



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

Office of the Speakers
Bureau de Présidents du Conseil

Report of the Steering Committee of Council

Convened on October 16, 2012

Present: President Redel, VP Dinel, VP Szpejda, Councillor Larson, Speaker Nizam, Speaker Tong

Absent: VP Reid-Fraser, Councillor Rea, Councillor Chaim

Daycare General Assembly

- There will be a meeting of the SSMU Board of Directors during a recess from the next meeting of Council on October 18, 2012
- The recess will be near the end of Council so the BoD can ratify the decisions made up to and including the October 18 Council meeting

Guest Speakers

- There will not be a guest speaker for the October 18 meeting of Council

Business

Motions carried from the Consultative Forum on October 15, 2012

In accordance with article 7.3 in the SSMU By-Law Book I, motions passed at a general assembly that has lost quorum and become a “consultative forum” are then passed to legislative council, where traditionally the vote of the consultative forum has been, barring minor semantically modifications, a rubber stamp of that body's decisions. However, Steering committee has respectfully submitted recommendation of tabling the four motions of the consultative forum until the next General Assembly to be held in the Winter 2013 semester (tentatively scheduled from February 4, 2013) due to the following considerations:

- **Online ratification:** as per our constitutional changes in the last academic year, all adopted general assembly motions must be ratified online to preserve student participation and democracy. However, there are no considerations made for motions from the consultative forum that then pass at the Consultative Forum (when a General Assembly loses quorum) going to online ratification, disrupting the entire process. As such, quorum could even be circumvented or deliberately avoided in order to gain faster approval for motions that were meant to be debated by a representative forum. Until such specifications are made, it is inappropriate to use the power of the Legislative Council to bypass the ultimate authority of the General Assembly.
- **External affairs:** the general assembly may adopt motions or stances external to the society's regular activities with a quorum of 500 (as outlined the article 28.2 of the SSMU Constitution). Legislative Council holds no authority to adopt positions on external affairs brought to the General Assembly on behalf of 20,000 students and as such, debating and passing several of the motions from the past Consultative Forum would be an egregious abuse of the Council's vague authority in this context
- After a long discussion, it is the recommendation of the Steering Committee to table the four motions from the Consultative Forum until the next General Assembly. It has been



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noted that it is the role of Council to consider these inconsistencies and rule on the appropriateness of moving forward with these motions.

In-Camera Session

- There will not be an in-camera session for the October 18 meeting of Council

Respectfully submitted,
Speakers of Council