

SSMU Legislative Council

Agenda – October 10, 2013

1) Call to Order

Council called to order at 6:09 pm.

2) Attendance

President Katie Larson

VP Joey Shea

VP Samuel Harris

VP Brian Farnan

VP Stefan Fong

VP Tyler Hofmeister

Councillor Kareem Ibrahim

Councillor Sue Jeong

Councillor Lola

Councillor Courtney Akuyawa

Councillor Elie Lubendo

Councillor Billy Liu

Councillor Zachary Rosentzveig

Councillor Taylor Lowery

Councillor Anikke Rioux

Councillor Lilly Tong

Councillor Yann

Councillor John Simpson

Councillor Kabir

Councillor David Benrimoh

Councillor Catherine Chen

Councillor Joanna Lynsdale

Councillor Sophia-Maria Giannakakis

Councillor Omar

Councillor Bissky Dziadyk

Councillor Sarah Southey

Councillor Claire Stewart Kanigan

Councillor Haley Dinell

Councillor Yasmeen

Recording Secretary Lydia Jones

Speaker Rida Malik

Parliamentarian Rachel

General Manager Pauline

3) Approval of the Minutes

a. April 25, 2013

**Motion to amend by Lilly Tong: wrong names of presenters for E.C.O.L.E.**

**Speaker:** These are the wrong minutes to amend for that problem.

**Motion to approve by Councillor Dinel**

**Seconded by VP Shea**

**Minutes adopted**

b. September 26, 2013

**Motion to amend by Councillor Lilly Tong – for the entire presentation replaced by Lily Schwarzbaum.**

Speaker: That is duly noted.

**Motion to amend by Councillor Taylor Lowery – increase of fees from 225 → 325. It is actually 2.25 to 3.25**

Speaker: That is duly noted.

**Motion to adopt minutes – Councillor Zach Rosentzveig**

**Seconded by Councillor Anikke Rioux**

**Minutes adopted.**

4) Adoption of the Agenda

**Motion by Councillor Bissky Dziadyk to adopt.**

**Seconded by Councillor Lilly Tong.**

**Agenda adopted.**

5) Report of the Steering Committee

Parliamentarian: No new business. The notices of motion from last council went to the new business today. That's about it.

**Motion to approve Councillor Bissky Dziadyk**

**Seconded by VP Samuel Harris**

**Motion approved**

## 6) Guest Speakers

### a. Suzanne Fortier

I have now been one month on the job. What was very important as I came back was that I get a sense of the community. I have known the community for many years. I was a student. But it has changed since then. I've met a lot of people and I've spent a lot of time with students because this is why we're here. YOU are why we're here. I shadowed two students and was shadowed by one student. I've been to many classes – anthropology, political science, law, water management and meteorology – I didn't get a degree but I was very impressed!

The quality of teaching was excellent – and students were too. I've been here often because you are an important part of life here at the university. You have taken extraordinary leadership over 100 years. I am impressed with the initiatives taken and your leadership and engagement. I came for club night and senate. I got a good sense of here. I participated in orientation week. I want to congratulate you, I know there's always improvement but I was impressed with what was going on. I was very happy to see the student emergency group! That's students taking care of students. When I was a student, I loved McGill of course, but particularly in the support I had from professors, the classrooms were fantastic, the experience in research etc. What did not exist to the extent it does now is the engagement of students. In my days in Montreal was a prosperous city and we didn't know about the struggling people around us. We weren't as engaged in the people around us. I saw that in many events this month. So impressed to see people participating: everyone bringing their talents and sharing in community. The level of engagement was great. I talked with administration and colleagues – it's clear that a very strong focus is how to be even more students centered. Student life and learning has to be expressed in an even stronger way. This is very important. What does it mean?

To define student life and learning –

1. What you have in your program is what you are expecting. Number one reason you're here is to get a good education. That's an important part of student life and learning.
2. The student services are super important too.
3. Living here doesn't just mean living on campus, it means living in this community, in Montreal.
4. Being a community that not only respects but also promotes diversity and uniqueness! This is an advantage of McGill: we come from everywhere! We're able to get a sense of global environment that prepares you for the rest of your life. These are all important parts of student life.

In our retreat the number one item was the student centre. To achieve that, we have to find ways together to be connected to one another, talk to each other with respect. We need a transparency, trust, and respect based relationship. All I can say is that I am very committed to your experience. Hope in next year I will be able to EARN your trust and respect. That's why I'm here! Let's make sure you see me as a friend and ally and someone who cares. Hopefully not too much! I care that's why I am here.

I learned that in Canada we live here and we have so much in terms of natural resources. One resource we are short on because of the population is human talent. So we really have no excuse for wasting it! It's not all that different everywhere else in the world. The most important thing in our future is human talent. We need it to make a world that is better for all of us. It may sound idealistic but that's really all we have to go for. No better people to change the world than your generation!

Merci beaucoup de m'avoir invité!

## 7) Announcements

VP Shea: There is a joint announcement by me and VP external: registered to vote in Montreal municipal election! We encourage you to do the same!

VP Harris: Check it out: room 108 of our building is a vote of regular booth from commission – for anyone who is eligible (3 months living here?) you can go to register to vote. This is a very important municipal election. We encourage you to register! You need 2 pieces of ID and a bill/proof of residence.

Councillor Zach Rosentzveig: October 18<sup>th</sup> is the funding deadline – constituents: send in your budgets!

Councillor Claire Stewart-Kanigan: Culture Shock is on now: oct 10<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>. For panels and workshops: go to the website. There is a 2-4pm feminism workshop tomorrow. Check it out!

VP Farnan: Four floors is 31<sup>st</sup> October, homecoming: next Saturday there is a meeting at gerts. We're getting in McGill gear – there will be waffles and such.

Councillor Ayukawa: I am the student ambassador for sustainability – if you want more info, ask me after council!

Councillor Lubendo: We have a new rep: Please welcome Yann!

VP Harris: Can we all get the names of the new councillors?

Speaker: Yes – please introduce yourselves!

Councillor Yann: I come from France, I am in U1 management, I am excited to be here to represent my faculty at McGill.

Councillor Omar: I am the IRC council representative. I am a U1 science student, half Egyptian half American. Excited because together we can progress!

Councillor Lola Baraldi: I am a U2 history major. I am the new arts representative. I am excited to get into everything!

## 8) Question Period

Question for Suzanne from Councillor Benrimoh: I am excited about the appointment of you and Diane: it's only been a month but what sort of initiatives or ideas for increased communication between students and administration?

Suzanne Fortier: We are increasing transparency – you don't have to search, we will share it. I have been meeting with a lot of students. I still think that small groups and one on one is important for communication. I try to be where the students are so I can learn. I think it's a bit early to turn to strategic plans and such but what I can tell you is that this has become our priority – we are developing the mechanism to get to a plan. I have ideas of course but the first thing is to validate those and to hear what you think! I'm not here to order you around. I have to hear from the community what they want. Some things I realize: there might have been prejudice. It is not as bad as I thought. Yes we have work to do but the beginning of the process is to hear and connect and then work together. I think then together we can elaborate an agenda.

Question from Councillor Dinel: I want to touch on McGill in the Quebec context: how do you think we can position ourselves better in Quebec?

Suzanne Fortier: McGill is a unique institution in the context of Quebec. What might have been seen as an annoyance is now a real asset. If McGill didn't exist Quebec would have to find a way to create something that looks like mcgill because we increasingly need to open ourselves up to the rest of the world. Quebec isn't just existing in its own province, we need to open up, go elsewhere. Inward growing isn't a good strategy. That's an area in which McGill can be a huge asset for Quebec. We already have that. We have high standards: that's important for everyone – French Quebecers want to come here. It's important for them. I won't use the expression of building bridges (Montreal isn't good at that) but let's say opening doors! This is the experience of many of our alumni. They didn't know they were opening so many doors as a student but realized later what an asset that is. Everywhere I've gone people are so impressed by the McGill name: we are well known around the world for quality of education. Our job is to keep it that way. Reputation is built on real achievements. I do think McGill has a very special place in Quebec. I heard this on the radio: McGill is very

anchored in Quebec reality and Montreal context and that a lot of people mention how much French is spoken here. We need to make people understand that this is a university that was built in Quebec grown in Quebec, and a real aspect of Quebec because of these characteristics. We need to preserve.

Question from Councillor Sachal: What is our stance on Quebec charter of values?

Suzanne Fortier: I made a statement 1 week after arriving: we have a clear and strong policy with regards on respect and diversity. Although there are parts of the charter we agree with such as equality between men and women, we cannot work with the charter if it includes the clause on visible religious signs.

Question Councillor Rosenzveig: Premièrement, merci d'être venue! C'est génial! My question is about inclusion of student groups on campus: in the past clubs have been slighted! There have been harsh constraints on clubs and such: I am interested to hear your approach to moving towards resolving this?

Suzanne Fortier: I don't know all the details on issues, but my approach is to sit down together and discuss this as people who respect each other. There will be times where we will see things differently. We have concerns about safety. Sometimes because of safety and security there are things that we may not agree on. We may see a situation or initiative from different perspective but what is important to me is that we talk about it in a concrete way. An agreement that will please both sides. Example: bikes on campus. Not that we don't like bikes, however it is becoming a real danger on campus: experience of nearly being hit seriously by bike. That's a problem. We have children on our campus quite often so it is a real issue of safety. If all cyclists were cycling at reasonable speeds it wouldn't be a problem, but since that's not the case we have to do something about it. If we could sit down and then figure out a way to solve problems. There are times when not everyone will be happy and that's because you have a certain job to do and we have a job to do and I've always respected that. We have to speak from perspective of constituencies. I respect what you do. You have to do your job.

On peut le faire en Français ET en Anglais!

Councillor Rosentzveig : Merci!!

Question from Councillor Omar: IRC's big priority is to make sure resident students are happy. There is not much being done to help them. How could we adapt better to Montreal?

Suzanne Fortier: I wasn't aware of this issue but I will talk to Deputy Provost. My personal view is if you welcome people to your country you should welcome them well. Making sure that when they come to your country you should welcome them with

warmth. But I don't know at a practical level what the situation is and what we can do better or all the details yet.

## 9) Business Arising

### a. Notice of Motion Regarding Adoption of the Student's Society of McGill University Constitution

Point of Order from Councillor Southey: I have a question for the president who is not here right now what do I do?

Speaker: Many members of exec will be able to answer and if they can't, we can wait until President Larson does her report.

Councillor Southey: Why were the motions not made public before the GA?

Parliamentarian: There were 2 SSMU GA websites going around so they were made public but there were issues.

Speaker: When you went under SSMU GA website there was an overlap with docs from last GA – but they were definitely there.

Councillor Southey: So if they were there, why was there no advertising or publications? There were no changes made to advertising it either?

### **Motion by VP Farnan for question period**

**Seconded VP Fong.**

**Motion passed**

VP Farnan: With regards to GA: it might seem like same tactics from last year because that's all the tactics we have. We publicized on every medium. We used councillors last year – but there was not favourable response so it wasn't worth it for councillors to be presented with defeat. If you have suggestions please let us know! And second point: one thing I'm thinking about bringing: exec spoke after GA and thought it might be a good idea to motion to mandate faculty execs to come to GA. That's an idea that was brought forward. Very welcome for more.

Councillor Bissky Dziadyk: One thing I have concern with is that last year there was a big push for councillors to go out to classes. I get that GA is a big issue, but you guys could have at least asked us to do that. I think that would have been reasonable.

Point of order by Councillor Stewart-Kanigan: The president is not here and I think she should be present for this.

Speaker: She will be back.

Councillor Stewart Kanigan: I'm just saying councillors should wait till she's here.

Speaker: Moving on to business arising.

Parliamentarian: President Larson was supposed to speak for this amendment made in GA changing a motion. This is the notice of motion to change constitution. There hasn't been big changes from the one proposed at GA though.

Motivated by Katie Larson: Thank you for coming to the GA! We solidified a new Board of Directors. The document itself is more precise when comes to roles of elected representatives, the reason it went to GA and is now at council in parallel is that when you pass this type of document, you legally need the Board of Directors to be approved by a GA but we don't have one and since we didn't reach GA quorum – we had to bring it to council.

Question from Councillor Lubendo: Is it going to be for a special GA then?

Speaker: We will explain that later.

President Larson: We will waive the usual 10 day waiting period on the motion to put between council meetings because I think this is fairly critical. If we had have realized earlier, we would have waited the correct amount of time but since we didn't this is how we're doing it.

Question Councillor Stewart Kanigan: Will the fact that we didn't meet quorum be on agenda tonight?

President Larson: Yes that will be added.

Question Councillor Rosentzveig: Wouldn't we have to give notice for this motion?

Speaker: No because not it is not bylaw or constitution related.

President Larson: There is pizza for councillors and executives.

Speaker: We're going to pause for 20 seconds to figure out the pizza.

7:09 – 7:20pm Council breaks for delicious free pizza.

## 10) New Business

a. Motion Regarding Midnight Kitchen Existence Referendum Question



Motivated by Councillor Stewart Kanigan: I would like to give my time to these representatives.

Wade: Here's a brief background of what Midnight Kitchen is. It is a collectively run organization providing free or pay what you can lunches in this building. We also provide solidarity serving – free catering to groups with similar mindset. We need a fee increase because currently we are serving 200 people a day and our portions have become smaller – we don't buy produce, it is currently donated, we want to create breakfast too! People don't have access to that too! It is very important. Also the number of staff maxing out hours consistently especially of kitchen coordinator – so we want to extend contract of our staff. We also want to add staff. We have ongoing needs to improve kitchen used by other groups in McGill – upkeep and new material as we have more and more people use kitchen.

President Larson: I was under the impression that the equipment and materials budget was from SSMU budget itself is that true?

Wade: I'll let finance explain.

Finance admin of Midnight Kitchen Rouge (also a staff member): It is not clear to us what is for us to pay. We had to have a stove looked at and that came out of our budget. They did create it for us but there are ongoing things we invest in.

VP Hofmeister: Kitchen equipment like pots and pans are external to your budget – apply to space fund for those things.

Councillor Stewart Kanigan: I'd like to give my time to Wade to respond.

Wade: We've had unexpected budget increases: a driver broke down. We eventually got the money through this but it was upfront through us. If something breaks down, we had to immediately fix it then get reimbursed after.

President Larson: Just to clarify: as far as kitchen maintenance and upkeep – you need the money to replace equipment?

Kelly Schreider representative in Midnight Kitchen: Yes that is correct. We'd like to reiterate that this is not the main reason we need money – it's really for new staff. Also breakfast servings and increasing portions of food.

Councillor Lubendo: Are we not debating fee increase and not existence?

Speaker: Yes it was just for clarifications.

VP Shea: I'd like to speak in support of this motion – Midnight Kitchen is a unique service that provides free food every day – breakfast would be great add – personally I know many student who have survived through this service.

**Motion to previous question Bissky Dziadyk.**

**Seconded by Councillor Lubendo.**

**Motion adopted.**

**Motion passed.**

b. Motion Regarding Midnight Kitchen Fee Increase Referendum Question

Motivated by Councillor Stewart Kanigan: I think this was covered in the previous question.

Question from Councillor Lubendo: Given that your budget is of \$84,000 and you spent \$51,500 on staff, what will happen when it is increased to \$125,000? Why is 60% of your money being spent on staff?

Finance representative Rouge: Part of our mandate and SSMU policies mandates us to pay staff reasonable wages – at this time people are part time – 18 hours a week. The mock budget was to extend the kitchen coordinator's maximum hours from 13 to 18 hours. That would make the casual salary budget to \$51,000. It is important to us to pay our staff reasonably well. They are not able to do their duties because of the limit in hours.

VP Fong: There are two HR structures in SSMU and Midnight Kitchen is stipended: only attributed to group responsible but in terms of casual staff – it has to go through pay equity scale so that's why it's high.

Councillor Omar: You said some members can't do essential things because of the limit of hours. What is essential that they can't do because of the hours?

VP Fong: If you want to work more hours than allotted you have to request that from a supervisor. They've been noticing that service has been increasing so they're wanting to increase in order to meet demand.

VP Hofmeister: It sounds like you have specific destinations for this money, did you prepare budget to reflect what it would be used for?

Finance Representative Rouge: Yes.

Yasmeen: Why are some positions paid 15\$/h? Minimum wage is \$10,15.

VP Shea: It has to do with HR law and pay equity – we are required to pay them a certain amount.

VP Fong: Allocations of responsibilities determine how much you're paid.

Councillor Lubendo: Could you give more detail to why there's more staff needed?

Rouge finance representative: Having a VP for stipend would go against the ideals of MK.

Councillor Benrimoh: Obviously the pay scale set by SSMU is reasonable – these are people's jobs to support themselves through university. It is not easy to do for a lot of people. It's a struggle. They're fair because it's not easy to find a job that allows you to survive well and in healthy fashion.

Councillor Stewart Kanigan: I am strongly in favor too. We have an excellent array of clubs and services – making positions with liveable wages give people with a lower socio-economical status a chance.

Councillor Ayukawa: I also want to speak in favor to this motion. MK hire people who have lower access to job and other aspect of their identities so i think it's important that we further support their hiring processes.

Councillor Lubendo: If students are paying 6.50 a year for these services – people don't know that only 40% goes to food. Is it justifiable to spend more money on equity pay than on food?

VP Shea: It's Quebec law to pay equity.

VP Farnan: I don't think his point had anything to do with that.

VP Lubendo: It's not that they're paid too much, it's just that why is more paid to students' salary than food?

Councillor Stewart Kanigan: I'd like to give my time to Wade again.

Wade: Without the staff Midnight Kitchen would not exist. Specifically in kitchen (3-5 days a week, 10 hours a week for solidarity). Volunteers help but without staff we would not exist at current capacity or let alone letting it expand.

VP Farnan: Maybe it would be better to just read out the main points than put it on screen?

Speaker: We will get it on the screen then clarify.

Councillor Dinel: Is it possible to amend the motion? We could add a link or reference to the budget so that students can see the budget when it goes to referendum.

Speaker: Movers please speak to amendment? Friendly?

Councillor Ayukawa: Does the amendment have to happen now?

Speaker: Yes.

Finance Rep Rouge: Everything highlighted on this budget is where fee levy money would be allocated. It is in food not for resale is most changed.

VP Farnan: Just to clarify the change is from \$46,000 to \$51,000 – \$5,000 increase out of \$121,000!

VP Hofmeister: How many more hours does that add?

Rouge: 4 hours. The maximum of 14 hours increases to 18.

VP Hofmeister: Materials and supplies: do you think it's reasonable to assume that Midnight Kitchen will use \$10,000 a year? Or is it just a one-time expense?

Rouge: This is for major things that need to be done. Later on this can be reallocated – funding can be for people who apply for Midnight Kitchen in future. For now we need new equipment, so yes, we think it's reasonable for upcoming years but then later allocated.

President Larson: As a follow up on Hofmeister. \$10,000 allocation to material and supplies sounds more like liquidity issues. Why is it added to amount? You're fronting it but never actually funding it. As well for the materials and supplies – if it's a one-time expense capital improvement expense why is it accounted the way it is?

Councillor Stewart Kanigan: We're debating the budget and we're supposed to be debating fee levy.

Speaker: I don't feel it is straying from point.

Rouge: It's \$10,000, but not an increase in 10,000. What is the precedent of going through all of this?

Speaker: Any club asking for increase in fee has to go through council given that councillors represent various constituencies.

Rouge: Has this happened before though?

Speaker: Yes anyone who has come here has had to defend their points.

Councillor Lubendo: These documents are public so I don't know what the problem is.

Wade: To the best of our knowledge – nobody had to defend every point of their budget line – they didn't have their original budget scrutinized. That is decided within the group itself.

Speaker: You are under no compulsion to provide answers. If you feel attacked or singled out let us know.

Councillor Benrimoh: A fact that it is due diligence – it might have been prudent warning services so that they can take time to prepare themselves. It is fine that it is happening but it would have been better to have warning.

President Larson: Thank you for coming and answering budget. One thing the SSMU lacks is transparency in budget. It's important that students know what their money is being spent on. It's just us understanding.

**Motion by Councillor Dinel to previous question**

Speaker: Will you withdraw amendment?

Councillor Dinel: No.

Speaker: Friendly or unfriendly?

Councillor Ayukawa parliamentary inquiry: If added to the appendix – what does that mean when it goes to referendum to student body?

Speaker: They can see the budget – public budget.

Councillor Ayukawa: Could we add the link in the appendix?

Speaker: Yes, that's what's being proposed. Is this a friendly amendment?

Councillor Stewart Kanigan: Yes.

Speaker: We cannot do it now, but let it be shown on record that the motion is changed and will be amended in near future.

**Motion by Councillor Dinel to previous question**

**Seconded by Bissky Dziadyk.**

**Motion passed.**

c. Motion Regarding SSMU Daycare Fee Increase Referendum Question

VP Fong: This is a procedural motion to finalize the change to previous health and services title.

**Motion by VP Fong to move to previous question.**

**Seconded by Councillor Lubendo.**

**Motion passed.**

**Motion adopted.**

d. Motion Regarding Appointment of the Current Clubs and Services Representatives to their New Titles and Mandates

VP Fong: I think I explained it well last week.

**Motion by VP Fong to move to previous question**

**Seconded by Councillor Lubendo.**

**Motion passed.**

**Motion adopted.**

e. Motion Regarding Removing the Services Representative to SSMU Council from the Interest Group Committee Terms of Reference

VP Fong point of inquiry: Also inherently entails putting a councillor on. Will there be a nomination period tonight?

Speaker: No because we're looking at other councillors not involved already.

**Motion by VP Fong to move to previous question.**

**Seconded by Councillor Lubendo.**

**Motion passed.**

**Motion adopted.**

f. Motion Regarding Amendment to the SSMU Clubs and Services Portfolio By-law Book – 2.7.1.

Procedural.

VP Fong: I'll speak for this. It is the same as the other one but the change in clubs and services representatives is to bylaw book.

**Motion by VP Fong to move to previous question.**

**Seconded by Councillor Lubendo.**

**Motion passed.**

**Motion adopted.**

g. Motion Regarding Adoption of SSMU Communications Guide

h. Motion Regarding Adoption of SSMU Style Guide

VP Farnan: I hope all councillors read these two motions (g and h). The next three documents have been worked on over summer as it will dictate standards for communication style for SSMU.

President Larson: Can you give us a brief overview? And genesis?

VP Farnan: Our responsibility is dealing with communication of society. We realized that there were no guidelines standards or best practices for communication of SSMU. All print, all digital communication SSMU has with its constituents.

**Motion by Councillor Lubendo to previous question.**

**Seconded by Councillor Bissky Dziadyk.**

**Motion passed.**

**Motion adopted.**

i. Motion Regarding Adoption of SSMU Communications Strategy

VP Farnan: This is another motion for stylistic design, logo, graphic design etc. The same as style and communication motion but with SSMU's logo and such.

**Motion by Councillor Lubendo to previous question.**

**Seconded by Councillor Dinel.**

**Motion passed.**

**Motion adopted.**

j. Motion Regarding Amendment to the SSMU Accountable Leadership Policy

VP Farnan: This motion is brought forward because of the aspects of SSMU policy that do not correspond to original intent – outside of certain circumstances it is beneficial for a councillor to sit on multiple committees or members at large. We added some stipulations at the bottom of it because it was similar to last year and we had problematic situations fear of degrading process of committee creation. I wanted to bring it forward as sort of discussion, hammer out situations that might arise but goal of letting councillors sit on committees

Councillor Rosentzveig: I am against this motion. Last year a number of councillors put together this policy to address the shortcomings in the way the SSMU was run. The reason it was put in there was because if a councillor wasn't elected to committee, there was no reason not to sit on it anyway. The issue is that committees have a limited number of seats for members at large so we're taking away from voting members because councillors can't vote. I will vote against this, unless there is an amendment to only do this for SSPN.

Councillor Liu: Clarification: For councillors to sit as members at large are they only allowed to apply if they didn't fill positions or can they apply at same time?

VP Farnan: We are not limiting it just to SSPN i.e. the community outreach engagement committee, I sat on that committee last year that was quite dormant. If more councillors had sat on it, it might have succeeded. Perfectly amendable to state that councillors may not join as members at large before members at large are filled, but at the same time, giving priority to students. No problem amending it so that councillors sit on as members at large that don't count as members at large. Completely amendable that way. This was presented for suggestions because it is still important.

Councillor Lubendo: I am for this motion -- new councillors should be able sit on committees later because I was elected last year late – it is hard to follow mandates if you can't sit on committees you aren't nominated into. This helps new councillors get more sense of what council is.

VP Harris: Building off Councillor Lubendo: specifically my committee – I was told that a new councillor this evening wanted to be on external committee but can't because he/she was not a councillor during allocations – in terms of accountable leadership at discretion of members at large – in terms of being wise in this elections if there is a councillors on several committees then people should use common sense to chose members at large not too involved and spread thin.

Councillor Rosentzveig: We felt like this motion would help have more students on committee – having people in community makes more sense than having more councillors – water i down.



Councillor Ibrahim: I will speak in favour of this motion: part of our mandate is to engage constituents and ensure that when interest expressed by students to sit on committee, we encourage that.

VP Farnan: We could make an amendment – resolved clause as 4<sup>th</sup> subclause: a councillor sitting as member at large will not count towards member at large totals of said committees. (The stipulated member at large quota.)

Councillor Rosentzveig: Is it constitutional to just magically add people to these committees?

President Larson: Here's a suggestion: a councillor could sit as an advisor or something if it's in the terms of reference which don't exist now so it would be upon this council to make that a rule.

Councillor Ibrahim: I am against this motion.

VP Farnan: I don't mind withdrawing my amendment if it is unconstitutional and give notice of motion for changing bylaw or constitution next council.

Speaker: I believe it is constitutional to add member to committee as long as it is allowed in their terms of reference.

Councillor Bissky Dziadyk: In order to simplify things: could we say that councillor can sit only after the call has gone out and no suitable members at large could be found?

Speaker: Yes I believe that's what was said in the first place?

Councillor Bissky Dziadyk: **Motion to amend: only after call has gone out and no suitable candidates have been found.**

Speaker: Is this a friendly motion?

VP Farnan: Add "member at large.. on a given committee" if the member at large seats are still vacant after process of committee recruitment.

Councillor Benrimoh: I am in favour of this amendment: the real point is that we don't want empty seats on committees. It is unfortunate when there are no people to sit on committee it is a good motion.

Councillor Southey: The amendment doesn't solve the problem. I would vote yes on amendment to make councillors an advisor clause of councillors. They wouldn't take up a member at large seat. Right now I am against it because it takes away incentive of members at large.

Speaker: Amendment has become a part of motion. So if you disagree with clause, you have to split the question to change just that.

Councillor Lowery: How often are committees left open? More than half? Most?

VP Farnan: I am not sure. There are enough that that I brought this motion forward. In response to Southey: I am open to making it an advisor because it is redundant in current form. Because there are no stated advisors, if places for councillors to sit without member at large form, I wouldn't have brought this up.

Councillor Southey: This would be more of a precursor this way.

Councillor Stewart Kanigan: The demand coming from this council is not people at large. Motion is out of order.

Councillor Omar: Would the advisor be allowed to vote or no?

VP Farnan: Does it relate to the question?

Speaker: Yes. But the document stipulates not a voting member.

VP Farnan: Isn't that irrelevant right now?

Speaker: ok.

President Larson: Here's a suggestion: It would be a way for councillors to be able to sit on the committee. Like I said, they could fix that in their terms of reference.

Councillor Benrimoh: Could we just propose a new motion that says for can we change committee bylaws to say that any committee of SSMU could be (chair of committee as wanted) ask for an advisor of councillor? Each chair responsible for asking for a councillor.

Speaker: can that be laid out in terms reference without each committee?

President Larson: You would have to go through each committee to describe their chair responsibilities for that.

Councillor Benrimoh: Then by majority vote?

Speaker: Yes you could change terms of reference of committee to reflect that.

Councillor Rosentzveig: Central points: reason terms of reference clearly delineated members at large and councillors – certain amount of council representation and there is a reserved part for people who are non council. Having extra councillors in room without voting doesn't help – more councillor pressure. If each club does its own

thing, no problem. But that's not what this is. This is pressuring execs to fill seats by allowing councillors to fill them if empty.

VP Farnan: This is not aimed at any top down approach. We are not aiming to change basic infrastructure of terms of ref of committee and if committee didn't have councillor seats this would be void. This would be just filling empty seats.

**Motion by Rosentzveig to move to previous question.**

**Seconded by Councillor Bissky Dziadyk**

**Motion passed.**

**Motion adopted**

**(Fourteen for, eleven against, 3 abstentions)**

Councillor Rosentzveig: Can the minutes reflect that the clubs and services representative voted against this?

Speaker: It will not be reflected because no one motioned to that.

#### 11) Reports by Councillors

##### a. Sue Jeong

Office hours last week Mon 1-2, not many visitors, creative ideas to have more visitors during office hours are needed. Sharing ideas would be good. Moved office hours from Mon to Wed (1-2). AUS council – Dr. Suzanne Fortier came. AUS 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary – committees under SSMU grad fair and curriculum meeting next weekend.

##### b. Kabir Vassanji

- We had a constitution review committee.

- MUS – 2 weeks ago we had a referendum on 5 questions: 40\$ fee funding career centre, MUS operations fund, introduction of alumni council, and representatives voting within major concentrations. Julia Cantoni ran this and all questions passed. MUS had a free BBQ to increase vote. There was a 30.1% turn out: the highest in history! Halloween masquerade ball is also coming up. We had a meeting with our Board of Directors.

Councillor Lubendo: When does MUS Board of Directors meet?

Councillor Vassanji: Once a month.

##### c. Sukmeet Sachal

Not much happened. There was a meeting I couldn't go last night, the GA, and a community engagement meeting on October 17<sup>th</sup>. My office hours are not decided yet. SUS GA financial reports coming up this year – big topics are cell phone plans for execs – this caused uproar in the committees. AUS wants to pay students who run for execs next year and want SUS to do the same thing. Motion regarding Milton gates coming up.

## 12) Reports by Committees

### a. Executive Committee

President Larson: New PO for new oven in Gert's.

Councillor Southey: Not sure whose committee this is under, but if you talk to accountability committee nothing has been done!

President Larson: Our general manager has taken it upon themselves to have students and councillors.

Speaker: Further information on whom permanent and student staff are is set now; we will give you info when members at large call.

Councillor Ibrahim: General Assembly – Why were documents not accessible to the public?

President Larson: Please keep this for my executive report.

Councillor Lubendo: I had no problems finding the files.

VP Farnan: Committees that have permanent staff members should be aware of that.

Councillor Southey: As outlined in motion last year, members should have been advertised earlier.

President Larson: It's only because the speaker and parliamentarian were not in.

Councillor Arrad: When is the tentative first meeting of first year undergraduate council?

President Larson: There is none. As a first year myself, I have not been on top of it yet.

Councillor Ayukawa: Could we put in parenthesis what various acronyms mean because there are a lot of them?

President Larson: I will do my best next time!

**Motion by VP Farnan to adopt report.**

**Seconded by Councillor Lubendo.**

**Motion adopted.**

### 13) Reports by Executives

#### a. VP University Affairs

VP Shea: I met with SACOMMS to discuss sexual harassment policy – one SSMU member voting and one SACOMMS not voting. Something to be monitored as we move forward. Equity committee happened twice, library committee was supposed to be happening at 5, but was rescheduled for next week. I got nominees for first year. A bunch of McGill meetings – Suzanne and Ollivier, asbestos conference, academic freedom in corporate research and budget cuts. There is an unpaid internship on exploitation of student labour. I met with Lydia White. Senate – really annoying because there were two candidates and both candidates were scheduled for Monday. One didn't show, but it was due to legitimate excuse. Asbestos conference went well.

#### b. VP Internal

VP Farnan: Yearbook: I'm pretty proud about how it's turning out. We're starting to work on actual pages as well as implementing marketing strategy. Hopefully we will learn from a trip to Vancouver. It would be smart to host listserv on a site: it's valuable to see past listservs. Make sure people follow council on instagram! 4 floors – coming up on Halloween. MUS – apple crumble! SSPN has been going great. Another first meeting for communication committee. It's the pilot year so we were a bit late on costumes.

Centraide – really excited about engaging with community. I am co-chair. There is a charity event coming up and couple of videos.

Councillor Stewart Kanigan: VP internal and UA have been consulting about four floors and appropriate costumes. What have the VPs done so far in facebook event and materials already available?

VP Farnan: There's a disclaimer at bottom of all posters and promotions – written by equity commissioners. Facebook event has specific questions added on – disclaimer is: event itself has couple questions but questions you should ask yourself: applies to characters on TV or film, racial, clothing of other cultures, oppressive character serve to trivialize, etc. Outside of that a couple of ideas that have come from last year council: door people – checking for costumes and seeing if appropriate or not – back up costumes at the door so someone isn't losing their money or ticket – still an option for

them. Not do this at the door but at coat check – bit less aggressive more productive not threatened or singled out. Trying to also launch a campaign similarly done at university of Iowa – educational spin rather than negative. Get people to question whether or not something is appropriate.

Councillor Ayukawa: 1. I believe you were invited to basic assembly this past Monday and now we are re-inviting you to that one. 2. Four floors: I am really looking forward to this campaign. 3. If i were to show up dressed as Jasmine, Pocahontas, or Jafar: would I get turned away?

VP Farnan: Directly, I am not at liberty to say because I don't have that adequate training. In theoretical way: no, these are examples of culture appropriation. We went with a fairytale theme and those kinds of characters show up, but there's no way to pick a theme with no negative costumes. It's not up to two people to decide, gray areas are harder but having more of an objective process is essential. That's why door people will have checklist or something. Above 3 checks = inappropriate, etc. This is an example though, not really what we've planned yet. We brought up confusing examples with no answer last year council.

Councillor Ayukawa: Suggestion: use examples to tell people what's appropriate or not. Incorporating examples of what not to do.

#### c. VP Clubs and Services

VP Fong: Culture shock now started. No longer receiving more emails than sending! Good! Office hours are the same, General Manager's office hours are the same too. Club representatives decided what their office hours will be, they are held in SSMU office. The IGC and I will be working on going through all of the Executive Contact Sheets and Information Forms that were submitted and establishing which groups are officially active for this year and contacting those who are still considered inactive. Once that's done, we will be updating the master list. AGM was held on Tuesday! The hiring practices of CKUT were discussed and a motion was passed to ensure equitable hiring practices. In the next week, I'll be sending out a survey in order to gauge how people felt Activities Night went this year. These comments will be reflected in the planning of the Winter Activities Night as well as the exit report for future years. Club Workshops: These have been happening this week and the last ones are tomorrow. It's been a really interesting experience hearing everyone's comments

Councillor Ibrahim: I noticed you mentioned 2 clubs representatives have certain times this week. Why is there office hours of service rep?

Councillor Lubendo: Clubs representatives have to look over 300 clubs, whereas service rep only has 20, so we're going to different meetings with different clubs instead.

d. VP External

VP Harris: Ambassadors training this Saturday in the morning at 9. The contracts will be ready soon for that too. Community engagement day: I would have preferred a better turn out but other than that it went really well. BBQ went well despite lack of BBQ experience. TaCEQ: increasing rumors of provincial elections – dec 9, called nov 6<sup>th</sup>, something that we'll be keeping an eye on. Next TaCEQ meeting is October 27<sup>th</sup>. It's at SSMU so maybe we'll know what room and what time and be able to tell you. It's on Sunday but people can know details, not confidential. Laurent Proulx – if you don't know how to play the game don't play the game! Obviously doesn't know what he's doing with his lawsuit.

Committee – community engagement still not met yet! Get it together people!

GA campaign – Should we get an ad hoc committee?

All this is in the spirit of an exec from 1979.

VP Fong: What's the name of the exec from 1979?

VP Harris: I don't know the names!

e. VP Finance and Operations

VP Hofmeister: Investment portfolio – because there is no Board of Directors, we are unable to send management to renew contract – we cannot buy new securities until passed. Service budgets delays in receiving because done incorrectly. I think I will individually meet with them in the future. Gert's budget is almost done, will have it next week probably. Entering service budgets in budget tool. Service budgets deadline is Friday. FERC researching – first topic of research is transportation.

First meeting of members at large has been decided.

Funding committee – Tuesdays at 7pm excluding next Tuesday due to midterms.

6-10 finance committee applications for members at large.

Councillor Stewart Kanigan: Regarding supplier guide – AUS just got all its members together regarding committee. Pooling resources awesome if we could keep in touch about that.

f. President

President Larson: I was asked point blank whether or not McGill was engaging and I was answered explicitly – there were interesting answers for some of them! Brought up stuff about how McGill students feel McGill values clubs.

GA – Will council give me time to talk about this specifically?

Topics: quorum at GA, how was it advertised, who operated it, and what's the outcome.

I would like firstly to speak highly of people who were volunteers. Logistically speaking it went very very well. I appreciate Pauline, Josee, and others for counting quorum. Should we be telling people to come for free food or to get involved? You know people don't really want to come. Four floors has more than 600 people attending even though the event went up TODAY. Questions like "why don't you get people to come?" are so hard. It's not an issue that one person can fix. I thank you for constructive criticism but the point of GA is to talk freely on an open floor. Even ideas like giving free beer: that would work but it might not look the best if we did that. There should be no coercing. It should really be based on interest and wanting to get people involved. Our duty as a councillors: engage constituencies. It's your job as councillor. Not really appropriate to spend insane amounts of time promoting since you have other responsibilities too.

We didn't reach quorum – I called second meeting for that express purpose. Reason brought constitution to GA is because no Board of Directors – we still don't have one. So, a special GA for that will have to be called too. We need to legally call that so that we can have an acting Board of Directors. Stuff with investments – corporate resolution to change custodians. There's nothing we can do without a proper resolution. I really do encourage CONSTRUCTIVE criticism. Complaining doesn't really help.

Councillor Chen: How many people were watching on Livestream?

President Larson: I'm not sure but we can get those numbers...

VP Farnan: 5-10 for pretty much whole thing.

Councillor Veraldi: What means of advertising were used other than social media – posters, flyers, etc.? Personal interaction might get people more involved.

President Larson: Class announcements were not done and it was not an aggressive postering campaign because it's expensive – it's already expensive to run a print ad, but we did that. Maybe we should change that next time.

Councillor Stewart Kanigan: Councillors would've been open to class announcement – the fact that it was not even suggested and not everyone knew... it would be a good idea to do that even just as a blurb.



President Larson: That was my personal choice because I didn't think it was a worthwhile method – last year it didn't work. And just to follow up on general apathy – we did put out an email in faculty association and asked to be put in listserv not I'm not sure if that was successful. We also asked for volunteers – but there was little to no response. Hard to advertise or force people don't want to go. People came in just for the bagels too.

Councillor Southey: I don't understand why this wasn't asked earlier. What was changed for this GA? How were we supposed to get quorum if we never did in the past? Not only things weren't changed but some were rescinded. Will there be concrete steps taken? Major changes?

President Larson: When has quorum been reached? The first time I was councillor, 3 years ago, significant questions about GA overhaul were posed. An ad hoc GA review committee was made too. Also there were a lot of questions about GA like should there even be quorum or should we just do required things? We are legally not required to do quorum but we decided on it. People suggesting that quorum goes up because it's actually less than 10% of student population, some think it should be online, etc. My personal opinion of what GA should be is not necessarily pertinent – but if we open it up again I will be open to that. Being at GA for 4 years, never been to one that had quorum all the way through. My decision to decide whether those methods of advertising were appropriate or not. If you don't think measures were taken, tell me!

VP Farnan: **ad-hoc committee – motion to create under GA**

**Seconded by Councillor.**

Councillor Lubendo point of inquiry: In cases of back to back meetings, do motions go through the normal process or not?

Speaker: No, you can add questions underneath though.

**Motion passed.**

VP Farnan: Could we get the volunteer councillors?

**All those volunteering:**

**Councillor Ibrahim, Councillor Southey, Councillor Vevaldi, Councillor Chen, and Councillor Stewart Kanigan.**

Councillor Ibrahim: I acknowledge that it's not easy, there is a lot of apathy, but going into it we could have been a lot more positive. We could have had a less negative attitude. I saw that perpetuated yesterday – there was a motion to table until next GA, another to table it until the end of GA in case of potential quorum – this was shut down

by everyone who said table it until next GA. It was really just symbolic – it's the kind of attitude that doesn't help. This could be improved next time, would attitude change?

President Larson: Why did we move to table until next GA? Because there was only 50 people, and that was the decision of the body at hand. It is not appropriate to question voting body after the fact if such question arises at time, there are procedures for that.

Councillor Tong: Two major reasons to lack of attendance: 1. There were few motions being brought up. Yesterday had 3 motions – 2/3 were SSMU related.

Speaker: This is not a question, so please hold off.

Councillor Tong: What makes you think we'll get quorum and what if we don't?

President Larson: Well, we are creating this ad hoc committee, and if we don't get quorum, there is no Board of Directors!

Councillor Lubendo: Is there no other way of approving Board of Directors?

President Larson: No. It is only through the GA. As of right now, the constitution doesn't outline a new Board of Directors. But new constitution in notice of motion – allows for referendum to confirm councillor members.

Councillor Stewart Kanigan: Unrelated to GA – three weeks after they initially proposed gates motion – you asked to meet with me but never responded.

President Larson: I can explain outside this meeting.

VP Farnan: I'd like to **initiate a straw poll** – regarding faculty exec attendance although this may be outside SSMU council jurisdiction. Quick straw poll whether or not council would vote for or against symbolic mandate for execs to go to GA.

**Straw poll approved.**

**18 for, 4 against, 2 abstained**

Councillor Chen: We had a music council the day before GA, we said it was mandatory for execs to be there. Out of 12 only 2 showed.

**Motion by Councillor Southey to adjourn.**

**Seconded by VP Harris.**

**Motion passed.**

14) Adjournment

Adjourned at 10:01pm.

Approved