère que les relations seront plus horizontales et moins verticales.

VP Ronderos-Morgan : The TaCEQ is presenting itself for the first time as a third option, especially within the more radical ASSE and the more institutionalized FEUQ, and having a more horizontal structure in which the member organizations have a lot of say sets an important precedent. In 5 years, the structure of the student movement will probably become different, become more horizontal with greater independence.

VP Diaz: Quelles sont vos stratégies d'agrandissement de la TaCEQ ; comment vous organisez-vous ?

Jegou: We have membership in Sherbrooke, the UQTR movement has left the FEUQ and are very interested in working with us. It might be a possibility to have people join from there. UQAM also has very different organizations, the Communication students had a referendum, but the referendum didn't pass because they didn't have quorum. Trois-Rivières might not be joining us for the meetings of this semester, but in the Fall. The priorities are rather to consolidate the organization and get the recognition of the provincial government of Quebec. We need the grants of the government, and they told us that they would have an answer soon, so we are pushing there.

Julien: We have to be cautious about the expansion plan. It is easy to become invasive, we saw organizations having those plans, small is beautiful, everything is going well for now. Having a plan for gaining membership shouldn't be our goal.

VP Ronderos-Morgan: TaCEQ's goal is not to expand and take over as a new massive organization. If others want to join, they are welcome to, but they don't need to.

Woolf: How have interactions with la FEUQ or ASSE been?

Jegou: Cold. The FEUQ see us as the bad guys. It is going well with ASSE, they see us as sharing the same problem about the FEUQ. It is important that we are working on issues and that is going forward. It is pointless to bicker and fight for power, we just want things to move forward. It is difficult to work with FEUQ because they have a big ego, it is hard to cooperate with them. They don't want to recognize us because that would mean that their organization isn't good enough. We have had cooperation with member associations of the FEUQ, but not with the FEUQ directly.

Omer: Is there a long-term financial plan?

Jegou: The association is working on it, but because the finances of the organization are a little unclear at the moment, we don't have it finalized yet.

Julien: The plan was and still is to have the bursary from the government, but that is not the case for now.

Pedneault: It has been called a "permanent coalition" – is it rather that than a very hierarchical organization?

VP Ronderos-Morgan: The executives work a lot on the political work, but they are not the instigators of whatever policy the different organizations want.

VP Olle: Each association contributes what they are good at. We are good at accounting, paperwork, etc., and we have talked a lot about contributing in this sphere.

VP Olle: Are you guys staying with us?

Jegou: Yes.

11. Confidential Session10.49
12. Adjournment.....10.49