

Interest Group Committee Report to Council February 5th

1. Clubs approved for interim status:
 - a. Northshore Society
 - b. Venezuelan Students' Association
 - c. TerraMar
2. Clubs tabled:
 - a. McGill Students for Redesigning Peace
 - b. Korean Professional Association
 - c. Original Beer Tasting Students Society of McGill University
 - d. Shamal: The Voice of North Africa
 - e. World Without Worms
3. Clubs rejected for interim status:
 - a. Lunchbox for All
4. Clubs approved for full status
 - a. Democrats Abroad @ McGill
 - b. Cocoa and Cacao (SSMU)
5. Clubs rejected for full status
 - a. Unite for Sight

Clubs approved for interim status

Northshore Society

- Promote free discussions of China's political and social problems for Chinese students and other members of McGill community who are interested in issues of China;
- Maintain full independence and to foster interactions between different perspectives about China, with particular interests in social equality, civil liberties and human rights;
- The activities of about the Northshore Society shall include, but not be limited to: lecture, discussion, debate, case study and publishing.

Approved by the IGC because we felt that it does not overlap with the mandate of other clubs and is a prominent issue in politics today. We will encourage them to consult with the equity commissioners about their events to make sure that their events are not in any way offensive toward students who may support the Chinese government. The interest group commissioner will also discuss with them the name of their club and changing it to perhaps better reflect their mandate.

Venezuelan Students' Association

Mandate:

- Promote the unity and culture of the Venezuelan people throughout the university and the Montreal community;
- Increase awareness of Venezuela at McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, and Canada;
- Provide opportunities for students to exchange ideas, opinions, and information, on all topics related Venezuela;
- Aid new Venezuelan students in their integration process within the McGill community;
- Communicate with the Consulate of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and other bodies that aid with the integration of Venezuelans with the Montreal community;
- Promote McGill University in Venezuela while establishing relationships between Universities in Venezuela and McGill University;
- Perform community service projects locally, nationally, and internationally;
- Serve as a forum for reconciliation amongst Venezuelans.

TerraMar McGill

Mandate:

- Promote the proper care and appreciation of the high seas, raise awareness and educate on the matter.
- Provide opportunities for McGill students to participate in the preservation of the world's oceans; and for students to take part in a project related to their academic endeavors.
- Network with local organizations and institutions that deal with environmental and sea life protection
- Hold events relating to the study and protection of the High seas.
- Encourage McGill students to become virtual citizens of the sea, buy parcels of land and become an ambassador of a specie
- Raise awareness on campus about the current conditions of the marine habitat.
- Create a forum for discussion for those interested in the protection and preservation of the seas.
- Provide the McGill community with a portal through which to get involved, whether it be academic research scholarship or internship opportunities

Clubs tabled for interim status

McGill Students for Redesigning Peace

Mandate:

- Raise awareness on campus about international disputes around the world;
- Create a conference for discussion on resolutions for those interested in those international disputes;
- Give members the background knowledge and information necessary for analyzing the different perspectives relative to the dispute at hand;
- Give members an opportunity to form their own solutions and policies along side other university students supporting or challenging those solutions;
- Raise funds for charities aimed at mediating international disputes i.e. United Nations, CARE International, Open Society Foundations;
- Inspire young students to pursue a career in world diplomacy, development, and law.

The interest group committee is concerned that this club overlaps too much with other groups and could potentially trump over the work of groups such as STAND, Amnesty, the pre-law society or JHR. The interest group coordinator will discuss with them refining their mandate.

Korean Professional Association

Mandate:

- To share career-related information among the Korean students at McGill University
- To strengthen the professional network among the McGill Korean students and alumni
- To help current Korean Students studying in all faculties to succeed in their studies through appropriate mentoring from senior students and alumni.
- To assist Korean students with worldwide internship opportunities.

The interest group committee felt that for networking with alumni, the same students could join the Student Organization for Alumni Relations. The interest group committee was also concerned about the exclusivity of the club and whether this would really contribute to student life as a part of SSMU.

Original Beer Tasting Students Society of McGill University

- Bridge cultures and unite social spheres through events centered around beer. Beer tasting is a cultural endeavor, an appreciation of true craftsmanship mostly ignored by undergraduate students in North American universities.
- Our goal is not to binge drink, we want to promote a more refined approach to enjoying beer: drinking for the taste, not for the buzz. It's well known that nowadays students drink excessively, using beer as a means rather than an end.
- Our objectives will be to engage our members in enjoying beer on a local and international level, creating a forum for discussions on specific regional beers and ales.
- We will have seminars about specific types of beer, engaging our members in discovering with a critical eye what each strain has to offer.
- We want to raise awareness about local artisanal beer (micro-breweries) in Montreal, hosting events showcasing said microbreweries.
- We will also reach out to international brewing companies to achieve a full spectrum of products for our beer connoisseurs.

The interest group committee questioned why this group should be a part of SSMU as they could not use SSMU space (besides Gert's) for their events and SSMU could not fund their activities. There could also be legal issues that the interest group coordinator will look into.

Shamal: The Voice of North Africa

Mandate:

1. Inform McGill community about the political development happening in North Africa.
2. Provide a safe discussion space about North African issues.
3. Educate and raise awareness amongst McGill community about North Africa.

4. Represent culturally and politically North Africa (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt) in McGill.
5. Fundraise for humanitarian causes relating to North Africa.

The interest group committee will probably approve this club at the next meeting but first the interest group coordinator will do research as to what happened the first time the club applied in 2011 as there is uncertainty as to what happened.

McGill Students' Chapter of World Without Worms

Mandate:

2 Article II: Mandate

2.1 The Club's mandate shall be to

- *Raise awareness of the affects of parasitic worms on education and development worldwide*
- *Promote awareness of the effectiveness of current deworming medication and programs at McGill, in the Montreal community and in local Kenyan communities*
- *Raise funds for the deworming of children in Kakamega and surrounding counties in Kenya, with partners Community Education Services (CES) Canada and Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)*
- *Initiate and implement marketing programs in Kenya in order to improve attendance at deworming events in the local communities*
- *Holds events to educate McGill students while raising funds*
- *Facilitate discussions on the eradication of worms and other parasites in affected nations*

The interest group committee tabled this group because they want more evidence that this won't be a club solely focused on fundraising for an outside organization but would also somehow contribute to the SSMU community. We also discussed if they are focused on Kenya specifically they perhaps should be part of Daraja and if they are focused on just parasitic worms anywhere they perhaps should be part of a group such as MedLife. The interest group coordinator will contact them.

Clubs rejected for interim status

Lunchbox for All

Mandate:

- Raise awareness of helpless children across countries who are victimized by internal political conflicts around the world
- provide children financial support for basic education and enrich the childhoods

The interest group committee rejected this club because their mandate overlaps greatly with other groups on campus. We are also concerned that they would be donating their money to an orphanage that is not affiliated with a larger, accountable, organization.

Clubs approved for full status

Democrats Abroad @ McGill

Three events:

1. Election Night Viewing Party
2. Campus-Wide Voter Registration Drive
3. Presidential Debate Screenings

This club has fulfilled their mandate and was approved.

Cocoa & Cacao (SSMU)

Three events:

1. Chocolate Fun Afternoon
2. Cocoa 70 Outing
3. Baking Workshop for Bake Sale

This club fulfilled their mandate and was approved.

Clubs rejected for full status

Unite for Sight

Events:

1. Restaurant Revenue Fundraiser
2. Kaplan MCAT voucher auction
3. Princeton Review MCAT voucher auction
4. Unite for Sight and Kaplan presents: optometry and ophthalmology
5. Eyeglasses donation

This club was approved a year ago and has failed to fulfill their mandate. Their mandate included providing opportunities for members to shadow local ophthalmologists and raise awareness about the importance of eye care but neither of these was done.