

Legislative Council Meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University

1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:06pm.

2) Attendance

The attendance sheet was circulated around the room.

3) Approval of the Minutes of Council – 11/15/12

Councillor Farnan motions to adopt. The motion clearly passes and the **minutes from the 11/15/12 meeting of the Legislative Council are adopted.**

4) Adoption of the Agenda

VP Dinel motions to amend the agenda to move the Reports by Officers to between Announcements and New Business. The motion clearly passes and **the agenda is amended.**

President Redel motions to move item 9j to 9a in New Business. The motion clearly passes and **the agenda is amended.**

VP Dinel motions to adopt the agenda. The motion clearly passes and **the agenda is adopted.**

5) Report of the Steering Committee

President Redel stands for questions.

Councillor Chaim motions to adopt. The motion clearly passes and **the report of the Steering Committee is adopted.**

6) Guest Speakers

a. Mitchell Miller, Student Life Coordinator

Miller: Works in Student Services. Before, he was an undergrad in the faculty of education at McGill and was on the Education undergraduate society. He has worked for SSMU Minicourses and now his job is working with students coordinating programs, etc. Collaboration is his focus, especially with the administration. He acts as a liaison to connect people with other people to collaborate with.

Nushay: She has worked as the VP Clubs and Services for SSMU, has worked for the AUS, and now works with Student Services on this project. This project is the Engage McGill site on McGill website.

Erin: She is in management and is also helping out with Engage McGill, particularly on the marketing side of things.

Miller: The project is about involvement and engagement on the McGill campus. It takes a comprehensive inventory of how students get involved and creates an engaging site that leads people there to let them know what is happening on campus and with different clubs and services. It will be coordinated by students, run by student volunteers, and will link visitor to student-run things. It is a kind of a hub which links students to many different things. He believes projects should be student centered and student co-run. If the idea of getting students engaged on campus appeals to anyone, he invites them to talk to him about it. Engage McGill can be accessed at <http://www.mcgill.ca/engage>. The website is under construction, but will be expanding soon with more involvement.

Councillor Chaim: Thanks Miller for all his help with frosh.

b. Lilith Wyatt, Sustainability Projects Fund Administrator

Wyatt: She works in the Office of Sustainability and comes to SSMU Council every semester to report on the fund because SSMU students are the main body that pays into it. The fund is a partnership, designed to kick-start things to catalyze change towards sustainability. Students and staff built it together, and it was approved by all 3 student societies. It gets \$840 000 a year to build a sustainable community among McGill campuses. She shows a video called “What is the Sustainable Projects Fund?” but there is no audio so she encourages to everyone to watch it later. The projects must be well thought out, engage the community, not be behind closed doors, the “why” of the project has to be explained, it has to nurture change, and it must be worth the investment. 8 staff get together once every 2 months to discuss which projects have applied. They have approved 85 projects so far, 42 of which are completed. \$1.2 million has been spent so far. Every project makes a video to say why the project is important, and these videos can be seen on YouTube. A 3 year review of the SPF is being done to help inform the referenda and the renewal of the SPF will be voted on by the 3 student associations next March. The Egg Grater Project at Mac campus: every single whole egg in the McGill downtown campus has come from Mac campus and is not more than 3-4 days old. Vision 2020 is another project, there are boards all over campus looking at visions and goals for sustainability for the next decade and ideas for how to get there. The application deadline for the fund is next Monday.

Councillor Farnan: Is the fund open to any students?

Wyatt: A McGill student or staff has to be project leader, but others can be involved. There are guidelines for the projects as well, as were listed in the presentation.

Councillor Larson: Can people contact you with ideas for a project if they have vague ideas and have questions to solidify it?

Wyatt: Gives her phone number and says that if anyone has constituent committees or sits on student groups she would be happy to come meet with them.

7) Question Period

Councillor Larson: Asks if questions can be asked to the gallery.

Speaker Tong: Unfortunately can only ask councillors questions.

Councillor Larson: Has a question about one of the documents received for Council from the Political Campaigns Coordinator. She wants to know why councillors received it, and says that oversight is needed as she found the report derivative and offensive, asks for comments.

VP Reid-Fraser: The document was the result of research from a few different people and compiled by Chris. She wants to know if she can ask him to speak.

Speaker Tong: Unfortunately no.

VP Reid-Fraser: The report was an attempt to try and give some of the information that people have been researching and compiling in regards to a lot of confusion and concerns that were had regarding McGill's ties to various industries involved in the military. It was prepared in collaboration with Bangs and other people. This is an opportunity to give feedback about this information. In general there is a lot of information that gets put out in various projects through SSMU; if anyone has specific feedback or points they want to see addressed, bring it to herself or Bangs and they can work to improve it. She welcomes feedback and wants to make information accessible as possible.

Councillor Rosentzveig: Motions for a committee of the whole to allow the gallery to speak. The motion clearly passes and the Legislative Council is now a committee of the whole.

Speaker Tong: They can now alternate between councillors and gallery members, but the meeting is now out of the question period.

Councillor Farnan: Motions to set a time limit on the committee of the whole to 5 minutes. The motion clearly passes and the time limit is set at 5 minutes.

Councillor Chaim: In response to the report, was it supposed to be informational or a position? If it was informational, why are there no sources, and why does it seem to present a side?

Political Campaigns Coordinator of SSMU, Chris Bangs: He was hoping it could be sent around to aggregate the information that is going around. In regards to the format, some of the information is in web pages and PDFs, so they are all in a Dropbox. The report was not supposed to be quite as official as it has been made to be, but it was supposed to be informational instead of position taking. He is sorry if it is controversial.

President Redel: Apologizes, Bangs sent him the report before distribution, he should have clarified the type of report.

Councillor Larson: When council asks for information, it should not be shaded with different political positions and bias as this can be misleading (just for future reference).

Councillor Rosentzveig: Would like to remind the committee of the whole that they don't have unlimited resources to do everything they want. If they feel that the information is insufficient they should not attack someone who put work into it. They can find their own information on the side.

Councillor Chaim: In response to that statement, Bangs is paid to present things like this, however at this level is there even a point to put that information in there?

Councillor Rosentzveig: Everyone at SSMU is overworked, wants councillors to put more effort into doing work by themselves.

VP Cooper: Thanks Bangs for the report, he used creative sources, and she has never read a report that is not biased.

Councillor Larson: To Councillor Rosentzveig, the research has been done, but perhaps he could just compile primary resources instead of creating a tertiary document, and then councillors could read through them without bias.

Bangs: In regards to the sources, many are very long (around 80 pages) and are masters theses, web pages, etc. but are hard to find. He would be happy to send out what he has, but he would need people's emails.

Councillor Chaim: Address VP Reid-Fraser saying that next time he would like to see citing of sources because then councillors can go find the sources themselves. A title, author, and page number would help a lot.

The community of the whole is now closed and Question Period resumes.

Councillor Bissky Dziadyk: To VP Cooper, has Walksafe talked to her yet? They are still having issues with their room.

VP Cooper: She will talk to him after, but she has talked to their Executive and they seem happy with the setup.

Councillor Lubendo: Can there be some sort of meeting with the new councillors to go over Vibe accounts?

Speaker Tong: Yes, I will contact John in IT.

Councillor Larson: Asks if VP Briggs can speak to the lateness of the budget.

VP Briggs: The lateness was due to a combination of factors including the presentation and dealing with other factors. It just took longer than expected.

8) Announcements

President Redel: LunchBeat on Wednesday, December 5 from 12-1pm. It is an hour of a really cool DJ, a light show, and free food. He invites everyone to come and relax before exams. He will be there dancing. LunchBeat will take place in the SSMU Ballroom.

VP Reid-Fraser: She ran into people at the Organic Campus table, which is one of SSMU's services. They had a big sale and gave her a bag of sambusas that they wanted to share with people. A sambusa is like a vegetable fritter. She will pass them around. She is fairly certain that they are vegan, but does not think they are gluten free.

Councillor Larson: Next Wednesday at 5:30pm the Music undergraduates are having a holiday party. Everyone is invited and should come.

Councillor Guan: Next week the new McGill Poetry Club is having a haiku contest called "This is my McGill". She encourages people to write a haiku.

Councillor Boytinck: She will be having an activities night next semester in a residence and encourages everyone who is in a club to come out and participate.

VP Dinel: Senate is happening next Wednesday at 2:30pm. She encourages people to come to talk about a lot of different things, including a lot of student-initiated questions. Senate will be in Leacock 232.

VP Reid-Fraser: On Monday and Tuesday of next week the PGSS is having its own education summit. It is open to anyone who wants to come, and they can registration online on their website. It consists of two days of events with a lot of different panel discussions. The first day is people from outside of McGill talking about issues and the second day is people from McGill talking about same kinds of issues. Next Monday from 5:30-7:30pm they are also having a book launch for book that is coming out. Regarding the summit, she has made an 8-page report from last week's feedback consultations. She has also just uploaded onto vibe a summary of the report so people do not need to go through the whole thing. She will get to the report later and welcomes all feedback.

Councillor Nasr: The SPHR is bringing politician to speak at McGill. They are trying to sell more tickets so anyone interested should come. Tickets are just \$10, and they can be purchased from Snax or from him.

VP Cooper: Activities Night will be called "SSMU Fest" this year. Since the Players' Theatre has shows on the same nights, SSMU Fest will be moved to Monday or Tuesday, January 28th or 29th to reduce noise for their performances.

Councillor Nasr: Palestine is now a country.

President Redel: SSMU is going to be hosting a winter carnival this year with an ice sculpture competition and a bigger and better ice rink. They are also looking for more events to run, if anyone has any ideas about an event they want to run, he invites them to participate. It is a fun outdoor carnival, not the drinking carnival. December is more calm for executives. If you want to talk about a project they have more time this month so drop by if you are bored.

9) Reports by Officers

a. Environment Commissioner

Kristen Perry and Cameron Butler give the report: They are the environment commissioners for this year. They will outline their goals and mandate. They foster communication and connections between and around McGill, work to support students and can act as a resource organ, and want to back agents of change in the larger environmental unit. They run the Environment Committee which has weekly meetings. They have five official volunteers for certain positions. Committee meetings are very open and they encourage everyone to come. There are a number of students within the Committee who have very concrete responsibilities. They put out a listserv each week with lots of information about what is happening on campus. They run a lot of projects, events, and campaigns. They attended the Powershift conference in Ottawa, which is a justice conference, and got 35 people from McGill registered. The Green GA was successful with over 50 people attending. They also

run networking events, are working on updating the website, will be having another Green GA early next semester, and are working on their Save the Biosphere trip (trying to find a way for it to stay open as its funding has been cut). The Commissioners are looking to next semester and are working on a sustainability feedback system which is a number for students to call if they have issues with temperatures in rooms. This is not well publicized so they are trying to figure out how to improve and expand. There has been lots of shifting municipally due to changes in leadership, so they are trying to figure out who to work with. They are trying to better work with the Equity Officers to create better social and environmental justice.

Councillor Farnan: Which methods did you use to promote the Green GA? What was helpful?

Kristen Perry: They have been going to different groups and attending their meetings, have made Facebook groups, and included it in their listserv.

President Redel: Thanks the two environmental commissioners for working extremely hard, they are untiring. He knows he has not provided as much support as he would like, but they have excelled.

Councillor Chaim: Can call someone be called to refill the water (in Lev Bukhman)?

President Redel: Yes, he will do that.

b. Financial Ethics Research Commissioner

Does not give report.

10) New Business

a. Notice of Motion Regarding Amendment to SSMU By-Law 13.6.1

VP Cooper reads the Resolved clause:

“*Resolved*, that SSMU change By-law III-13.6.1 to read:

The Club demonstrates evidence of an active member base among members of SSMU beyond the executive at the discretion of the Interest Group Committee.”

b. Notice of Motion Regarding Amendment to SSMU By-Law 13.6.3

VP Cooper reads the Resolved clause:

“*Resolved*, that SSMU make the amend By-law 13.6.3 to read:

13.6.3 The club has been actively working to fulfill their mandate as demonstrated by presenting a summary of a finished product, running a political or social campaign, running activity oriented weekly or biweekly meetings, or organizing three or more significant events through application forms found on the SSMU website, as posted by the Interest Group Coordinator.”

c. Notice of Motion Regarding Removal of By-Law III-14

VP Cooper reads the motion:

“*Whereas*, SSMU By-law III-13 reads:

Article 13 – Accreditation Procedure for Clubs:

13.1 The formation of a Club may be proposed by any ten (10) members of the Society by submitting an application and constitution to the Interest Group Coordinator, who shall forward it for review to the Interest Group Committee of Council.

13.2 The Interest Group Committee of Council shall review the application and ensure its completeness, that it does not contravene the Constitution or By-laws of the Students’ Society and that the mandate set out in the proposed Club’s constitution does not overlap with that of any other already accredited group within SSMU, and will vet if the proposed Interest Group has a feasible and necessary mandate. It will then make a decision regarding the requested interim status.

13.3 Council may ratify a Club interim status by a simple majority vote.

13.4 Interim status shall be granted for a period of five (5) months of the academic year. The Vice President, Clubs and Services may, upon application by the interim Club or upon his or her own motion, extend a Club’s interim status.

13.5 Interim status groups may, prior to the expiry of their interim status, apply in writing for full Club status to the Vice President, Clubs and Services. The Vice President, Clubs and Services shall forward the application for review to the Interest Group Committee of Council.

13.6 The Interest Group Committee of Council shall review the application and make a decision regarding the requested full status to Council. It will ensure that:

13.6.1 At least twenty-five (25) members of the Students’ Society are active members of the Club;

13.6.2 The Club has the requisite executive officers or collective members according to its constitution;

13.6.3 The Club has been actively working to fulfill their mandate, had three or more significant events and will continue to do so;

13.6.4 The Club has not contravened the SSMU’s Constitution or By-laws in its five or more months of Interim Status existence;

13.6.5 The Club has been financially viable and responsible in its operations.

13.7 Council may ratify a Club's Full Status by a simple majority vote.

13.8 If, after five (5) months, the interim Club has not applied for full Club status and has not obtained an extension of interim status, the Club may be deemed inactive by the Vice President (Clubs and Services).

13.8.1. A club may regain active status within the academic year it was granted interim status by submitting a cover letter outlining its activities since deemed inactive and a membership list of at least ten (10) members to the Interest Group Committee for review.

13.8.2. In the case that Interest Group Committee deems the club active and ready to apply for full status, the club has three (3) academic months to do so.

13.8.3. A club will be deemed permanently inactive after one academic year of inactive status. If a member wishes to revive such a club, an interim status application must be filed.

Whereas, SSMU By-law III-14 reads:

Article 13 – Accreditation Procedure for Clubs:

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deemed inactive and a membership list of at least ten (10) members to the Interest Group Committee for review.

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Whereas, Article 13 and Article 14 of By-law Book III are verbatim the same,

Resolved, that Article 14 be removed from By-law Book III.”

d. Notice of Motion Regarding Removal of the Queer McGill Undergraduate Fund By-Law

VP Cooper reads the Resolved clauses:

“*Resolved*, that Bylaw II-7 Article 4 be removed from the SSMU bylaw book and the Fund abolished;

Resolved, that the Vice President (Clubs and Services) work with the Queer McGill Executive to help them establish a more efficient discretionary funding system for such a mandate within their internal bylaws,

Resolved, that the money currently held in the QMUF be moved into Queer McGill's category of the Student Life Fund for them to allocate in the future internally.”

VP Cooper: Explains these revisions. This is an attempt to put more emphasis on the interim club status instead of just shutting things down right away. This gives clubs 3-5 months to apply for full status. What the bylaw changes do is clear up redundancies. Currently the full status application is made up of three categories but it is hard to assess from this information if they are actually fulfilling a mandate (for example, member lists are usually just a list of friends). This does not make it clear that the club is filling a need. The three events rule is also difficult because some clubs are not event-oriented, such as publication, Soulstice, tango, and clubs that offer weekly classes. To deal with this she has drawn up 4 new applications.

Speaker Tong: Email VP Cooper with any pressing concerns.

e. Motion Regarding the Approval of the SSMU Budget for the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year

VP Briggs reads the Resolved clauses:

“*Resolved*, that the SSMU Council approve the presented and attached budget for the fiscal year of June 1st, 2012 to May 31st, 2013;

Resolved, that the approved deficit of two hundred and eleven thousand three hundred and twenty dollars (\$211,320) be transferred from the Capital Expenditures Reserve Fund (CERF) to the Society's operating budget."

VP Briggs: Explains how the budget works: the budget from the previous year is revised by the VP Finance, General Manager, Security Manager, Gert's Manager, and everyone who is responsible for a department. They all get together to provide feedback and revisions. In the case of a deficit, cuts are made during the revision process. They look for excessively high expenses and changes in strategy or operations that could be more efficient. This way, the initial revision is already a reduction. If a deficit still exists, further cuts are made starting with the least essential things. If this is still not enough there is a second round of cuts. In this case, the position of building manager was removed from the administration budget. This year there is a \$211 320 deficit. It was decided that they should use money available to cover the deficit instead of trying to cut further. Due to the surplus transfer from last year, this money can be moved right away to cover the budget. He then gives an overview of student fees. The total amounts generated, making up the operating budget, is \$1 656 830. General administration is the largest component of the budget as it is the backbone for day-to-day operations. The salaries of permanent and student staff are managed by Pauline Gervais, the General Manager. She will explain Appendix 2, the budget variance explanation.

General Manager Gervais: She compared the actual (audited financial statements as of May 31st, 2012) to the budget. She explains that they are expecting more expenses and less revenue. Some of these expenses include: settlements, equipment, furniture, professional fees, salaries, more student jobs including the new events coordinator position. Also, a new benefit has been added: a collective RRSP, as well as new group insurance and more salaries are included. Overall there is a difference of \$143 000 between the actuals and the budget.

VP Briggs: The security department has a few increased expenses for computers, etc. In terms of the building, all revenues and expenses associated with the building are as follows. Revenue comes from the tenants. The expenses are made up of utilities, which have helped create the deficit, as well as maintenance.

General Manager Gervais: Explains Appendix 1. The building variance is huge; the reason the budget is showing a deficit is because of the building. In 2011-12, revenues were assisted by hosting a big conference during the summer but this cannot be expected this year as we are not hosting a conference. With forecasting not to renew some of the tenants' leases, this is another decrease, as well as the absence of these leases during the summer. Overall, a reduction of \$84 000 in revenues is expected. The \$10 000 donation that has been given by La Prep for the

last 3 years is another decrease in revenue, because their contract is up so we are not getting the donation this year. Revenues will be around \$100 000 less this year. Gervais then explains some of the increases in expenses. In terms of repairs and maintenance, they had to spend money on the second floor to change from old to new tenants, as well as purchasing equipment. We spent money during the summer to do this, which is not usually money we spend. We also didn't have to pay McGill rent last year because we did not have to sign a lease with them last year. We are forecasting the same amount of money as last year without knowing what we are going to be paying. This is pending until we have something more tangible to work from. The space fee is related because its expenses are capitalized at the end of the year which is not seen in the actual, but it is still money we are spending. We had to sign a contract with cleaners for the second floor. Last year, three out of four porters were McGill employees so we did not have to pay them when they were on strike last year, so these are additional costs this year. There is a budgeted \$25 000 to fix all errors in the room booking system as well. Furniture is costing more due to creating a new working space in the office (created cubicles). All explanations can be found in the budget.

VP Briggs: Begins to go through the portfolios of the Executive. The President's portfolio and departments are personnel, Council and committees, elections and GAs. The Council and committees budget has increased to make room for a winter Council retreat. The student handbook generated less advertising revenue even though expenses were decreased. The VP Finance and Operations' portfolio includes operations, Gert's, and Minicourses (the full budget is in the appendix). Gert's is put at a greater loss than before as a result of greater equipment costs due to Gertrude's Corner. Minicourses is doing well in terms of registration, the previously approved budget did not accurately represent salaries. The VP External is the only Executive with more than \$25 000 which is due to a \$15 000 budget for personal travel for business. The biggest change here is TaCEQ, which used to come out of the External Affairs department. The costs based on the membership fees McGill pays to TaCEQ results in a drop in the External Affairs budget. The VP Internal's portfolio includes all events the society puts on and is one of the largest budgets. Any event which generates money through ticket sales is designed to break even, so they need to be designed within their means. This gets rid of \$12 000 in event subsidies. The Old McGill yearbook has gone from \$12 000 budgeted loss to a \$3000 revenue surplus due to a shift in structure and switching to a digital format. Advertising revenues will also increase, leading to a \$15 000 positive variance. The VP University Affairs' portfolio is straightforward. The Clubs and Services budget includes activities night. This budget has been reduced to address a decrease in revenue generated from table rentals and on the recommendations of the security manager. The space fund makes up 15% of the total space fee. The club fund was

\$94 000 last year due to a situation of particular financial strength and liquidity, however this is not the case this year. The club fund has been kept as high as possible and has increased this year because expenses of club funds fall into this category and the net funding available is still the same. In terms of services, all services are set to break even due to SLF bylaws. The money approved for services remains in services' control and is rolled over back to them so it has no impact on the budget. Five services get subsidies from the Society, so in effort to reduce the impact on the operating budget, money will be taken out of the SLF to reduce the subsidies. This will take a bylaw amendment, which will be coming to Council. This has the net effect of taking \$25 000 off of the operating budget, so it is a win-win situation.

VP Briggs thanks Pauline, Jose, the accounting department, the managers, and everyone who has worked hard on the budget.

Questions:

President Redel: Apologizes for not catching this earlier and notes that the Council amount jumped. He would never increase it for another council retreat, and points out a \$5005 increase in the postage and courier department, yet Council does not do any mailing so he is curious what this is for and asks if everyone is flying to the next Council?

VP Briggs: Yes, we are Fedex-ing ourselves.

Councillor Chaim: In terms of each faculty and their student fees, why do Law, Religious Studies, Dentistry, and Medicine pay less?

VP Dinel: These faculties have fewer students, so it is not fair to charge them the same fees, they are trying not to tax students from smaller faculties as much as those in the larger ones.

President Redel: Also, students in these facilities are not necessarily undergraduates.

Councillor Chaim: Asks Briggs if he feels personally that using CERF to cover the deficit will hurt SSMU in the future?

VP Briggs: No, CERF itself is for being saved for the future as a reserve fund to be used when the Society needs it in times of uncertainty (regarding the budget). It is a tool we have to protect ourselves and operate in the same way. It is temporary until we find out more about the situation.

VP Szpejda: Why is there no mention of the concert?

VP Briggs: It has a 0 net impact on the budget as it is set to break even. It is not included because there are no working plans

Councillor Cybulsky: Why is every event except 4floors budgeted to break even?

VP Briggs: Yes, that was just a mistake. While this was happening, expenses were put in as too much money. Also, the bus trip to Queens fell under that budget which is only showing 4floors at loss of less than \$1000.

Councillor Nasr: On page 8, he notices that there is a twofold increase in student staff salary and an increase in the number of employees and work hours. How many employees did it increase to? Why did the group insurance jump up fivefold as well?

President Redel: Regarding the student staff salary item, the actuals are almost always lower than the budgeted cost. They budget for the maximum amount of hours a week, and since all of these hours are not always used, this is generally lower at the end of the year. In terms of job increases, with pay equity which has been progressively spread across the board, salaries have been introduced instead of stipends which leads to a fairly dramatic increase in pay in order to work with SSMU equity policies in addition to new jobs created over the summer.

General Manager Gervais: Last year, the actuals were \$4009 and the budget was \$27 500, The actual shows the new group insurance which started in April for just 3 months. In the budget, they had the full year because it was new (introduced in April). Insurance was done differently before, an amount of money was given to each employee to cover medical expenses. Now this is paid to the employer and integrated into existing benefits in order to retain employees. Other companies are offering this so SSMU needed to as well. The HR advisor presented a program and they moved forward with it as the system was not sustainable before.

Councillor Rosentzveig: In terms of services, you want to take money out of the SLF, so which segment does the \$25 00 come out of?

VP Briggs: It comes out of their own segment which has been generated by interest over the years; it is more than just money from services.

Councillor Rosentzveig: He is concerned about that because it seems like not everyone gets a subsidy from their own fee levy, has an issue with taking money put into a fund from fund services that have fees levied for them.

General Manager Gervais: The SLF is not a surplus, it is the favourable difference from the budgeted costs to the actual costs. They have allocated an amount of money, because they do not get money if there is a deficit. If at the end of the year, if they reduce the deficit in the actuals, the money goes into the SLF because it has not been spent. can get it back for the next following year. They do not want the money to go back into CERF because then they cannot have it anymore for redistribution.

VP Briggs: The actual amount taken from the SLF will be much less than \$20 000 because much of it is already in services.

Councillor Nasr: In terms of sponsorship, why is the budget \$9500?

VP Briggs: We have a commission on the sponsorship.

Councillor Subhani: Can you please explain this?

General Manager Gervais: We have a sponsorship administrator who gets money from sponsors. 25% percent of the money from sponsors is put aside to pay her commission (since she is paid by commission and not by hours). They also have to pay her benefits and remit taxes to the government. The net amount is transferred to the department where sponsorship money should be going.

Councillor Chaim: Motions to move to the previous question.

Voting on this motion begins. **The Motion Regarding the Approval of the SSMU Budget for the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year clearly passes and the SSMU Budget for the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year is adopted.**

Councillor Nasr: Motions to reconsider.

Speaker Tong: This is out of order as there was a clear majority.

Councillor Nasr: He thinks that taking \$211 000 out of CER to cover the deficit is too much. Based on what he sees in this year's budget, he thinks there could be more cuts. Clearly there are quite huge fees in many areas such as computer

software, which he thinks is a big step. Yes, there is a deficit this year, but it could be minimized even further.

President Redel: To address this interesting analysis, if people do – and he encourages it – look at the budget and the actual events or clubs or services line items, the majority of the services and events could probably be slashed (cut to zero), and it would still not make up the deficit. Due to rent and unknown utilities, making \$250 000 in cuts would mean cutting everything we do, which would literally mean doing nothing and not operating. The reason the deficit was there is so that if something happens with the lease and we have to charge an increased fee, we can see what we have to make up with that fee. There is no way to make up the deficit with \$500 cuts and changes.

Councillor Nasr: He is not saying to pull out a quarter million in cuts, he is saying they could pull out things like computer software as every dollar makes a difference. He says maybe just \$100 000 could be taken out of CERF instead. Also, is CERF a savings account?

VP Briggs: In our investment portfolios, capitalized assets, and all of our assets that we would be touching, there is enough cash to take out this amount four times over. Keep in mind this is a budget and is done conservatively to recognize the potential that lease could be. It is possible that it could be less, but we can't account for that at this point. The expenses are justified by the people that are responsible for it, so every dollar you take away will take away from something.

The motion to reconsider is not seconded and cannot be entertained.

f. Motion Regarding Opposition to Continued Colonialism in the North

VP Reid Fraser reads the Resolved clauses:

Resolved, that the SSMU actively oppose the Plan Nord as a form of colonialism;
Resolved, that the SSMU cut ties with firms and corporations that profit from, lobby for, or members of professional organizations or interest groups that lobby for the Plan Nord, to be determined by the Financial Ethics Research Committee;
Resolved, that the SSMU work to support indigenous communities in their resistance to the Plan Nord by allocating resources, educating community members, producing informative materials, and pressuring the McGill administration to divest its holdings in companies profiting from or lobbying for the Plan Nord.”

Questions and Debates:

Councillor Farnan: Why did the movers find it necessary to include the phrase “form of colonialism” instead of just Plan Nord as a whole?

Councillor Rosentzveig: We found the word was justified as we explain colonialism in the Whereas clauses and say why it is appropriate. This is a textbook definition of colonialism.

Councillor Farnan: He understands the use of colonialism but thinks it might restrict the motion as a whole and thinks it could be strengthened without it.

VP Reid-Fraser: Because this is something that originally came from a GA. The language was part of the original motion and the movers and signatories were pretty adamant about it.

President Redel: Regarding the last Resolved clause, he is curious if the movers could explain who would be taking these actions and with what resources.

VP Reid-Fraser: There is a group of individuals initiated by herself and independently who would group together around the campaign to lobby McGill to divest from tar sands. They would be working on producing materials and thinking about how to go about accomplishing this.

Councillor Guan: In reference to the second Resolved clause regarding cutting ties, how many corporations do we have ties with, and how much money would we lose?

VP Reid-Fraser: We do not have all of that information immediately on hand, but this would involve working with FERC who has a lot of this information. She makes a note to have this information available later on.

VP Dinel: Regarding the final Resolved clause, she would take out “administration” to strengthen the motion as McGill administration does not have investments, McGill has investments as an institution. In terms of companies and “potentially lobbying”, it does not seem like there is a lot of concrete evidence and she does not like it.

VP Cooper: Can she motion to let Bangs speak?

Speaker Tong: She is free to cede here speaking time.

Bangs: In the latest figures we have, all members of professional organizations in Québec that are lobbying for Plan Nord companies do not want to make their

involvement so easily seen. This was the best way he could see to try to identify these companies.

Councillor Larson: In the seventh Whereas clause: “*Whereas*, McGill University has deep ties to the Plan Nord, including investments in 15 companies lobbying for the Plan, at least 5 out of 25 Board members involved in promoting the Plan including the President of Hydro-Quebec, and at least one law firm that lobbies for the Plan”, are you trying to insinuate there is a conflict of interest and if so, wouldn’t this be better addressed to the Secretariat than SSMU?

VP Reid-Fraser: The clause is meant to indicate the various connections McGill has with Plan Nord.

Councillor Larson: To clarify, are you trying to say that just because the people on the Board are supporting Plan Nord, does that mean they are trying to use some McGill resources? Aren’t these meetings confidential?

VP Reid-Fraser: Because we do not always know what is happening at the Board of Governors, this is basically meant to state that there are various levels of involvement because it is a big plan involves a lot of different companies there is a lot of potential involvement.

Councillor Larson: Do the movers mean that these people are influencing McGill?

VP Reid-Fraser: She does not think they are trying to say specifically that they are influencing McGill. They are trying to say this is the state of affairs.

Councillor Morawetz: She is concerned with the second Resolved clause because if FERC decides which of these firms or interest groups are involved in Plan Nord, then we are ceding all responsibility as a Council because FERC gets to make all of the decisions. Saying we are going to cut ties with whatever FERC says, if that is the way the motion is meant to be read, is what she is concerned about.

Councillor Rosentzveig: His understanding is that FERC has to act within Council’s recommendations, so he does not think this is an issue.

Councillor Chaim: Motions to amend the second Resolved clause from “determined by the FERC” to “recommended by the FERC.” This motion is seconded. The movers declare this amendment friendly so **the amendment is adopted into the motion.**

Debate resumes:

VP Szpejda: The fifth Whereas clause: “*Whereas*, the Plan Nord violates the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, impeding on indigenous communities’ lands and right to hunt, harvest, fish, and trap in these regions,” is an extremely strong part of this motion which references a comment in the daily opinion. He does not see this as good source.

Councillor Rosentzveig: Plan Nord not actionable so there is no pure analysis or judicial basis. This is very much us taking a position on what has been put out by the government. It is something that is happening right now so we have to make a call.

President Redel: The sixth Whereas clause, the citation for “created by men for men” regarding the vast majority of jobs going to men is an extrapolation. He wants the mover’s interpretation of this.

VP Reid-Fraser: It is sort of like taking the words that have been said by organizations for women’s right. Obviously employment is a large factor in that, and they are trying to highlight the fact that in the North there is a lot of poverty among women. Plan Nord is not necessarily finding ways to accommodate non-men, which is the reason for their concern.

There is a motion to extend by 5 minutes. The speaker approves the motion and duly extends the debate.

Councillor Rosentzveig: It was mentioned that media sources are the main sources, the general agreement was—regarding the point that VP Szpejda brought up—that most sources do not directly mention Plan Nord, but agree that it infantilizes aboriginals and their agreements with various governments.

Councillor Chaim: We are taking a very strong stance opposing this, wouldn’t it be interesting to support a better way to go about this? Plan Nord does create 20 000 jobs a year and is a massive project, so wouldn’t it be interesting if you looked at other socially conscious ways to make a lot of money?

Councillor Baker: He seconds that point, if you want to reference protests again, the real merits should be analyzed, posing it as black and white makes it difficult to support the motion.

Councillor Larson: She is against the motion because divesting from something while claiming to not be narrow-minded, is itself narrow-minded.

Councillor Nam: Motions to move to the previous question. The motion clearly passes and voting on the motion begins.

With a voting count of 6-17-6, this motion does not pass.

g. Motion Regarding Campus Free from Weapons Development

Councillor Subhani reads the Resolved Clauses:

Resolved, that the SSMU oppose all ongoing and future research on weapons, surveillance technologies with military applications, legal justifications for aggression, war, or control over nonnational resources, and any other project designed to facilitate the use of force;

Resolved, that the SSMU condemn the ongoing research of the institutes and professors, found in Appendix A, that specifically facilitates the use of force and call on McGill University and the faculties and departments in which these institutes and professors operate to permanently suspend all research of these institutes or researchers that facilitates the use of force;

Resolved, that the SSMU divest its holdings and refuse to do business with state Departments or Ministries of Defense, state militaries, state intelligence agencies, private militias, private military contractors, weapons manufacturers, and arms dealers, with the exception of firms that responsibly produce small personal firearms;

Resolved, that the SSMU call on McGill University to divest its holdings in private militias, private military contractors, weapons manufacturers, and arms dealers, and to create and enforce a policy of allowing no future research on weapons, surveillance technologies with military applications, legal justifications for aggression, war or control over non-national resources, or any other project designed to facilitate the use of force.”

Questions:

Councillor Larson: Regarding the second Whereas clause: “*Whereas*, research is undertaken at McGill University and by members of the SSMU that violate human dignity and bodily sovereignty”, she is wondering how anything could be undertaken at McGill that could directly violate human dignity. How would it pass through the Ethics Board?

Councillor Subhani: He does not know how they would do this directly, but research serves as a pathway to such actions and if they are researching weapons, this leads to oppression in parts of the world.

Councillor Farnan: Do the movers find it problematic to condemn research of professors? It may be in bad taste for a student society to do this.

Councillor Subhani: It is not against professors or any department, because it is against research as individuals *or* as an institution that may be taken against them. Professors may be working on more than one project and this motion is just against the ones that involve weapons.

President Redel: He is confused about the phrase “firms that produce small personal firearms” as it seems that the motion is insinuating that this form of weapon is acceptable. He refers to Appendix A which points to another report which points to another report to show a lack of clarity of information. He also notes that helping helicopter crews see in bad conditions after a bomb is for rescuing people and would like to make a clarification about this research.

Councillor Subhani: Motions to allow the Political Campaigns Coordinator to speak.

Speaker Tong: Allows the motion.

Bangs: It is not his understanding that militias use small personal firearms and in some countries it is part of one’s rights to own guns. There is a big difference between responsible use of firearms and going out to kill people in war.

Councillor Subhani: Councillor Nasr can answer this, but to address motion as a whole, it is against the use of weapons. We as students at McGill would not want to be part of an institution that does research used for mass murders. Small firearms however are used for law enforcement.

Councillor Nasr: With regards to President Redel’s question about personal firearms, there is a big difference between a pistol and an automatic rifle.

President Redel: So it is okay to just kill someone differently? If it is just a different kind of murder?

Councillor Nasr: Looking at motion as a whole, it does not defy McGill or SSMU’s mission at all, it just takes a pacifist stance and in the Research Ethics policies this is clearly stated. Most of the research that is done is not directly involved in military conflict but a lot of it does have military applications.

VP Dinel: Wants the movers to clarify the penultimate resolved clause regarding private militias. What private militias is McGill invested? She knows McGill does not have these investments and suggests they change this clause so it does not sound like we are terrible people.

Councillor Nasr: Agrees to amend.

Speaker Tong: Amendments will be entertained in debate.

Councillor Larson: Asks the movers for a general clarification of the language used: can you define what you mean by “military” as military does not necessarily entail combat. In Canada military can be medical or search and rescue.

VP Dinel: Asks if the movers heard the question because they were talking.

Councillor Nasr: No.

Councillor Larson: Repeats her question.

Councillor Nasr: Does not think the Canadian forces are mentioned in the motion.

Councillor Larson: Asks if they mean defense forces in general; it is unclear in the motion.

Councillor Nasr: Says it has the explicit implication of violence.

Councillor Chaim: In general it feels like the motion is making a very clear path that it wants to take, why do the movers feel it is necessary to go against all state departments?

Councillor Nasr: When did I say that?

Councillor Chaim: In the motion.

Councillor Subhani: They could amend it to put it in the context of military development.

Councillor Zidel: Recommends entering debate.

VP Dinel: Again, with regards to the University’s investments, she has been showed some of the military contractors McGill is invested in and is still concerned about the reference to militias.

Councillor Nasr: Can you be more coherent?

VP Dinel: Which specific private militias is McGill invested in?

Councillor Nasr: He is personally not knowledgeable about this, Chris Bangs would be better to answer this question.

VP Dinel: How far can a SSMU motion really encompass indirect patents in terms of where research goes? While she understands the spirit of the motion is to discourage it, SSMU does not control research.

Councillor Subhani: We do not effect what happens by passing a motion, but we will still effect students. This is a political stature technique involving taking a stance. The information VP Dinel addressed in the penultimate Resolved clause can be better answered by the Political Campaigns Coordinator.

Debate on the motion begins with a time limit of 10 minutes with a 30 second speaking time.

Councillor Zidel: Motions to amend the motion by replacing all Resolved clauses with two clauses submitted to the Speaker by email. In other words, the motion is to strike all Resolved clauses. The reasoning for this is that the current motion ignores nuances in innovation and research in science. Sometimes people exploit this and we do not know for sure if it will be used for more noble conflict. Legal and conflict resolution studies is also something that is studied here to help bring about peace. Knowledge on its own seems insufficient to cause harm; only human action can do so. True weapons research is an abominable practice and has no space on McGill campus which needs a policy for research.

Debate on the amendment begins.

Councillor Zidel reads the two Resolved clauses:

“Resolved, that the SSMU oppose all ongoing and future research on topics pursued specifically to further or make easier the use of military aggression or force (combat), Resolved, that the SSMU lobby McGill to strengthen University Research policy in regards to military research, any collaboration with military or defence bodies, and any technologies that may be used in military applications.”

Councillor Morawetz: She is in favour of the amendment as it speaks to the deeper spirit of the motion. The amendment speaks to issue of uncertainty of causality; this is a gray area. These Resolved clauses are much more direct.

Councillor Subhani: If you read through the second Whereas clause, how could that not lead to mass murder?

Councillor Georges: Her issue with the amendment is with the first Resolved clause. She went on demilitarizemcgill.wordpress.com to learn more about the issue. There is mention of Dr. David Frost who works at McGill in engineering. He also does research for this kind of thing, but has dedicated his entire life to this research, It is his field of expertise and he has extensive research on this topic. She does not understand what would be done about this if they motion were to pass, would they shut down the department? Would professors have to get new doctorates in fields of study that are less offensive? She is not trying to be snarky, she just does not understand the treatment of people who have helped contribute to our sharing of ideas.

Councillor Rosentzveig: This research involves extremely brutal explosives that kill people in savage ways so he thinks they should close the department. You do not work for a university if you want to develop weapons. The Resolved clauses are strong to set a principle.

Councillor Larson: Thinks the language is still weak because by just saying that something can be used in military applications does not mean that it can only be used for military applications.

VP Cooper: Thinks Council is going in circles regarding the wording. Could we look at adding these Resolved clauses and then debating removing all of the clauses separately? It is important for students to take a stance on the other points.

Speaker Tong: No, this is not what Zidel wants.

Councillor Chaim: The first clause has the same issues as the original motion: it leaves too much open. Research is not inherently evil, it is the people that use it.

VP Szpejda: The phrase in the first clause “that may be used in military applications” also applies to things we use in everyday life that can have military implications, it just depends on who is using the device. For example, the first computer was made for the military, as was GPS which is used for both smart phones and guided weapons. Everything can be used for bad, it just depends on how you use it.

VP Reid-Fraser: In general she likes the Resolved clauses and appreciates Councillor Zidel taking the time to think about this. She likes the way it makes things flow. In response to what was just said, she thinks there was concern about military applications. She thinks asking McGill to strengthen its research policy would be a good idea. She is not giving a direction to this policy but is saying she would like to

open this conversation up to more people. She likes that the amendment uses specific language.

Councillor Farnan: Speaks in favour of the amendment, saying the motion is made more clear by it, as VP Reid-Fraser has said. They can speak more to the specifics if it were to pass. The amendment represents an appropriate way to attack these motions and represents SSMU's opposition to specific things. The second clause is productive and proactive Resolved clause

Councillor Subhani: There are other aspects to Frost's research, which he knows because he has a class with him. These weapons could one day end up in the hands of terrorists or governments, and he wants to oppose them either way as both options lead to persecution or oppression

Councillor Cybulsky: Reminds everyone of one of VP Szejda's points: technology developed for the military usually ends up serving many purposes outside of the military.

Councillor Baker: He likes the way the Resolved clauses are boiled down and thinks it narrows down the motion. It is possible to make it more narrow but it addresses the concerns and captures a spirit that we can back as a majority.

Councillor Larson. Motions to recess to discuss the motion.

Councillor Zidel: Accepts this proposal and rescinds his motion to amend.

Voting on the motion for 2 minutes to recess and discuss begins. The motion clearly passes and **Council enters a recess from 8:45pm – 8:47pm.**

Councillor Zidel: Takes a straw poll on whether or not to replace "military aggression or force" in his amendment with "combat". There are 8 in favour of this. He says that yes, it will be replaced and the first clause of the amendment will read:

"Resolved, that the SSMU oppose all ongoing and future research on topics pursued specifically to further or make easier the use of military combat,"

The second Resolved clause has been changed; Councillor Zidel reads it:

"Resolved, that the SSMU lobby McGill to strengthen University Research policy in regards to military research, including but not limited to:

- A question forwarded to the McGill University Senate by members of the Senate Caucus Committee
- The call for a Senate working group on the creation of a university military research policy
- Seeking out professors and administrators that support this cause”.

He notes that the reason for this clause is that people wanted action points, although he personally does not think it is necessary.

Councillor Chaim: Motions to move to the previous question. This motion clearly passes.

The movers declare the amendment unfriendly amendment, so voting begins on the unfriendly amendment.

The motion clearly passes and **the motion will be amended by striking the existing Resolved clauses and replacing them with Councillor Zidel’s two Resolved clauses.**

There is a motion to have the debate capped.

Councillor Nam: Makes a point of personal privilege and asks if anyone can turn the heat up.

President Redel: No, unfortunately.

Councillor Chaim: Motions to remove Appendix A as it is no longer relevant after the last amendment.

Speaker Tong: This gets automatically amended and removed.

There is a motion to move to the previous question, which clearly passes. Voting on the motion as a whole begins.

With a vote count of 24-1-8, **the Motion Regarding Campus Free from Weapons Development is adopted.**

President Redel: Thanks everyone for their contributions to Council and motions to recess for 20 minutes for a wine and cheese. This motion clearly passes and **Council enters a recess for the wine and cheese.**

Council resumes at 9:23pm.

h. Motion Regarding the Physical Labeling of the Madeleine Parent Room

Councillor Larson reads the Resolved clauses:

“*Resolved*, that the SSMU Vice-President (Clubs and Services) and the Vice-President (Finance & Operations) work together to create a budget and implementation timeline for re-labeling the Madeleine Parent room, to be presented no later than the third Legislative Council meeting of 2013.”

VP Cooper: We already are doing this. We have put everything on hold until the GA motion. All signage in the building is being done at one time, and since we have finally approved a gender-neutral logo for the washrooms, we now are moving forward with signage.

Councillor Chaim: The purpose of the motion was to get a timeline, but that update was good. He thanks VP Cooper.

Councillor Larson: Asks if there will be a plaque.

VP Cooper: Thinks this would be better addressed by the Community Engagement Committee.

Councillor Larson: The spirit of motion is because this was not addressed in the GA motion.

Speaker Tong: Will there be a ribbon cutting?

VP Reid-Fraser: As one of primary movers of the original GA motion, she acknowledges that there is not a clear plan in place. She is willing to take on some of the responsibility, and maybe people could bring forward ideas about language and images for the plaque and bring them to Council so we can go from there.

Councillor Larson: People can motion to commit this motion to the appropriate committee.

Cooper: recommends committing it to building committee. Movers try to have designs by January, then can bring it to council and commit to building committee

VP Cooper: Motions to commit this motion to the Building Committee. The motion clearly passes and **the Motion Regarding the Physical Labeling of the Madeleine Parent Room is committed to the Building Committee.**

i. Motion Regarding Amendments to SSMU By-Law Book II

Speaker Tong: This is the third reading of this motion, the second reading was at Steering Committee on Monday.

VP Cooper reads the Resolved clause:

“*Resolved*, that the following clause be added to Article 2 of SSMU By-Law II-4:

2.7 Any funds remaining in a Club bank account when their club status is lost for any reason will be transferred by the SSMU Comptroller into the SSMU Club Fund for the relevant academic year.”

She adds that this is one of the more exciting motions this year. This motion allows money left over from clubs that are no longer active to be transferred to the Clubs Fund so that active clubs can use it.

Councillor Larson: As we have been funding clubs per semester, do we want to edit that to make it more helpful?

Councillor Rosentzveig: We have a single fund for clubs for the year. Money is allocated twice a year but it is still coming from one fund.

There is a motion to move to the previous question. The motion clearly passes and voting on the motion begins.

The motion passes unanimously and **the Motion Regarding Amendments to SSMU By-Law Book II is adopted.**

j. Motion Regarding Effective Representation

President Redel reads the Resolved clauses:

“*Resolved*, that the SSMU bring to TaCEQ the mandate to adopt both a policy opposing any tuition hike for out-of-province or international students and a policy in favour of replacing out-of province and international tuition and ancillary fees with other sources of funding;

Resolved, that the SSMU call on, and that the SSMU bring the mandate that TaCEQ call on, other major Quebec student associations to make a firm commitment in advance of the National Education Summit to uphold the rights of international and out-of-province students to accessible education, as outlined in the SSMU Mandate on Accessible Education;

Resolved, that the SSMU contact other student associations in Quebec with large numbers of out-of province students and students who pay international tuition rates to encourage them to also actively lobby for the interests of these students.”

Debate on the motion begins:

Councillor Rosentzveig: In the first Whereas clause, “*Whereas*, the SSMU has a policy opposing any tuition hike for out-of-province and international students”, where does this policy come from?

President Redel: It is a GA motion that was renewed for one year at council last year.

Councillor Larson: Is the mandate specific to ancillary fees? What are the specific other sources of funding that would be used to fund this?

VP Reid-Fraser: It is in line with the Accessible Education Motion in regards to all financial barriers to education. We could introduce ancillary fees into this. The motion is targeting the government and calling for increased government funding for universities.

Councillor Larson: Her concern with ancillary fees is that they are voted on by students who want the services they provide.

VP Reid-Fraser: The motion talks about non-consensual fee increases, so fees that are approved by a referendum or other methods of approval by large portion of the student body would not be applicable.

Councillor Larson: Motions to amend the first Resolved clause to read “non-student-initiated ancillary fees” instead of just “ancillary fees”. The movers declare the amendment friendly and it is automatically adopted into the motion.

Councillor Chaim: The overall goal of this is tuition; they should at least try to find other sources of funding. Otherwise it is fine.

VP Dinel: We often forget about non-provincial students, so she is glad that SSMU is talking about its broader constituents.

Councillor Rosentzveig: This motion is asking for the policy to be applied outside of Quebec. He encourages people to vote for this motion.

VP Cooper: As an international student, representing the 25% of McGill students that are international and the 25% from other provinces, she points out that this motion is very relevant to a huge percentage of SSMU’s constituents.

Councillor Baker: These issues do not get pushed into the mainstream. Even if you are iffy about the ancillary item, the spirit of the motion is very important and needs to be pushed into the broader Quebec student movement.

There is a motion to move to the previous question. The motion clearly passes and voting on the motion begins.

The motion clearly passes and **the Motion Regarding Effective Representation is adopted.**

k. Motion Regarding E-Waste Collection Point

VP Cooper reads the Resolved clause:

“*Resolved*, that SSMU take a lead role in e-waste disposal on campus by contracting Electrobac to supply and responsibly dispose of one collection bin for 3 years at a total cost of \$2307.55 after tax (\$769.18 / year) beginning in January 2013.”

Councillor Larson: How did you decide who to go with? There is also an EUS club called Reboot that does this, would they be an option?

VP Cooper: This is done in cooperation.

President Redel: This is meant to compliment other services that exist. The e-waste bin looks at small items batteries, CDs, cellphones, ink cartridges, so it compliments that sliding scale of items.

Councillor Bissky Dziadyk: Wonders if McGill has a program that already deals with this.

President Redel: This is an example of how McGill shies away from these initiatives. McGill has looked into this, and SSMU would be the leader at McGill. If it works at SSMU it would be implemented in the rest of McGill.

VP Cooper: It is difficult to figure anything out with the McGill Hazardous Waste Battery Drop Off Box. This way, it will be visible (probably placed in the lobby beside plant a plant in the SSMU lobby). This is good because this way they can do something comprehensive.

Councillor Nam: Would like to add a Whereas clause to define what e-waste is.

Councillor Lam: There are a lot of e-waste recyclers who do not actually dispose of their items in the proper way. Where is this company looking to dismantle the waste?

President Redel: For Electropac, part of the money we pay each year is for the rent of the machine (which kind of looks like a dishwasher). Part of the lease goes to that part of equipment while the other part goes to monthly or bimonthly equipment and the transportation of the waste to the recycling facility. Joshua Kyle and the McGill Hazardous Waste Department went on tours of several hazardous waste facilities. Out of them all, this was one of the most responsible. They take things apart as needed and look at recycling other components. They are one of the best on the island.

Councillor Chaim: What budget does this come out of? Where do you get the other money?

VP Cooper: It is per year, and she would be open to adding “from the Green Fund” to the motion. Money will be taken from the Green Fund for two more years.

VP Cooper: Motions to amend the last Resolved clause to read “from the SSMU Green Fund” within the bracket. This is a friendly amendment and is automatically adopted.

There is a motion to move to the previous question. The motion clearly passes and voting on the motion begins.

The motion passes unanimously and **the Motion Regarding E-Waste Collection Point is adopted.**

1. **Motion Regarding SSMU <3's CATZ**

Councillor Larson reads the Resolved clauses:

Resolved, that the SSMU stream “The Spice Kittens” from Foster Dad John’s Livestream page (<http://new.livestream.com/accounts/398160/events/1594566>) on all SSMU monitors during the peak hours of 12-2pm while students are in the Shatner Building eating lunch;

Resolved, that in order accommodate this specifically-timed presentation, the SSMU President revise the current software that facilitates presentations on the SSMU screens accordingly;

Resolved, that the Vice-President (Internal) assure that the SSMU provide cats in addition to dogs for exam-time animals as soon as this is feasible;

Resolved, that the SSMU updates its homepage with assorted LOLCATZ from the popular website I Can Has Cheezburger? (<http://icanhas.cheezburger.com/>);

Resolved, that the Vice-President (University Affairs) lobby McGill to feature LOLCATZ on their homepage (<http://www.mcgill.ca/>) as soon as possible;

Resolved, that the Vice-President (External Affairs) lobby the Québec Government to feature LOLCATZ on their homepage <http://www.gouv.qc.ca/portail/quebec/pgs/commun/?lang=en>) as soon as possible;

Resolved, that the Vice-President (External Affairs) lobby the Canadian Government to feature LOLCATZ on their homepage (<http://www.canada.gc.ca/home.html>) as soon as possible;

Resolved, that the Vice-President (External Affairs) lobby the United Nations to feature LOLCATZ on their homepage (<http://www.un.org/en/>) as soon as possible.”

Councillor Morawetz: Motions to add a friendly amendment to change “Canadian government to “Harper government”. The movers agree that this is a friendly amendment and it is automatically adopted.

Councillor Rosentzveig: Is LOLCATZ available in both official languages?

Councillor Larson: SSMU has hired a translator so it has the resources to lend to the government to provide it.

VP Cooper: This takes away from the VP External’s portfolio. This is a bad usage of SSMU funds, but she loves the rest of the motion.

Councillor Larson: As is apparent in the spirit of the motion, it is a joke motion. However, it is meant to address the fact that we always decide to lobby random things without addressing how or with what resources. In the spirit of what we always do, it should pass.

VP Reid-Fraser: She does not think it will take up that much of her time. She is okay with it if it involves a petition.

President Redel: He enjoys the motion, but in terms of the second Resolved clause, the software that runs the main screens is a project he wrote for EUS and he has no time to revise it. It is impossible from technical standpoint. He would like to amend it so that it will only be played on the screen in the SSMU office foyer, to read “on the monitor in the SSMU Office waiting area”, as well as “and additionally on the other SSMU monitors when the software allows it while students are in the Shatner building eating lunch”. The movers declare this amendment friendly and it is automatically adopted.

Councillor Bissky Dziadyk: Why don’t we just fire off an email to the Harper government to see what happens?

VP Cooper: There are a lot of amendments we could make that would make SSMU less professional. She thinks that it is frustrating that people would mandate this because it is a waste of SSMU resources.

Councillor Lubendo: This is meant to fail, why are we pushing for it? People have much better things to do and there are big things happening. This is not funny.

VP Dinel: Motions to move to the previous question. The motion clearly passes and voting begins on the motion.

With a voting count of 8-8-10, the Motion Regarding SSMU <3's CATZ does not pass.

Councillor Larson: People can talk to her about this motion after in Gert's.

m. Discussion Regarding Report from the SSMU Education Consultation Sessions

VP Reid-Fraser: Last week there were three consultation sessions talking about all of the things we had adopted leading up to the PQ education summit. There was a very low turnout – at most there were 10-12 people at the table – but that was fine. There were some really interesting conversations and she appreciated everyone who came out and participated. She took all of the big pieces of paper people wrote on and compiled them into themes in an 8-9 page report. She finished the report two nights ago and did not expect people to have the time to read and think about it. She has now put together summary of the report which has been grouped into five themes including quality of education, out of province and Anglophone students, and the role of the university in society. She is open to having a conversation about the report right now, but she would really like to set a deadline of next Thursday at 5pm for everyone to read the report and send it to their constituent and/or faculty executives. Then people can take a week, think about it, and bring up any changes they would like to see made to clarify the report. The report will be going to the meeting with TaCEQ next weekend, and VP Reid-Fraser will be putting together a list of things for TaCEQ to bring up and discuss at the next meeting. She wants some strong things that can be brought forward from SSMU.

Councillor Morawetz: Thanks the VP External for an amazing job on the education consultation session. She only went for a small portion, but there was a lot of information to wade through on the sheets of paper. She has a general question: a lot of the things people came up with are very McGill-specific. Are we trying to generalize this to go to TaCEQ or are there two forums going on, one for TaCEQ and one for McGill?

VP Reid-Fraser: McGill has not really engaged in the discussion, but she gave President Redel her permission to send the preliminary report to the McGill administration. She wanted feedback, and would basically be taking the more broad recommendations to go to the Quebec general summit and would continue to engage in a conversation with the rest of McGill. She has got interest from a lot of different people, so the things that are more specific to McGill can be discussed in a more internal conversation.

VP Dinel: In terms of follow-up, Senate will be talking about this next week. They will be talking about how they are trying to make a McGill committee as it is important that McGill students talk about this and have a voice.

Councillor Larson: First, there were really good discussions. She asks if VP Reid-Fraser has filed the things that were specific to McGill and passed them on to the VP of University Affairs (VP Dinel). Second, MRO will be livestreaming Principal Heather Munroe-Blum, and she would really instruct councillor to say anything they have to say about education during the livestream because this is the time to have statements heard.

President Redel: One of the interesting problems he has personally recognized is that a lot of what the summit attempts to be doing is generalizing education. The problems discussed are not related to SSMU, McGill, TaCEQ, etc. Generalizations are a very large problem that we have with education. SSMU may not even be the appropriate body to decide this, so how can SSMU even generalize education when it is so different between faculties? It is hard to represent faculties properly, let alone TaCEQ and the rest of Quebec. The report did a really good job of discussing McGill concerns, and it would be bad to generalize this as it serves very specific needs.

Councillor Larson: We really feel that because McGill is unique and has special concerns, our concerns should be followed up to the Quebec level. These concerns need to be heard and they will be relevant.

President Redel: He knows everyone is busy and it is exam time, but he implores everyone to read the report as it is a fantastic read. He hopes everyone realizes the gravity of the summit as it is affecting education and everything it involves. He hopes everyone realizes how serious these education summits are and how the summit itself is an effective format. He congratulates VP Reid-Fraser, he has received emails saying the principal did get a report and is talking about things that were discussed in the report. The effort VP Reid-Fraser put in means a lot to education in the province of Quebec and in Canada.

VP Reid-Fraser: Thank you all so much for your support, it has been busy but it has been an exciting process and it was really fun to go through this information and compile it and write it all out. They still have website which Simon has been putting a huge amount of work into adding all the information and updating the content and discussion forums. Over the holidays so far there has been very little actual content in terms of comments which is a real shame. She asks people to please help with the promotion of this website. She will be doing more for sure in January and hopes people will start to engage with these forums after exams. The website is: mcgill.ca/educationsummit/. She really wants more activity on this website to increase its robust format.

11) Reports by Committees

a. Interest Group Committee

VP Cooper stands for questions.

Councillor Nam: What is the difference between adding a new long name to the Eastern European Club versus all of the other clubs that revolve around that realm?

VP Cooper: It is a challenge we have consistently with cultural groups; they are different cultures, identify with different themes, and are at different levels of working together. They have different mandates, and she would like to develop a policy on that.

There is a motion to adopt. The motion clearly passes and **the report of the Interest Group Committee is adopted.**

b. Executive Committee

President Redel apologizes, due to internal issues the last two reports have not been posted. Instead, he will do a verbal report:

November 7th meeting:

Miriam will take care of the daily reports for web ads. The VP External research will be done by the attaché. The TaCEQ invoice has been tabled and will be looked into further. The VP Clubs and Services talked about plane ticket expenses. The President's report is confidential. The VP Finance and Operations was approved to present the budget to Council as is.

November 13th meeting:

There was approval for the budget having the deficit covered by CERF, as well as for the hiring of a translator. There was also approval to move forward with having an event supervisor for events and a new system for events. The VP Clubs and

Services met with QMUF. In terms of the VP External's invoice, SSMU will pay everything except the Revenue Quebec penalties and interests. They resolved to help fix accounting service. The President's report contained two confidential matters and the approval of transferring the remaining money from any jobs that did not use all of their budgeted hours to the orientation web designer position. The VP Finance and Operations was approved to take \$250 000 from CERF to make up for the deficit.

There was no meeting on the 23rd. Additionally, the General Manager and the VP Clubs and Services have been mandated to find alternative room bookings for minicourses. They have also approved financial services as of October 2012. VP Reid-Fraser will be bringing a discussion forward.

President Redel stands for questions.

Councillor Larson: What is Jury Pop?

VP Reid-Fraser: It is a Quebecois legal firm that is one of the firms that was going to be engaged with student associations in challenge to Law 78 over the summer. Basically, they do work that is not as expensive and tends to be focused more towards community group, student associations, and groups with a limited amount of money. Should she be addressing this more in her report or should she elaborate on it right now?

Councillor Larson: No, it is fine.

Councillor Chaim: Where did this come from?

President Redel: My email. The report can be tabled, but the reason it did not happen is because of internal issues and exams.

Councillor Chaim: Motions to table the Executive Committee Report that was to be submitted for November 15th but not the one for today's meeting.

Voting on the motion begins. The motion clearly passes and **the Executive Committee Report that was to be submitted for November 15th is tabled.**

There is a motion to adopt. The motion clearly passes and **the Executive Committee Report of November 29th is adopted.**

12) Reports by Executives

VP Briggs: Should he give an update for the Funding Committee from the Funding report?

Speaker Tong: They have skipped the report of the FERC commissioner: He is no longer present, but the report is on Vibe and does not need to be adopted.

Councillor Larson: Asks Briggs to elaborate on the report.

VP Briggs: The committee is in the process of moving on with the projects that have been discussed. It takes a lot of research but is moving along.

Councillor Guan: To answer the question, FERC is currently working on its purchasing policy. It should develop how they are ranking suppliers and has laid out how it works. They are giving each supplier a score and a composite score based on sustainability.

There is a motion to suspend the rules to include the Funding Committee report. The motion passes and VP Briggs gives a brief summary.

VP Briggs: The report will be added on Vibe. Most of the funding has been allocated for the fall semester. There are a few applications left, but they will be done by the end of the week.

Councillor Larson: Does the Funding Committee Report need to be adopted?

Speaker Tong: Yes, it does need to be adopted.

General Manager Gervais: It does not need to be adopted.

Councillor Rosentzveig: Wants to know why the report does not need to be adopted.

General Manager Gervais: In the past it was approved by Council so she kept all of the cheques until Council met. This meant they were kept in her office for a long time and not given to the students who needed the money and were waiting for it. Council decided to just give the cheques to students and then report back to Council.

a. Vice-President (University Affairs) – Haley Dinel

There was a North American Indigenous Studies forum on Tuesday. Lots of people (around 100) came out, which was great. Senate will be happening on Wednesday, which will be exciting as there are a lot of questions. If there are any things that people would like to see improved at any library, whether it is cushions or a desk, she will do her best to make it happen as she has \$600 000 to use to give back to libraries.

This is not in the report, but she has just received bursaries from the money that students give back to the university through SSMU, allowing students to fund other students. They will have a report on this for the first time in 10 years.

Councillor Rosentzveig: Regarding protocol, is there going to be any student participation in dealing with demonstrations?

President Redel: The revised protocol was sent out to the presidents of student associations and unions two or three weeks ago. It did not indicate the process that would follow, it seemed as though there would be initial feedback and then narrow consultations. The next step is broad consultations which are meant to last a few more months to get feedback before the final protocol is established.

Councillor Zidel: The final protocol is going to Senate. There is a misconception on campus, but student feedback can be discussed at Senate as well. The protocol might even go to a committee before it goes to Senate.

President Redel: If anyone has comments, questions, feedback, or concerns, submit them and they can be included.

b. Vice-President (Clubs and Services) – Allison Cooper

There are a few things she is excited about that have happened since sending in her report. SSMU Fest is the new concept for activities night. She is excited about the food fest idea. The original dates are January 30-31st, it is going to be on a Monday night for probably one night. She is making SSMU Fest broader this year, so the Monday night will serve as a kickoff to longer week of club-related events.

Councillor Boytinck is organizing a club fair in residence which will be like a Hype Week for SSMU Fest. She has booked Gert's for a club executive mixer to facilitate discussion. She would love to work with the winter carnival even though it is happening earlier. She has had interesting conversations with the Dean of Students regarding how ISGs run elections. Currently they are forced to have an existence referendum every few years to prove student interest. These conversation are about rethinking this and coming up with a new format. This way, ISGs are "innocent until proven guilty", so there are other ways that they can get rid of clubs if there is no interest. She has finished a lot of the clean up: the room booking system is working well, the bylaw review is underway, and she has started meetings about the online club database management, which has the new and improved name of "Club Portal". The leftover budget from clubs is being used. It is exciting, if anyone has suggestions let her know; this system will revolutionize how clubs are run.

Councillor Larson: Was this report not uploaded to Vibe? Did it disappear?

Speaker Tong: It is on the second page.

Councillor Georges: Asks if VP Cooper could elaborate on ISGs.

VP Cooper: ISGs are independent student groups. There are different categorizations: club, services, and ISGs. Historically it has been used to show that many students think it is a valuable organization. They are encouraged to have a three to four year fee limit and to set a timeline for it to expire. This way every generation of students has a say in what is relevant. What they are looking into is if it would be worthwhile to look into removing the existence referendum and lobbying SSMU.

c. Vice-President (External Affairs) – Robin Reid-Fraser

She has already talked about the education consultation: as much as it was small and a lot of work, there were still a lot of good ideas that came out of it. In other news, the Community Ambassadors Program has been going well. She has met with Mendelson and they are getting their funding next semester and are working on training, promotion, and creating job descriptions. They are going to do interviews in the first week of the semester to get people on their feet by the middle of the month. The Community Affairs Coordinator Madeleine is taking on a part-time communicator role for these ambassadors. She mentioned in the executive report a proposal from the last TaCEQ meeting about Jury Pop, who wants to do research into exploring the possibilities of legislating student strikes as there is currently no legislation that exists around it. Basically, the feeling is that future students rights, depending on the government, could be dealt with much more harshly and quickly. TaCEQ is looking to put money forward to compare student associations with workers' unions to compare them and look at rights to explore the possibility and what it might look like. SSMU is putting a lot of money towards TaCEQ and they are not looking forward to spending another chunk quickly without transparency. Jury Pop would like \$2000 from TaCEQ, which means \$700 from SSMU because of its percentage. She has looked at the budgets and could use some of her budget in theory, but basically she would like to know what people think about exploring that and doing that research. She needs mandate to go to TaCEQ with. Even if other TaCEQ groups vote in favour, if SSMU votes against it, they would be excluded from the cost. She is curious about people's thoughts regarding that.

Councillor Baker: He will talk to her about Jury Pop later as he knows a lot about it

Councillor Nam: Point of Personal Privilege: can the Speaker put reports on the screen when people give their reports?

Speaker Tong: Yes, he will do that.

d. Vice-President (Internal) – Mike Szpejda

He has had communications today to elaborate on the role of website designer for orientation next year. McGill has a lot of insight into this and President Redel has put a lot of work into it. They should be hiring someone by January which will really move that along. This is important as the website is what is seen first by new students. The results and student commentary from the survey were enlightening as to what participants in orientation thought. He has had a responsibility meeting with Mitch Miller (who was here earlier) and Leslie Copeland from the First Year Office to make sure everyone who does orientation (faculty or non-faculty) is on the same page in terms of training and presenting the same image of McGill orientation week. President Redel has already mentioned LunchBeat which is happening soon. Also, if Councillors Baker and Larson could speak to their executives about signing their beer contracts by tomorrow night, he will gladly come up to either building.

Councillor Baker: They wanted to sign their beer contract a long time ago.

Councillor Larson: She has been trying hard to get David to sign the beer contract. Also asks what LunchBeat is and what she will be doing when she attends. Will they still be getting cats even though the motion did not pass?

VP Szpejda: He will be open to having cats if possible.

Councillor Chaim: Regarding complaints about the dogs being too docile, can VP Szpejda get better dogs this year?

VP Szpejda: He will discuss this with the organization.

President Redel shows a video of LunchBeat at Microsoft to explain what it is.

Councillor Rosentzveig: What does FAC stand for?

VP Szpejda: Faculty Affairs. He will be inviting Councillor Rosentzveig to the meeting with them.

Councillor Guan: What is happening with the animal agencies?

VP Szpejda: His predecessor left him the contact information for the previous organization, so he will use this and will be looking into getting cats. Students will have animals for stress relief purposes during exams.

e. Vice-President (Finance & Operations)

The budget is done and approved. It has been a long time coming and he is happy it is finally complete. In terms of moving forward, he will be getting down to club audits. This revision takes into account feedback from all clubs as well as the auditors own feedback and is mandatory. The deadline will be after break (the second Friday after returning). He will make sure it is not a stress during exams. He wants to make sure clubs are managing their own budgets. He will work on having them develop their own models or use a template he will provide. He will publish this in some way as part of transparency for services. Ongoing for the rest of the year is Gertrude's Corner and its marketing research study. He will make this available to Council as it highlights the interesting areas as to moving forward. Minicourses are all going well and he is looking into room booking. The second floor tenants are having a meeting next week to figure out some things before the end of the semester. An investment company that has done work at Concordia approached him. He asked if they had any systems or portfolios where an emphasis was placed on socially responsible investment. They have done 100% socially responsible investments with a 6.8% gain. He wants to know if Council is interested in this, or just in learning from it. The Finance Committee now has some finance-type things to evaluate as well as the performance of the current portfolio. In terms of the Funding Committee, he congratulates everyone for being consistent, building policies, and adhering to them. They are getting stronger and more useful for the future. He is also working on funding audits and new funding applications which should work better if people use them correctly. Finally, the student-run café team is still chugging away.

Councillor Larson: In terms of trying to develop a funding policy, is there a way more members can be involved and the process can be more collaborative and transparent?

VP Briggs: It is a growing document, which is something people should be able to see. He is always open to input and contributions as he needs to see how policies would weigh in with people. He is responsive to how funding is developed so the document can be published.

Councillor Chaim: Would be it beneficial to meet with the Policy Committee, as they have a good idea of how they think funding can move forward. If they Policy Committee has a better policy on how funding is enacted, it would work in SSMU's favour.

VP Cooper: Will the constitution continue to grow in Council?

VP Briggs: He will evaluate the ground rules for something specific to the Ambassador Fund Application. Generally they should take the most efficient and cheapest form of transport. This gets logged in the policy book which creates rules that are followed for the rest of the semester. Exceptions can be made as they apply.

Councillor Zidel: They did this two years ago with similar rules, but he does not know where they document he helped create went.

Councillor Chaim: He has looked through the old stuff and found things from last year, but he could not find what Councillor Zidel has described.

VP Briggs: It has not shown up in the history of the Funding Committee or in documents.

Councillor Zidel: We had very specific criteria.

VP Cooper: Speaks to the broad need to make certain policies stronger, in terms of which policies should be on what timeline and at which jurisdictional level.

VP Briggs: This is a very important debate that needs to be had.

Councillor Nam: Suggests that Councillor Zidel send the document he is referring to on to the Bylaw Committee.

Councillor Zidel: He does not have it, it is SSMU's job to keep track of committee documents.

Councillor Nam: Suggests he look for it to make it more coherent.

f. President

He has been working on orientation week and frosh, which is an important part of his portfolio. There was a great meeting to institutionalize the orientation planning group to insure that it lasts after the current people are gone. They have expanded the membership of the grant committee to include other important partners such as non-faculty froshes, floor fellows, and the Inter-Residence Council. In terms of winter projects, the ice rink is moving forward at full steam. They have all of their funding. This year they are allowing broomball and including open skates and hockey, will be having daily flooding to insure good skating quality, and are trying to purchase skates for people to use. The rink is a big campus connector. In terms of the Deputy Provost of Student Life and Learning, he will be working for the next few weeks on formulating his own response to the changes or lack thereof to the

Deputy Provost position. He is working with people from last semester to do a different kind of feedback. In terms of the lease, the Lease Committee has discussed plans for moving forward and is excited about the confidential process. The rest is status quo, pending a response from McGill. The Living Learning Lab is a really exciting project which looks at integrating sustainable living projects into a household that acts as household, lab, and community space. The secretary general is doing research to make this a possibility. Regarding student staff, he is working on two new interesting projects for the coming year which will not be implemented until next year. The new position of chief of staff's goal is to help the executives to better enable the staff to succeed and to help connect the executives to staff. Part of the services SSMU offers is student employment which is not just money paid out but experience, so they cannot expect people to be 100% familiar with programming, event planning, etc. because part of the process is learning. He is looking to create official portfolios for student staff so they will have the official portfolio printed off and signed by SSMU to present to future employers. Testimonies from permanent staff and the executive are being used to look into to how research has paid off and how to build official portfolios into the outcome and benefit of working with SSMU. This is the last Council meeting of the year. He hopes everyone is checking their GroupWise emails as they have all received training, tells them not to hesitate to ask if they have questions. It is councillors' responsibility to check these emails; they are required to do it. A councillor satisfaction survey was sent out over break and will be sent out to students at large. In December and January he will be working on a State of the Society report and Executive Report to submit to the Student Society. He gives a sincere thank you for all of the work councillors have done on Council and individually.

Councillor Chaim: Thanks the President for all of his work as president; he is the glue that holds Council together.

Councillor Lam: Why are vision 2020 and the sustainability caucus very interesting?

President Redel: He thinks it is interesting because it looks towards moving forward and a lot of the content is organically derived. It is interesting to look at the complications of integrating it into McGill, one of the inherent effects of top-down hierarchy at McGill, and how this effects the project as a whole. He can give Councillor Lam more information after he attends another meeting. He started weekly meetings 3 or 4 weeks ago and has started working on expanding his report, which will be twice as long.

13) In-Camera Session of the Students' Society of McGill University

Council enters a recess at 11:12pm for an in-camera session.

Council resumes at 11:15pm.

14) Adjournment

The meeting of the Legislative Council was adjourned at 11:15pm.

For Approval