



**SSMU Legislative Council – March 13, 2014**

1) Call to Order

**Meeting called to order at 6:17 pm**

2) Attendance

President Katie Larson  
VP Shea  
VP Harris  
VP Hofmeister  
Councillor Ibrahim  
Councillor Rosentzveig  
Councillor Ayukawa  
Councillor Lubendo  
Councillor Jones  
Councillor Rioux  
Councillor Tong  
Councillor Ehrhard  
Councillor Simpson  
Councillor Benrimoh  
Councillor Giannakakis  
Councillor Vassanji  
Councillor Booth  
Councillor Chen  
Councillor Sachal  
Councillor Southey  
Councillor Stewart Kanigan  
Recording Secretary Lydia Jones  
Speaker Rida Malik  
Parliamentarian Rachel Simmons  
General Manager Pauline Gervais

3) Approval of the Minutes

a. February 20, 2013

**Motion to approve by VP Harris**

**Seconded by VP Shea**

**Motion passed**

**Minutes approved**

4) Adoption of the Agenda

**Motion to table motions 9. a) and 9. b) as the representative is not present by Councillor Stewart Kanigan.**



**Motion to table motion 9. b) I feel like doing it while everyone is polling so I can maybe predispose people to vote a certain way with this discussion by Councillor Rosentzveig.**

**Motion to add PARC to reports by committees by VP Shea.**

**Motion to bring motion to floor: rescind decision of December 5<sup>th</sup> from Councillor Lubendo. [confidential minutes decision made in confidential minutes]**

VP Harris: hasn't that already been voted on by council so can it be voted on again?

Speaker: yes. It can be brought back. 2/3 majority. 1 minute to motivate.

Councillor Lubendo: cede my time to motivate.

Delane: Black Students Network. Read the article and aware of issues. I encourage to re-vote on issue because personally feel that SSMU responded in a way that they felt threatened because of 2 years ago with blackface. Called for more action from SSMU, but we cannot confuse this with a call for microaggressions, I believe the majority of our organization feels that this isn't necessary and trivializes the issue.

Speaker: Those in favour of bringing motion to floor. –

**Motion added to agenda**

[Council sings happy birthday to Yann]

**Motion to strike both internal and clubs and service reports from agenda by President Larson.**

**Propose motion to the floor, new fee levy by President Larson.**

Motivated: voted to pass this so I think it's important for us to endorse it so that we can speak publicly.

**Motion added to agenda.**

**Motion to adopt agenda by Councillor Lubendo**

**Motion seconded by VP Shea**

**Motion approved.**

**Agenda adopted.**

5) Report of the Steering Committee

**Motion to adopt Councillor Lubendo**

**Motion seconded by President Larson**

**Motion approved**

6) Guest Speakers

a. Sustainability Projects Fund

Lillith Wyatt



Sustainability officer – semesterly report on activities of the fun

Just a reminder of why sustainability: there is a clear need on the planet and the university is a perfect place where we should be experimenting how to face challenges of future. Sustainability awareness fund aims to do that.

[you can watch the video online]

50 cents per student matched dollar for dollar created a pool of funds that we use year to year. Half student/half faculty on committee.

Since April 2010 – 246 applications, 134 of those approved.

As of next meeting: 100h of meetings

Total value of projects: 3.2M

Total spent: 2.4M

Total value of SPF is 7.1M

Gone through the right amount of money so far. On track.

In the three year report issues last year, some of the impacts were 179 students got credit for research involved with these projects. 60k tons of food grown. 202 students employed and 1500 students engaged.

This year: annual report coming up. Early April.

An anti-oppression programming in residences. A past SSMU exec will be taking that on.

Beeshack: outdoor classroom with beehives in it.

Vision 20/20: project started 2 years ago, bringing campus community together through a strategy: now in draft form! This year! Same day as the Muppets movie comes out so I feel good about it. Important milestones. Strategy written by community for the community.

This is my last SSMU, I've accepted a job in Kingston. I have felt like this is a dream job for the past 4 years so thank you guys!

VP Shea: thank you so much and I only worked for you for a year and you will be very missed next year. Thank you.

Councillor Benrimoh: what is the bee classroom?

Lilith: You can look up more online and several other funders. The structure itself will be very good looking, but it will also have hives as part of physical structure. Also be able to monitor and observe health of hive. Education around bees and outdoors and better use of physical space at MacDonald campus.

## 7) Announcements

Councillor Giannakakis: wheelchair basket ball is tomorrow and 60 players, 10 teams, really cool! PT/TO fashion show happening Saturday!

President Larson: as elections SSMU is my service – polling starts tomorrow 9 am for voting! If you want more info they will be online on SSMU elections website.



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Chen: Must anticipated "Cluster Fun" is taking place at 2108 Club Terrence corner of Saint Laurent and Sherbrooke also be tabling in SSMU at various points. Social invited everyone!

Councillor Benrimoh: final reminder that applications are still open for Montreal simulation open until 28<sup>th</sup> I believe. Crisis committee this year, topic: healthcare.

VP Shea: Going to be talking about this in my report: changes I spoke about regarding credits students will be allowed to take. Up to the SSMU and the students to help communicate this to students and constituents. Advertising campaign but important for us to communicate this to our students.

Councillor Southey: SUS environment committee – Green Week – composting workshop one of the events, composting party! Next Wednesday 12-2

VP Harris: 1. St Patty weekend street teams – looking for volunteers on Sunday and Monday, second thing is having an event on charter of values LEA 232 – waiting for confirmation. Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>. 3. Campus community engagement awards – Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>! You can still nominate someone!

Councillor Ibrahim: 10 days of events one of the initiatives that were excited is a sports event boys and girls of LaSalle going to different homeless shelters I really hope you guys take opportunity to check it out and fit 2 in schedule excited for that and we'll be having community engagement. Eve ho all communication channels are about SSMU elections: we also have campaign for SEDE going on so please keep an eye on emails so encourage to send that in networks.

Errhard: last day for 5 days for the homeless, so if you can come by/ anything you can donate! To get kids off street!

### 8) Question Period

### 9) New Business

#### a. Motion Regarding Having a Written Explanation of ECIC's Recommendation

Motivated by Councillor Lubendo: a lot of the confusion comes from the fact that we haven't gotten any explanation. We don't know how they came to this recommendation. I think moving on in future I think council should be able to know what the background is and what options they have. Given that we don't understand the whole process. I think given lack of knowledge there needs to be a report given by ECIC.

Councillor Stewart Kanigan: As far as how they came to that decision, what are you looking for outside the policy outline already?

Councillor Lubendo: more of a moral like thing. What is their definition what a resolution is? For example in the report there should be something like "we want a public apology instead of one to one apology. Why they consider it



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enough to push black stereotypes, this is how we feel, this is recommendation and now all vote on it. I think we should be able to have informed decision so councillors can know where recommendation comes from

Councillor Ibrahim: speak favor of motion and appreciate movers incorporate more transparency I look forward to more thoughts on us improving process

VP Shea: I think this motion is great and warranted. Obviously in conversation we had on December 5th there was a clear issue with we wanted to revise and send it back and there wasn't that within policy. When Justin presented recommendation it was not sufficient enough. Sorry I'm tired.

Recommendation report seems like the explanation – so it is already stated in policy that someone has to present report and that is what he did.

President Larson: in favor of this motion anything that can encourage government transparency – like administration. Good for us.

Councillor Benrimoh: since we are trying to lay out equity policy if we could see the process completely that would be useful. Thank you for this Lubendo and everyone else involved.

### **Hofmeister: motion to move to previous question**

Councillor Stewart Kanigan: concern about passing this right now I think I need to make an amendment

Motion to remove the word public from first resolved clause because the majority of the time they are confidential and that implies that every equity report would have to be public. – Councillor Stewart Kanigan.

Councillor Lubendo: friendly.

### **Motion approved**

#### **Adopted.**

POI Councillor Benrimoh: can someone from gallery speak?

Speaker: during question period or when time is ceded during debate.

b. Motion to rescind decision of December 5<sup>th</sup> council meeting

Councillor Lubendo: a disconnect between students and what racism is and what we need to start educating students about what we really care about and what is a mistake. At this point if students feel there's a disconnect about what we care about and what is appropriate

Councillor Benrimoh: I appreciate that reasoning and this is a question both to you and people here as guests: my primary concern with rescinding decision is this: if we do, well be sending a message to those marginalized and oppressed that public opinion rules equity process – people who were upset from apology are probably hurting a lot less than those who wouldn't be able to use equity policy. How does rescinding this protect those who could be hurt?



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Councillor Lubendo: I do understand that validating person's feelings is important. The problem isn't apologizing; it's the public way we did it. The reason there was such negative response was because we didn't give them a good thing to communicate we just made what we wanted to communicate something trivial. For validating a person's feelings through apology made – the thing is yes we made a mistake but it is important to give person validation for their feelings. We had an option to send back

VP Shea: if we had voted no, it would have just been done anyway

Speaker: no. It said that if 2/3 of councillors abstain it goes back to equity committee or it can go back to the j board. Since it doesn't say what happens when it says no. Then for me it meant it would be the same as saying no.

Councillor Ibrahim: would you be opposed to a clause saying whatever communication channels this is spread on could be explained – not completely against our rescinding, just explanation.

Councillor Lubendo: yes completely agree. The complainer didn't ask for apology it just was a recommendation from ECIC – that amendment would be friendly.

Speaker: you are right it goes to J board but with an explanation

Councillor Benrimoh: concerns – used the words – it wasn't the right thing to apologize about. I don't want to decide what the right thing to apologize about. There were people who offended I don't know who it was I don't feel comfortable

Councillor Lubendo: cedes times

Black society: debating between individual opinion and group. We represent SSMU service – issue that our organization has is that this de legit our association. When we have issues like this it makes people wonder why we exist, it makes people think we have nothing to do and are raising issues that don't exist because we have money from SSMU and we have to defend our credibility.

Councillor Benrimoh: Another issue that I have listening to both answers is that I feel a lot of this is being dictated by people who responded negatively to the apology so it's like were hiding from the public opinion so I feel like were abandoning and sacrificing its part of the process of bringing out issues versus just saying were going to try and not cause waves. Maybe causing waves is the right thing I don't think retracting is the best way to go. It's just worries I have I'm not an expert.

Councillor Booth: as a social work student perspective everyone has right to be heard and complaint but there are different processes I'm for this motion because I don't think it was totally necessary they have this service for them it didn't have to be through equity.



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Councillor Stewart Kanigan: it remains unclear to me how that is reflected through the motion – SSMU's public image through this motion so how that recommendation is incorporated in motion.

VP Shea: exactly what I wanted to say too. Amendment: to make resolved clause more about harm to DSN much of this report was about how SSMU is a big joke and book burning in 70s when birth control and abortion in US. I would be more comfortable to amend to be less focused on damage to public image.

Councillor Lubendo: sounds friendly but I'd have to see wording.

Councillor Vassanji: in response to Benrimoh, our responsibility as councillors is representing constituents – opinion of students needs to be considered.

Councillor Ayakuwa: recognize that our decision at that meeting to send apology was probably invalidating and hurtful towards at least one of the movers of this motion and other people and it was something that didn't seem important to me at the time because I wanted to validate those who went through steps. It is important to validate feelings of delegitimize and hurt of people this decision hurt so I am sorry. I think it's important to use this as lesson and reclaim equity in university and SSMU with all that said I still think it is important that it is important to validate the feelings of people who made that complaint and people should be able to validate complaints in future.

**Ibrahim motion to amend whatever communication used to make public to rescind be accompanied by explanation why council decided to rescind.**

**VP Shea motion to amend [sent to speaker]**

Councillor Stewart Kanigan: would the movers be friendly to showing the reference to DSN?

Speaker: yes.

Councillor Lubendo: maybe just change a couple of things such as "but are not limited to" and BSN (Black students' network) and the SSMU.

Councillor Benrimoh: respond to Vassanji's comment. I agree public opinion is very important. We are also a society bound by law minority protection is supposed to protect you from but you can't change policy it has to be changed as you go and you run by laws made by majority. A lot of the reason we're here today is because of backlash. A lot of issue is... [time exhausted]

VP Shea: Courtney just asked me if we could do something like forum of consent but with equity they are scheduling to open discussion on equity and



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what you think about equity. It won't be a forum on consent but there will be some sessions about equity. The projects will take place next year.

Councillor Lubendo: to answer: when I brought this back I said that we brought it back because we realized coming in from different angle but few things want to clarify. When you said we have mandate to protect minorities, validating is very good but looks at bigger issue. Sending apology didn't help minorities. There are things AGAINST minorities in comments. Wrong example. As council we need to draw a line. [time exhausted]

**Motion passed.**

c) Motion regarding building fee levy

Motivated by President Larson: we talked about this council.

**Motion adopted.**

### 10) Reports by Councillors

#### a. Councillor Rosentzveig

- FUNding Committee: Finally got through all outstanding applications for Clubs! Rest of the semester will be dedicated to building upon the Funding Policy and dealing with incidental applications.
- External Affairs: SQ
- IGC: Powered through some more requests - see our report
- CAF: Went to their event just before reading week. Great fun, good people, lovely cheese!
- We Need SEDE: We've had our first meetings and the campaign has "launched."  
More activities forthcoming ;)

#### b. Rioux

[ absent ]

#### c. Vassanji

The new VP's have had their retreat, while the BoD is in transition.  
Also Valentine's Day event.

VP Shea: did you go to your deputy provost on Wednesday?

Councillor Vassanji: I don't think I was aware

VP Shea: sent out in council list serv at beginning of semester

### 10) Reports by Committees

#### a. Operations Management Committee



VP Hofmeister: operations committee worked on draft so please go over it and let me know what you think

Councillor Ayakuwa: I didn't see exact words there but might have been implied: does the nest want to continue just breaking even

VP Hofmeister: so yes.

Councillor Ayakuwa: so no profit?

VP Hofmeister: yes

Councillor Rosentzveig: the nest is still committed to STUDENT employment?

VP Hofmeister: not explicitly stated in mission statement no. See it as a value but not necessarily... thought about equitable workplace—we thought it would be redundant to include it in mission statement as well.

Councillor Lubendo: possibility of comma after social?

VP Hofmeister: you can't amend reports

Councillor Ayakuwa: since the nest came out of demand on campus for SRC I think it would be stronger if we included the words student run

VP Hofmeister: is that a good idea since we haven't defined student run?

Councillor Ayakuwa: I think we should define what student run means first but I think that we should not accept or pass this if it doesn't say that the SRC isn't going to be student run

Pauline: I compare that to the bar: in mission statement it doesn't say student run, but it automatically is because it's part of society.

Councillor Stewart Kanigan: have something like student run in there because it seems to be a priority.

VP Hofmeister: I don't really have anything to say... Fair point.

President Larson: it should be for approval. We should try to motion again.

Councillor Rosentzveig: motion to table

Speaker: in order

Report tabled until amended.

## b. Funding Committee



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We have met 6 times since beginning of semester. 118 applications and 114 approved. Total requested amount is 210k. It drains us for club fund and closely for SLF. Divided groups by associations – 11 categories. I'm fairly happy with how distribution worked – 0% went to full status SSMU clubs. Faculty got the next biggest allocation. There was also a big amount of money that was allocated to bus given to a conference.

Possible controversial decisions were: the green fund is very heavily tapped into by EUS. One of the controversial decisions was McGill racing teams – while you may debate efficiency between oil and ethanol – we put stipulation must advertise and show good effects of ethanol.

Also choose life: pro-life clubs that has had issues with their status – we approved their funding but we make sure they run stuff by the equity commissioners so far everything's clear.

We did not meet this week because no quorum but next week is last meeting because we will run out of money by that point. Then it'll just be bylaws and issues of the year.

Councillor Benrimoh: question from constituents: wondering why they lost their 1k?

Rocheline : no need for a buffer

Councillor Stewart Kanigan: choose life funding – was that decision made with consultation with equity commissioners they said its fine as long as copy of promotional materials.

Rocheline: yes. They said it was fine last year.

Councillor Rosentzveig: thank Rocheline! Best coordinator amazing work!

Knows stuff really well funding would take so much longer without her

Rocheline: on that note though sorry but we ran into midterms season and that's what made it a lot harder.

**Motion to adopt VP Shea**

**Seconded by President Larson**

**Adopted.**

c. PARC

PARC commissioner:

Today talking about head Stewart's report. First of all page one: currently have 14 members, two left from last semester. As for advertising plan currently working on strategy currently not much funds so far list serves and social media quite a few services coming from Facebook. One of our members thought of doing an infographic. A way to see how PARC useful for them. Looking for a SSMU email address currently we have a Gmail address – not as legit. Make students more comfy coming up to us.



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Case reports: grad student case. Requester who based on personal experiences felt that McGill should adopt policy that defended degrees it conferred. Also should have intermediary role between students and grad supervisors. So we came up with policy passed out of SSMU advocating SSMU for a letter to McGill in favor of adopting policies. Currently for this case we're trying to pass legislation.

Food Case:

Person felt that structure for food plan is not really fair – money only rolls over one year, meal plan should never expire and carry on indefinitely. Limited dietary options – limited vegetarian options. Still in discussion with her and what she wants to do.

Current research being done on meal plan and policies and talking to this student.

### 3. External contract case

Student had a disagreement with contract of her organization with SSMU, SSMU, and a 3<sup>rd</sup> party. Separate views on what should be in contract. To resolve we've talked to 3<sup>rd</sup> party and looked at similar student associations to try to find precedents and better alternatives.

Retake case:

Student feels like they should be able to get a retake on a course when had a certain mark not for new credits. Working on a new policy where McGill students could retake course.

Last case is general research case – creation of new program at McGill.

Just to sum up the plan for the last month is to push cases forward and make ourselves more obvious to public and SSMU council. One idea we had was to reach out to community and faculty.

Councillor Southey: I tried to contact PARC in past couple of weeks. I couldn't find anything on internet. What advertising strategies?

Deagen: did you look for PARC? Our Facebook should have come up. The only one we have is a facebook one so far. We'd like a SSMU one.

Councillor Southey: in the interim would it be possible to create a free hosting site because the lack of any advertising is really troubling.

Deagen: I just searched now but yeah we will look up ways to advertise more. It would be good to get PARC more on SSMU website and from inside too. We do want to reach out to students. We've been trying and it's kind of hard.

Councillor Benrimoh: have you gotten in contact with FYC to put pamphlets in bags?

Deagen: yes. But those would require some funding too so we'd have to get funding.



d. Executive Committee

President Larson: apologize for late report.

New system for logging in and logging hours with SSMU. Also to cut down on manual entering of hours. The implementation costs come out of capital expenditure fund. The operation expenses won't affect us until next year. The approval of award ceremony lists goes out tonight. If you want to approve please to.

Councillor Ayakuwa: Do you think there's room in budget for operation expenses in next year's budget.

VP Hofmeister: ABSOLUTELY

Councillor Lubendo: when the applications for SSMU awards go out is it only through list serv of SSMU? My question is more about the exec archives, what are they, what's the info in policy?

President Larson: Id to cede my time to another exec.

VP Shea: So there was a huge archiving process at beginning of predecessors here. Not sure if Ryan wanted to send them or if they were requested, but we felt that we are independent organization from McGill so we just felt it would inappropriate to send it to McGill.

**Motion to approve President Larson**

**Seconded by VP Shea**

**Motion approved**

11) Reports by Executives

a. VP University Affairs

Question from Councillor Ibrahim: necessity to recognize: worth going forward to keep on doing that or ask CEDE and see what they think?

VP Shea: thought about this and Sam and I talked about because budget for the university is set. By the time Massey makes the presentation, the budget cut will already be approved. I don't really know. I thought we could chat at some point.

Councillor Ibrahim: is this an appropriate forum? Can we do it here?

Councillor Lubendo: regarding senate: in the last email about a month ago when they sent out an email about candidate I believe only 9 seats were filled how did it go all seats filled? How reallocated? Seemed like missing seats.

VP Shea: Only 11 elected seats and 2 reserved seats for UA and Presidents. So not sure.

Councillor Lubendo: it doesn't specify what happens after the senate doesn't get seats?



VP Shea: applications sent to council and council makes applications.

Nomination period within science and then voted on applications and I assume the same thing would happen but with council.

President Larson: clarification: the funding 20k is specific additional project funding. Just couldn't find money that is changing. In response Councillor Ibrahim: a good way to advocate for funding is through why we should give more money and what's missing.

Councillor Stewart Kanigan: comment important that funding is where student jobs are and where student engagement happens.

Councillor Ibrahim: it wasn't like they reversed any cuts but they were just clarifying plan to begin with.

VP Shea: project based funding. Most of what SEDE does is project based funding. People who work with SEDE aren't funded by SEDE. So I mean I think that since the issue hasn't gone away. Just because it's reinstated this year doesn't mean every year. We could close off campaign and send it directly to provost or something...

Councillor Lubendo: regarding saved seat didn't see info on how much actually lose in funding?

VP Shea: don't have specific numbers co is don't want to the reason we all know underfunding of SEDE is because certain people know that in the office. I technically don't know specific. SEDE is in an awkward position because they can't talk to media and complain about McGill. Very delicate position because we know about issues they face but we have to be careful how we disseminate info to media.

Councillor Ibrahim: I got confused to issue regarding how long you can stay at McGill?

VP Shea: really cool thing that started a few years ago about transfer credit people felt constrained by transfer credits and want to stay for 4 years instead of 3 you can.

- b. VP External
- c. VP Finance and Operations

Cc: report from nest

Gert's did phenomenally. 29k in January.

Councillor Ibrahim: Thank you for arranging for Gert policy and procedures to be distributed and I know the executive will be happy with this change.



Councillor Lubendo: Gert's Saint Patty's day. For October house – prices seemed to change throughout the night. I do remember when we had the night there was confusion – cover changed on poster. Is it really going to be clarified? I remember in the event it was confusing.

VP Hofmeister: Are you asking if we have promotional material to make sure people know the mugs are free? Yes.

Councillor Rosentzveig: unfavourable variance in 4floor?

VP Hofmeister: problem making budget for 4floors this year – a lot of security costs was not in department last year so if you look at year to year, it looks like security 7 times increased, but that's not the case. We budgeted for increased sales, but it didn't cover. If we had have known that, hindsight not ideal I also want to elaborate on faculty Olympics – been a lot more conservatively budgeted. Knowing 4floors we figured there's no way we would let that happen again. Brian sold 120 more spots than budgeted. 2k profit in recent conservative budget. Most conservative estimate.

d. President

Councillor Lubendo: Board of Directors ratified by GA – may not be that much of a rollover of councillors right now, what is the point of Board of Directors if need to be elected every year?

President Larson: now an online vote instead of GA. In the constitution. Not a line in bylaw yet. Trying it out this year.

12) Adjournment

**Motion to adjourn VP Shea**

**Seconded by President Larson**

**Adjourned at 8:39 pm**