



Recording Secretary | Secrétaire de séance

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Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories

Legislative Council

November 1, 2018

1. Call to Order - 6:09PM
2. Land Acknowledgement

Land acknowledgement is read by the Speaker.

3. Attendance

Absent: Councillor Sanchez, Councillor Scarra, Councillor Kara, Councillor Flaherty, Councillor Smit, Councillor Callaghan, Councillor Jayme & Councillor Milchberg

4. Approval of Minutes - **POSTPONED & APPROVED**

The Speaker tells the Council that there are two sets of minutes to be approved for this session. They are from October 11th and October 18th Legislative Council Sessions.

Senator Buraga **Moves to postpone the October 11th Minutes, seconded by Senator Lametti**

Voting Procedure:

Voting on the above motion - **POSTPONED - 21 - 2**

Senator Buraga **Moves to amend the October 18th Minutes to include the voting for responsible representation motion.** The Speaker notifies the Council that the minutes will be amended to reflect this change.

This October 18th minutes will be approved after this change has been made.

5. Adoption of the Agenda

The President **Motions to add the motion : Regarding GA Quorum to the Agenda - PASSES - 18 - 4**



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VP Wang Motions for the Finance Committee Report and VP Finance Report to be after the question period - Unanimously PASSES - 24 - 0

The President **Motions to add Motion about the Discretionary Funding with SACCOMS to the Agenda - PASSES - 24 - 1**

Senator Buraga **Motions to approve the agenda, seconded by VP Wang - PASSES - 23 - 2**

6. Report of the Steering Committee (3)

The Speaker reads out the steering committee report.

No questions are asked for this.

7. Guest Speakers (30)

a. Report of the Auditor (10)

Uros Milekic from FL Fuller Landau (the Auditor), projects the financial report to the Council via projector.

The Auditor explains that his accounting firm was tasked with performing the audit for SSMU.

The Auditor explains that his report is up until May 31, 2018 and that he will do a brief overview since there's a lot to go over. He explains that the only ones they comment on is Page 1 and 2 of report. He explains that auditing is the highest level of assurance for the SSMU financial statements. He says that Page 2 is "standard" since SSMU is a non-profit organization, and on page 2 the auditing firm says that they need to show that they can't always show the complete profits of frosh since it carries over. He also explains that the SSMU Daycare report are not in this report, but that it should be under the SSMU Statement, but that in the auditing report they have over 150 different clubs so they didn't account for it in this summary.

He shows the Council the Financial position or what they call "the balance sheet", showing a snapshot of what the SSMU owns and owes as of May 31, 2018. The first 2 columns shows the different funds they use and the last 2 columns shows the total of all of these funds. There is



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around 7 million in profit this year, and there was around 8 million the year prior for the auditing. He explains that the reason this is different is due to a bigger surplus last year. Explains that it is still an outstanding report because of when certain revenues get received and when surpluses come in accounts for variable, given that this is only until May 31, 2018.

He explains that in the statement for the financial position the last item under transfer show how different funds get allocated. All those different funds are representing the different funds transferred. A big “swing” on the financial statement are the capital assets, and a building that was purchased on the fiscal year of 2018, referencing the building on peal and shows the the amount that it cost (4.3 million), this includes the land, equipment, the maintenance, the building, etc. The dental and health reserve fund increased to 1.9 million, and the reason for this difference was due to the difference in when certain funds get brought to the SSMU. The timing of funding makes this auditing report different.

Senator Buraga asks about the potential for long-term debt in the SSMU financial statement. The Auditor explains that the SSMU was loaned 3.2 million dollars for the rental of the building and that the payment is matured in March 2023 and that is a fixed rate. What's payable over the last two months shows what is in this current portion and shows the payment over the next two years. In 2023, there's a huge “balloon” amount and the reason is because if the SSMU didn't renew with the bank, it would have to owe this amount of money. The report theoretically shows that this long-term debt won't all be due at this time.

The auditor explains that if you take a number and some equation then it calculates your long-term debts. The auditor thinks the equation is cool. He explains that there are revenues at the top, this is the financial statement that he's explaining. The 1st line is student fees, and the health and dental premiums. Explains that if the premiums increase, the cost increases. Explains that there are many students that are covered by health and dental and if there is a premium increase, it can explain the variance. May 2017 was the closure of the student-run cafe as opposed to previous years, so there was a zero (0) as opposed to the previous years. There was some “trickle down” costs that incurred for the equipment and it came in in 2018, so that's why there's a cost there, but it should be a “flat zero (0)” by 2019. Explains that if you were to average out, the SSMU would have 2.8% return according to the report. He explains the changes in fair market value and that there is a difference in standards and costs because it has to cover the value of the governmental “fair market” due to SSMU's status as a Non-Profit organization. The SSMU is allowed to present something separate since it represents many clubs, citing the \$8.1 million in revenue in clubs, it is consistent.



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He explains the large variation from other years due to the the SSMU building rental fee which “makes sense” given the building acquisition on peel. He Explain that the funding expense has gone up \$247,000 to \$489,000. He explains that a payment was made in August 2018, and that it will be a part of it 2019. He shows the long-term debt in the report and the interest that SSMU will have to owe.

Councillor Sanchez enters Legislative Council at 6:35PM

He explains that the next page is statement of cash flows. This is a reconciliation in the statement in cash flows, if you were taking the capital of capital assets and the acquisition of capital assets. He explains that as of “page 6”, it’s all the notes. The notes cover everything that the auditor spoke about. It is “standard notes” since the SSMU follows non-profit standards and therefore these are the regulations.

The auditor explains that the very last page deals with complimentary information (part of appendices). He explains that he went over in detail in revenue and it goes over the “net” of what they went over in the presentation. It’s just looking at the operating fund.

The auditor thanks Legislative Council for their time and if they have questions please feel free to ask him now or later.

Councillor Sanchez asks what the “820” for “general administration” cover? The Auditor explains that the revenue side is: Daycare administration, health and dental reserve fund (but it’s not directly attributed) and that the expenses are salaries of administration, such as the SSMU Executives.

Councillor Sanchez asks if “ranges of salary” are included in the financial statement. The Auditor explains that it’s not required to put it in the financial report to be audited, unless it is an explicit request. He explains that the salary split is in their files, but it doesn’t have to be in the report.

Senator Lametti asks if there are “gains and losses” from the specific clubs that are not required and if the auditor could explain some of the clubs that bring in alot of money and which ones are at a huge loss. The Auditor explains that it is shown there, but it is “netted”, so you can see the clubs’ revenue, but it’s only in one line for all clubs. The auditor says that if you want to go over each of the 150 clubs, the Council can, but it takes time. However, he explains that there are clubs that are above or below average on revenue/loss. The Auditor



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explains that they have the information, but it is not required to show in the report, but it's up to the Council to decide if they want to see this information.

Sanchez asks a follow-up to her previous questions, asking if there is a privacy concern regarding the division of salaries. The Auditor says that his firm doesn't show the divided salaries on the report so that it's not viewable for each specific person getting money.

Councillor Sanchez asks if the firm doesn't show the specific individuals' salaries due to privacy standards. The Auditor explains that the way the budget is shown is "fine", since it doesn't violate any privacy or confidentiality. He explains that this is the standard way of doing it where it just shows "salaries" in one grouping, without violating the privacy of the individuals' personal salaries.

Senator Buraga asks if there is any legal prohibition against showing who is making exactly what in terms of money for each SSMU executive. The Auditor explains that you need to check from the Quebec bylaws if that is allowed. He explains that from an accounting perspective, you would put that in an appendix and you have to make sure there is "value" added in providing this information. The Auditor recommends that the Council checks with their legal counsel to show they haven't violated anything within the bylaws if they proceed with pursuing these measures.

b. Indigenous Affairs Presentation (10)

Tomas Jirousek, the SSMU Indigenous Commissioner presents in the front of the Legislative Council. He is the head of the Change the Name Campaign.

Jirousek gives information on the presentation, explaining that he will be discussing the history of the change the name campaign, where the campaign is going right now and what the campaign needs from the Council to proceed.

Jirousek explains that in 1926, the redmen name is given to the Men's Varsity Team. He explains that what Stanley Frost's account on the origin of the Redmen name doesn't account for the racist connotations it is associated with the "Redmen" name. Frost claimed that the name comes from the varsity athletes' jersey colour or James McGill's Celtic origins.

Jirousek explains that the term "Indians" and "Squaws" were used for the varsity athletes throughout the year book and in common use around McGill, particularly the male and



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female hockey teams. He also explains that McGill put indigenous symbols depicted on the athletes' jerseys. Jirousek explains that even when the Varsity Council bans the symbol in 1992, they still wear the logo and use derogatory connotation towards indigenous peoples of the varsity teams.

McGill History Professor Downey, explains that it's psychologically and sociologically damaging for indigenous athletes and indigenous people across campus. Jirousek explains that there are only 23 indigenous students on campus when he first enrolled at McGill and that there are no tenured Indigenous professors, in addition to no Indigenous staff. The reason for this is because of McGill's hostile environment towards indigenous peoples.

A task force was created for the indigenous response in how to better respond to the derogatory nature of McGill's policies towards indigenous peoples. The task force explains that by refusing to change the "redmen" name, there is constant damage done to the athletes and students on campus. There is slow progress done on changing the name, even though there have been many calls to do so, and it feels muted. Important to note that in the working group, Sidney Blackhawk, the sole indigenous representative, wasn't able to make any working group meetings. Jirousek explains that the failure to meet Blackhawk's accommodations shows how the working group couldn't effectively solve the problem.

Jirousek explains that one of McGill University's goals is to have 1000 indigenous students, but this will never happen as long as the redmen name remains and McGill University refuses to take action. Jirousek explains that the demonstration was yesterday, where there were 500-700 people and the drumming group was amazing. He explains that his group is opening up a series of town halls and that there is a ground campaign going on where indigenous students will be tabling and will be providing information on the vote that is to come. Many statements are coming from professors, athletes, alumni, students and other open letters as well.

Jirousek then explains how the Legislative Council can help. Jirousek calls on the President, VP Shapiro and VP Esterle to help in answering this call for help. Jirousek wants people to share the open-letter on their social medias, via faculty and personally. He explains that the referendum period for the name change is from November 9 to 12 and while it is non-binding it will show a powerful image of where the student body stands on this issue. Jirousek explains how the Councillors should be directing their open letters to the working group to make change.



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Senator Buraga asks when the open letter/petition will be sent in officially. Jirousek answers there is no clear date, but that he is waiting on collecting letters from professors and other staff. Jirousek explains how his group wants more strength especially after the vote.

Bazylykut asks how to send letters if they're drafted. Jirousek explains that the Councillors should email him and that his group can publicize it.

VP Shapiro asks about writing into the working group and how the Council can do it. Jirousek says that the final draft will be released on December 6 and says they want the letters in by December 1. Jirousek explains that there will be two letter writing sessions, where his group can help out their “letter writing pursuits” and the relationship between indigenous students and non-indigenous students.

The President asks if the Councilors should just do personal sign-offs on letters or should the Council focus on more faculty student association letters like the Nursing Association is doing via Councillor Bazylykut’s statements. Jirousek says the more the better via faculties and personally.

c. Environment Committee Presentation (10)

A presentation is made by Alison and Caroline, the sustainability commissioners. They explain that there is a steady flow of 40 members attending the meetings. They go over the things they have been doing over the year. Explained the first thing they organized was an apple-picking trip on October 20. They want to spread awareness about where food comes from and how to make more sustainable food choices. They are also asking professors to be converting their assignment via online submission, instead of paper.

They want to initiate a program of electronic recycling. Previously it was with the company “electrobin” and it was when the ARQ was subsidizing this for the SSMU, but it cannot do so right now because it would cost \$1300 for 3 years, since the ARQ has to decide the location of the bin and thus the subsidy with it. They claim that it's not a good use of money if they have to pay this much, because previously the ARQ would do it for free.

Also, they explain how they want a sustainability video showing where their trash goes. They are trying to work with Dean of Students on this initiative.



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They explain that environmental workshops are to be held in schools in the Montreal community, where they would go to high schools in Montreal, both in English and French. They will teach high school students how they can be more sustainable in their everyday lives.

They are trying to improve bike parking on campus as part of the vision 2020. They explain that the association in charge of bike racks on campus says they need more student feedback to proceed and they are trying to do that themselves right now via this presentation to the Council.

They explain that another initiative they have is about waste management and how to reduce/sort it better to do better in the McGill community.

They are trying to do a social media campaign about “no waste November” and how to reduce their own waste. Also, about how to make your own deodorant and how get your food in bulk and how to reduce your plastic usage.

They explain that they have an event on November 18, called upcycle DIY event where they explain how to make tote bags from jeans and how to make pillow cases out of reusable materials. They explain the continuation of the event and how to promote it more. They explain also how to make homemade detergents.

They are in the preliminary stages in how to make solar panels and green roofs for Solin Hall. They are applying for the SDF grant to make a better use of Solin Hall and self-watering on the roof.

Councillor Figueiredo asks how to get student feedback and what are “fishy” things going around the bike racks. Alison explains that the Student feedback will be done via a form and how there is a senator on the physical spaces of outdoor campus spaces and working alongside this senator to try and get some sort of student feedback.

Councillor Hersh asks how can the commissioners implement “do it yourself toothpaste” and urges people not to do “no fluoride” in their homemade toothpaste. Montreal does not have fluoride in their drinking water.

Councillor Kara comes in at 7:14pm.



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Councillor Sanchez asks if social sustainability is in the committee mandate. Alison explains that it's economic, social and environmental stability they focus on. The Commissioners explain that in this training that they include social sustainability, such as physical accessible spaces in their training.

Councillor Sanchez asks about if herbal dental sticks are “dental approved”. Councillor Hersh laughs.

Senator Buraga asks about Bixi stations on campus and if the commissioners can advocate for more bixi stations on campus. Alison explains that it is a contract issue since it's an external organization and that the McGill Administration would have to get involved. Explains that this is difficult because the money has to go to education and that anything that goes onto campus is because of contracts.

8. Announcements (5)

VP Wang explains that there is a VP Finance assistant position up for application on the SSMU website. He encourages the Council to promote this application.

Councillor Kleiner explains that the Social Work Students Association (SWSA) that all social work students are going on strike, citing how they have 800+ hours of unpaid internships as part of their degrees. They explain that all social work classes will be cancelled for the days of November 19-23.

The President explains that there is an open forum next week by the Special Investigator and invites Councillors to come. This will take place Monday, November 1.

VP Shapiro announces that the Code of Student Conduct is undergoing consultations and there is no official date, but students should get involved.

Senator Buraga announces that the Bachelor of Arts “Black and White BASIC event” will be taking place on November 8 at midnight and invites people to share the facebook event.

Councillor Sanchez thanks everyone who was involved in the SSMU DayCare Halloween Initiative.



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The Speaker has announcements to make. He reminds that Councillors that they are encouraged to speak in French and related, submission of late motions is heavily disregarded because a translation cannot come in time. Secondly, everyone is encouraged to speak in French, as per SSMU Internal Regulations. Thirdly, the Fall accountability survey will be distributed next Council session and will be showed at the end where the Councillors can fill it out.

VP Esterle asks about the speaking in French announcement and if it has to be bilingual. The Speaker explains that as per the SSMU Internal Regulations, you are only encouraged to, you don't have to say a part in French if you do not wish to.

9. Question Period (5)

Senator Buraga asks the President when can the students can expect to see the updated Internal Regulations Guidelines (IRG) and other governmental documents (policy book) on the SSMU website. The President answers by saying that they will be updated soon pending Board of Directors (BoD) approval.

Councillor Pilote says that from the September 13 Council session, the VP External Report showed that there was supposed to be a survey from the AEUQ, but asks why aren't they involved in the survey now. The President says the SSMU is being encouraged not to take in this report because it did not have an effective English translation.

A member of the gallery, Asa Kohn asks a question for Councillor Stemper, asking if she can speak a little about how she communicates with the IRC, how she communicates about the Hall Councils and how she decides how to vote on the Legislative Council. Councillor Stemper responds that she makes these decisions via meetings on Sunday where she has an allotted time of 5 minutes to talk about what she should say on the Legislative Council.

Senator Buraga Motions to extend the Question Period by 5 minutes, VP McLaughlin seconded - PASSES Unanimously 26 - 0

Member from Gallery asks about when specifically the Inter-Residence Council (IRC) meetings are and where. Councillor Stempers answers that they are on Sundays 1:30pm-3:00pm and that it is located in a different residence every single week. She explains that only the VP Externals, IRC Executives and Presidents attend, so that if the Member of the Gallery would like to bring up an issue it would have to be through their Resident's President or VP External.



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Senator Lametti asks if there are updates on replacing the SSMU VP External. The President explains that the report for the VP External will be read during this Council Session and there an update will be provided.

Senator Buraga asks VP McLaughlin about the “Children of the Corn” SSPN event and the buses problem. VP McLaughlin explains the event’s bussing was organized via “Bus.com” sent an email to VP McLaughlin, explaining that six buses would not be returning due to smoking, alcoholic drinking and vomiting on the buses from event attendees. VP McLaughlin explains that he talked to the Bus.com President and he talked to Bus company President, and he talked to many people including: the Dean of Students and Mac-Campus Security, but no buses/shuttles could take these students home. In the end the SSPN settled on taxis, Ubers and Teos, as transportation hope and that SSMU would reimburse these fees. The total is under \$10,000 for reimbursements so far.

Senator Buraga Motion to extend the current Question Period by 5 minutes, seconded by Senator Lametti - PASSED 20 - 4

VP McLaughlin explains that the SSPN will use this experience to learn from it.

Member of the Gallery asks about the IRC, asking how often do the IRC representatives talk about SSMU matters since the Residence students don’t have access to them. Councillor Stemper says the meetings aren’t inaccessible since you can talk about your opinions to the VP External and President, and that the member of the gallery can talk to her after the Council to clearly understand the questions being posed.

Senator Buraga asks how high will the reimbursement cost get for the Children of the Corn. VP McLaughlin explains that a cap on the time to submit a reimbursement will be later this week or the weekend, but doesn’t expect that much higher of an amount than already stated.

Councillor Sanchez asks about the training that SSPN Coordinators received. VP McLaughlin says that there hasn’t been many trainings due to the planning of the Halloween event and that the individuals are qualified since they have event planning experience.

Councillor Sanchez asks that if the SSPN members don’t receive equity training, why did they organize such a large event. VP McLaughlin says they got this training in another capacity and that they will train them via SSMU soon.



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Senator Buraga asks where will SSMU get this \$10000+ of money to cover the costs. VP McLaughlin says that they will apply for funding to deal with the issue.

Senator Buraga asks what happened with this event given that Beach Day did better with buses. VP McLaughlin explains that there was a coordinator on every bus to deal with the excessive drinking.

Senator Buraga **Motions to extend question period by 2 minutes, seconded by Councillor Sanchez - FAILS 9 - 17**

As per the earlier motion, the Council is moving onto the Finance Committee Report.

Finance Committee Report:

VP Wang reads out the Finance Committee Report.

VP Wang highlights that there is a massive SSMU Fees surplus, so the Committee wants to throw it in into various funds like the charity fund and also into services like the referral services since the service fees also got a massive surplus. VP Wang also explains how the committee got extended to members-at-large.

Question Period:

Councillor Sanchez asks about the massive surpluses and if it can be put into the discretionary funding. VP Wang says maybe, but we need to see if the committee can even do this through legal counsel.

Councillor Sanchez asks isn't it in the bylaws to submit 20% of the surplus to this funding. VP Wang says that the Quebec law supersedes the SSMU laws, so they cannot do this unless they get legal counsel.

Councillor Sanchez asks when the decision will be made by the CRE. VP Wang says that he doesn't know.

Report of the VP Finance:

VP Wang reads out his report.



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Highlights include the discussion about the Long-term debt that they have with RBC with the building mortgage. VP Wang explains that the SSMU is in transition between November 5-14 and the clubs should know since he notified them.

There are no questions.

10. Business Arising/Referred [10]

a. Approval of Fall 2017 SSMU General Assembly Minutes - **APPROVED**

The President explains that the reason this has to be done via the Council is because the General Assembly did not reach quorum on this in the Fall 2018 session.

The President asks if this includes the he/she pronoun changes to be neutral, and it does as confirmed by the Speaker.

Councillor Sanchez says that this isn't necessary to ask this since all gender pronouns are made neutral in steering committee. The Speaker confirms this.

The minutes are approved.

VP Wang leaves at 7:50pm.

b. Approval of Winter 2018 SSMU General Assembly Minutes - **APPROVED**

The minutes are Approved.

Councillor Sanchez Motions to move the Motion Regarding Restoration of Discretionary Funding for SACOMSS to now, seconded by VP McLaughlin - PASSES Unanimously 27 - 0

Moved by: Councillor Sanchez (Arts), Councillor Scarra (Arts), Councillor Figueiredo (Arts), the President and VP Esterle

The President defers to the SACOMSS Employee to give the explanation. Meg is the VP Finance of SACOMSS and gives the explanation of the motion.



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She reads the motion and gives an explanation, in addition to the mandate of SACCOMS. Meg explains that SACOMSS needs discretionary funding since it will assure they can operate more-so and they can get it now in their approval of their new financial position. They want it in their mandate now to be able to access and get this funding. However, this can only be done via a voting process and hence why this motion is brought before the Legislative Council.

Question Period:

Question for Jasmine, VP External of SACOMSS, from Councillor Sanchez, asking about they feel on the motion. Jasmine replies by saying it's super important for this to be passed.

Senator Buraga asks about how this will fit into the financial report (as given by auditor). Councillor Sanchez says it will fit until the bylaws are changed.

Senator Lametti asks how long has it been since discretionary funding has not been given to SACOMSS. Meg explains that it hasn't been given since 2016, due to missing this portion in a 2016 audit report.

Buraga seeks clarifications on the by-laws and Councillor Sanchez answers that the reason this needs to be done this way is via the constitution.

Senator Lametti explains that "it's allowed until it's not" regarding the by-laws to the President and what will be the effect if the SSMU cannot do this form of funding for SACOMSS unless the Quebec law passes (CRA) and they vote it down and say it's not allowed. The President says that they will do the funding until it's not allowed by the CRA.

Debate:

Councillor Sanchez encourages everyone to vote yes because of the amazing work SACOMSS does and to fix the issue that the group has been facing due to a constitutional error.

Senator Lametti **Motions to postpone the motion indefinitely, no one seconded it, so Lametti's motion fails.**

Senator Buraga voices support for this motion and so that they can continue their good-work due to this financial problem they have via the SSMU constitution and by-law problems.



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Senator Buraga **Motions to amend by adding a clause to this motion that says the Council endorses this motion for the referendum, seconded by Sanchez**

Debate: no debate

Voting Procedure:

Voting on Senator Buraga's Amendment - **PASSES Unanimously 26 - 0 - 2**

Voting Procedure:

Voting on SACOMSS Motion with the Amendment - **APPROVED Unanimously 25 - 0**

VP Esterle **Motions to move the VP Student Life Report to now, seconded by Councillor Sanchez - PASSES Unanimously**

VP Esterle reads out their report. Highlights include: meeting with Enrollment services, Club listserv, meeting with Mac Campus student society to talk about club procedure on their side and meeting with McGill to talk about campus.

Question Period:

Question from Councillor Abdelhamid about if the VP Student Life would like to talk about space in the athletics building for clubs space. VP Esterle says yes.

- c. Motion Regarding Nomination of Directors for the 2018-2019 Board of Directors
2018-10-29 [5] - APPROVED

Moved by: The President, VP Esterle, Councillor Hersh (Dentistry), Councillor Price (Engineering) and Councillor Lyons (Science)

The President **Motions to Amend this Motion by adding Lucille Xiang to the be the 4th Member-at-Large for the BoD to the be-it-resolved clause, seconded by Councillor Bazylykut**



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The President explains that they forgot to add her and she was approved recently at the time of this draft, so that it why it is a late addition.

No debate

Voting for the President's Amendment - PASSES Unanimously 27 - 0

The President **Motions for Lucille Xiang to also be added to the whereas clause as well.**

The Speaker explains that this is allowed since Lucille Xiang has been added to the be it resolved clause and no one was opposed to it.

Voting on the President's second Amendment - PASSES Unanimously 27 - 0

Senator Buraga makes a point of parliamentary inquiry, asking if the motion goes to referendum and the Speaker says yes it does even with these amendments.

- d. Motion Regarding the Nomination of the Auditor for the Fiscal Year of 2019
2018-10-29 [5] - APPROVED Unanimously

Moved by: VP Wang, the President, Councillor Hersh (Dentistry), Councillor Price(Engineering), Councillor Lyons (Science) and Senator Buraga.

No debates or questions for this occur.

Voting Procedure:

Voting on this Motion - APPROVED Unanimously 25 - 0

VP Esterle leaves at 8:16PM

11. Old Business [10]

- a. Motion Regarding Amendments to the Standing Rules of Council 2018-10-18
[10] - APPROVED

Moved by: Councillor Figueiredo (Arts), Councillor Sanchez (Arts), Councillor Karia (Arts), Senator Buraga, Councillor Flaherty (Clubs) and Councillor Hersh (Dentistry)



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Councillor Figueiredo **Motions to Amend with the shown amendments on the screen, seconded by Senator Lametti**

Debate on Amendment:

Councillor Figueiredo explains that it's good that TVM is here and the amendment reflects this change.

Voting on Amendment - PASSES Unanimously - 26 - 0

Voting Procedure:

Voting on the motion with the amendment - **APPROVED 25 - 1**

12. New Business [40]

a. Motion Regarding Changes Made to Referendum Questions 2018-11-01 [5]

Moved by: The President, Councillor Price (Engineering) and Councillor Cossette (PT/OT)

The President reads out the motion. Explains that it's basic changes. Originally included a different year, but made the year change to be "consistent".

Questions:

Senator Lametti asks what's the removal of the CPI clause. The President explains because McGill doesn't offer it.

Senator Lametti asks about Clause 4 and what they think about the language of the question. The President says it's fair to move.

Senator Lametti asks if it is possible to change this question given that the referendum is coming soon. The President says they can, and shoot an email to the Student Life, but that it might be difficult to do so if they want to change this in time.

The Speaker notifies the Council that the Gender Neutral bathroom is still there even though the sign fell.



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Debate:

Senator Buraga **Motions to amend the motion by striking the “and non-existence of the fee”**, but withdraws it afterwards

Senator Lametti **Motions to amend the motion by striking “from absence to and” in the Anti-Violence clauses, seconded by the President**

Debate on Amendment:

Senator Lametti says that a referendum shouldn't decide if we lose funding

Voting on Amendment: PASSES Unanimously 25 - 0 - 1

Debate on Motion in its entirety:

Senator Buraga Motions to Divide the Question with Clause 4, no seconders, so Buraga's amendment motion FAILS

Voting Procedure:

Voting on the Motion in its entirety with the Amendment - **PASSES Unanimously 22 - 0 - 3**

b. Motion Regarding Internal Regulations Updates 2018-11-01 [5] - **APPROVED**

Moved by: The President, Councillor Price (Engineering) and Councillor Cossette (PT/OT)
The President explains the motion. He explains that Members-at-Large can replace BoD members on BoD, if the BoD position is vacant.

Questions:

Senator Buraga asks can we do this or would BoD just have to re-ratify this? The President explains that the Council can do this since the BoD sent it back to the Council to have it ratified.

Debate:



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The President **Motions to amend the motion to reflect the new changes that includes the strikeouts, seconded by Senator Buraga**

No debate on this.

Voting on Amendment - PASSES Unanimously 24 - 0 - 1

There is no more debate points on the main motion.

Voting Procedure:

Voting on motion with amendments - **APPROVED Unanimously 22 - 0 - 3**

c. Motion Regarding French Translation of SSMU Documents 2018-11-01 [10]

Moved by: Councillor Hu (First Year Council), Councillor Hersh (Dentistry), Councillor Figueiredo (Arts) and Councillor Frenette (Engineering)

Councillor Hu explains the motion. Councillor Hu says that to respect the SSMU constitution, there must be the IRC and FYC Constitution in French, but in reality it isn't right now.

Question:

Senator Lametti asks why is this a motion if it's guaranteed by the constitution. Hu agrees, but feels like there's nothing done, so has a motion to ensure this.

Senator Lametti asks the same question to VP McLaughlin. VP McLaughlin agrees that it has to be done.

Councillor Sanchez asks if there could be penalties if the SSMU doesn't follow the French translation in the SSMU Constitution to ensure this doesn't happen again. Hu agrees and say they want enforcement for this.

Debate:



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Councillor Figueiredo explains that we need to be open for the participation of our francophone students and this motion reflects that we are inclusive to them.

Councillor Karia asks who would do the translation for this motion and when is a realistic timeline for this. The Speaker explains that this is a question for the mover.

VP McLaughlin says there are two translators on staff that can be doing this, specifically under the VP Internal portfolio. This way it can be mandated for VP McLaughlin to do this motion.

Councillor Sanchez says she has concerns with this motion since there is no timeline with this. Moreover, she is concerned with penalties and wants to explore more mechanisms of enforcement.

Senator Lametti says he agrees with all the suggestions brought up by Council. But, there are barriers for francophone students and penalties aren't necessary since the issue at hand is to translate not penalize.

VP Shapiro says he agrees and will vote with anything regarding this.

Councillor Frenette advises the VP Internal on making an amendment for a realistic timeline for a constitutional timeline.

Councillor Sanchez **Motions to Postpone this motion to the Next Council Session**

Councillor Kleiner leaves at 8:44pm.

Senator Buraga Motions to Lay on the Table this Motion, seconded by Councillor Figueiredo - PASSES

The Speaker informs the Council that according to Robert's Rules, Senator Buraga's motion takes precedence.

Voting Procedure:

Voting on Senator Buraga's Motion to Lay on the Table this Motion - **PASSES - 16 - 8**



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- d. Motion Regarding VP UA Mandate to Advocate for S/U Grading Option

2018-11-01 [20] - APPROVED

Moved by: The President, VP Shapiro, Councillor Price (Engineering), Councillor Figueiredo (Arts), Senator Buraga, Councillor Frenette (Engineering), Councillor Cossette (PT/OT), Councillor Qiu (Science), Councillor Scarra (Arts) and Councillor Sanchez (Arts)

VP Shapiro explains the motion by saying it got brought up at the Senate and now wants it to be democratically approved via this Council. Explains there was some opposition of this in the Senate to this motion.

Question:

Senator Buraga asks what are the criticisms. VP Shapiro says that the criticisms regarding the S/U question are: this will inflate grades, this will ruin McGill's reputation but saying that some classes are only S/U and that students can retake class with this proposed change. VP Shapiro explains that this isn't true because you can't re-take an S/U class, unless you purposely failed a class. Says these are misguided concerns and that he thinks this motion should pass.

Senator Lametti thanks VP Shapiro for his great work. Lametti asks if the motion is to reaffirm the mandate or do something different, because they don't want to repeat for the sake of repeating. VP Shapiro explains that the Council can answer if this is a worthy thing of VP Shapiro's time, and whether or not this should be included in the mandate.

Councillor Hersh asks if this issue has been brought up the McGill BoD and what is the opposition to this. VP Shapiro explains that there minimal push-back since many faculties and admin think that this is a good idea. VP Shapiro believes it would benefit many students and it isn't a sweeping large change. An upside should this policy change happen is that students who are enjoying the class, but are S/U, but are on track of an A, can thus use this policy change to achieve that higher grade.

Councillor Sanchez Motions to Extend the Questions Period by 1 minute, seconded by Councillor Karia - FAILS 6 - ?

The speaker notes that the clear opposition didn't warrant a vote count since they would not achieve a simple majority to pass this motion.



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Debate:

Senator Buraga notes that he sits on the Senate academic committee and explains that it was the first thing brought up and says that overall the faculty/administration are in support of this and Senator Buraga says he is in support of this as well. He believes saying this a great idea to take their courses in this way, and understands hesitation, but the problems people have with this ISAC can take it on.

Councillor Yang explains that Education Students are in favour of this motion because it makes sense since students deserve a 2nd chance if they are doing well in an S/U clas.

Councillor Figueiredo explains that this motion got opposition from one of their Arts constituents via email, citing that it would ruin the reputation of McGill since it would make students to just wait around to get an easy A and playing it safe until they know they can get an A. The emailer worries that this could set a dangerous precedent.

Councillor Frenette explains the value of the proposed change since an S can mean an A even though it says an S, but with this system they would ensure an A when they rightfully deserve it.

Councillor Karia asks if a class that goes from S/U to an A (or another letter grade) will show up on the student's transcript.

VP Shapiro says that the Deputy Provost brought up VP Shapiro's idea at the ISAC meeting, but doesn't want to take credit for it. VP Shapiro says that it gives people an incentive to get an A this way and an S means more than just "they are trying something out".

Senator Lametti states that this isn't what the motion is about, the motion is about re-affirming the VP University Affairs' Mandate, so he will vote against this motion and explains that the incentive to get an A in an S/U fashion is actually counter-productive, since it goes against exploring class options.

Councillor Sanchez asks how much recommended time is left in the debate and the Speaker says 2 minutes.



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VP Shapiro acknowledges the previous remarks and says that he has 2 points worth mentioning. He explains that the fact if we are in the context of a GPA, the willpower is different and this will give an example of how someone can explore something new with the S/U option and go out of their comfort zone.

Councillor Figueiredo believes he made up his mind and says he believes the Council is debating the meat of this motion not the actual motion. He believes Councillor Frenette made a good point and that the Council should vote in favour of this motion.

VP Shapiro explains he is ready to talk to anyone about this issue and that one of his motivations for this motion is that there is value in this in students who want to work harder. He states that the university should be encouraged to make students' lives easier with these academic rewards for hard work in S/U classes.

Senator Lametti rejects the idea that good grades are bad rewards for hard-work, he believes that S/U course changes will change the way S/U courses are perceived by students.

Councillor Hersh disagrees with Senator Lametti by the fact that students who take "bird courses" will not have to worry about students who will have their GPA "tanked".

Councillor Hobbs explains that the S/U option is hopeful in the Work-Study program and the fact it can change something into an A can make students' lives easier for their GPA.

Senator Buraga clarifies the S/U option to Council, saying it can only be for 10% of classes and only for electives. This motion allows more flexibility for a students' courses. Regarding the motion, this motion shouldn't have happened since it's re-affirming the mandate, which shouldn't be the reason for this motion. Senator Buraga explains that there is no need for a debate and this shouldn't happen in the future.

Voting Procedure:

Voting on the Motion in its entirety - **APPROVED - 17 - 4 - 4**

Senator Buraga **Motions to Take from the Table the French Translation Motion, seconded by Lametti - PASSES Unanimously 25 - 0**

Return to Debate on the Main Motion Regarding French Translation:



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VP McLaughlin explains that he will motion for the amendment soon. First, he has an open question to the Council about what defines the timeline and when is a timeline.

Councillor Sanchez **Motions to Postpone the Motion to Next Council, seconded by Councillor Karia**

Debate:

Councillor Pilote explains that this should not be postponed until the next session and wants it done now.

Councillor Sanchez says she would rather see it done well, and believes it should be delayed, so that it will be fully fleshed out so that it would be better for them.

VP McLaughlin says he will start regardless very soon on the contents of this motion.

Councillor Figueiredo says that based on this the SSMU should be mandated via Vp McLaughlin to get the translators to get the job done.

Councillor Hu explains that the word “immediately” is powerful in this regard.

Senator Lametti explains that we are debating about the postponing of the motion.

Senator Buraga explains that he will be voting against this because VP McLaughlin says he will work on it immediately and that the Council should trust him and set clear deadlines for him.

Voting Procedure:

Voting on postponing the motion to next council - **FAILS 1 - 24**

Debate on Main Motion:

Senator Lametti lends support to the current motion on the table. He says this isn't the job of the Council, it's the job of the Executive to do so.



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Senator Buraga is worried about the SSMU translators and says if anyone in the Council can answer this question if SSMU can get better translators that are comfortable to do the French translation of a legal document. He explains that it's more complicated than a regular document and wants to make sure they can handle the task.

VP McLaughlin explains he will ensure the translators are comfortable with this by asking them and if not, he will make adequate adjustments.

Councillor Hersh **Motions to call the question, seconded by Councillor Hu - PASSES Unanimously 25 - 0**

Voting Procedure:

Voting on the motion in its entirety - **PASSES Unanimously 24 - 0 - 1**

e. Motion Regarding Amendments to the Constitution for GA Quorum 2018-11-01

Moved by: The President, VP Shapiro and Councillor Price (Engineering)

Councillor Figueiredo Motions to Object to the Consideration of the Question

The Speaker explains that it requires a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority and that it rejects it even coming up as a question to be discussed.

Voting on Councillor Figueiredo's Objection Motion - FAILS 5 - 18

Senator Buraga **Makes a Point of Order on the Motion since it violates the constitution, it can only be done via the Referendum not Council and therefore the Motion must be struck.**

The President answers this point by explaining the motion is brought up last second and that it will be amended to put this motion to referendum instead of having the Council amend the constitution, since yes it can only be via referendum.

The Speaker explains he rules Senator Buraga's point invalid.

Senator Buraga **Challenges the Speaker's decision, seconded by Councillor Figueiredo**



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Voting on this Speaker Challenge - FAILS 5 - 19

Senator Buraga **Makes a point of order saying this motion is unconstitutional since you need four movers.** The Speaker rules Senator Buraga's point invalid.

Senator Buraga Motions to appeal the Speaker's Decision - FAILS 2 - 20

The Speaker notes that some Councillors didn't vote, but let's it go due to clear opposition.

Senator Lametti **makes a Parliamentary Inquiry if they can penalize people who obstruct and purposely lengthy Council.** The Speaker takes note of this.

The President explains this motion, saying that he wants to **reduce** the quorum because the SSMU doesn't have a choice because they **never reach quorum at their General Assemblies.**

Question:

Senator Lametti asks why is this being brought up **so late** if this needs to wait for referendum. The President thought it would be a short **debate**, clearly not, will delay it if need be.

Senator Buraga asks if it's fair for the Council to only have 1 day to propose such an important motion. The President explains this is unfair and agrees with Buraga. The President explains he will delay the motion if need be, but thought there would be little opposition and apologizes.

Councillor Frenette asks if it's logically feasible to have faculty diversification in this motion. The President believes they used to ensure diversification and agrees with it, but the core of the problem is people at the General Assembly (GA), not the diversification of students. The President believes it is an urgent matter to deal with. After seeing the VP Finance election almost lose quorum, he's worried about this reaching quorum.

VP Shapiro asks what are the President's goals for the GA. The President explains that he does have other goals should this be passed.

Senator Buraga **Motions to extend Question Period by 5 minutes, seconded by Councillor Figueiredo - FAILS 10 - 13**



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Debate:

Councillor Figueiredo believes 0.5% of the student body dictating student governance isn't fair. He wants to know if there is something else we can do, because it is unsafe if we allow only 150 students to dictate the SSMU. Believes that online voting should be part of this motion.

Councillor Sanchez forgot her point.

Senator Lametti believes that the President was the one who motioned to raise quorum last year in his role as Senator but that regardless it's the students who decide on quorum via referendum votes. Senator Lametti believes that such a quick proposal of a motion and such a short time given the referendum isn't fair. He explains that he will vote against the motion.

Councillor Pilote believes it is unacceptable to discuss the constitution as a late motion. It should've been prepared in advance.

The President explains that legally the SSMU needs a GA, and that 150 students wouldn't dictate the Society, it needs to be ratified by 50% of the society so he reminds the Council to not worry about that point.

VP Shapiro explains that this motion is a referendum question and only 1 day to view is a fair criticism, but it is unfair to say they can't consult constituents, because constitutionally it would be direct democracy and so constituents are consulted via referendum vote.

Councillor Sanchez Motions to Postpone this Motion Indefinitely, seconded by Councillor Figueiredo

Voting Procedure:

Voting on the indefinite postponement of this motion - **PASSES 24 - 1**

MOTION IS POSTPONED INDEFINITELY

13. Reports by Committees (20)



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a. Community Engagement Committee (5)

Councillor Fletcher reads out the report.

Senator Buraga **Motions to add the Executive Committee Report to the Agenda, seconded by Councillor Pilote - PASSES Unanimously**

Report of the Executive Committee Report

It is read out by the President. He explains that they approve 10 hours a week for the Executive Committee.

Question:

Senator Buraga asks about the GICs. The President encourages that that question be asked to VP Esterle, but sadly she has already left Council earlier.

b. Students' Society Programming Network (5)

VP McLaughlin **Motions to Delay this until next session due to what happened at the Children of the Corn event, seconded by Senator Lametti - PASSES 22 - 3**

c. Francophone Affairs Committee (5)

VP McLaughlin says that they have little to report on this matter due to recently assuming responsibility of this position.

Question:

Senator Buraga asks when can the Council expect to see results on this. VP McLaughlin says he just recently got the role since the resignation of the SSMU VP External, but can expect to get results once a commissioner is hired.

d. Finance Committee (5)

This was conducted earlier by VP Wang.



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14. Reports by Councillors (21)

a. Rowan Fletcher (Athletics) (3)

Councillor Fletcher reads out their report. Explaining that they've been tabling at the Y-intersection and that there was a Varsity Council.

Question:

Councillor Figueiredo asks what is the progress with the athletics fee getting brought up about the referendum question. Councillor Fletcher says that next semester it will be brought up via referendum regarding the Athletics Free Improvement and from there she will see if students' are able to get this to be approved.

Senator Buraga asks what the Varsity Council thinks about the "Change the Name" Campaign and what side they are taking. Councillor Fletcher explains that the Varsity Council is taking a neutral stance given the diversity of opinions on the Varsity Council.

Councillor Sanchez asks if Councillor Fletcher has personally encouraged the Council about the Change the Name Campaign. Councillor Fletcher responds that they don't want to give their personal opinion given that they represent the athletes, not their personal stance.

Councillor Sanchez Motions to Extend Question Period by 30 seconds by Sanchez, seconded by Councillor Abdelhamid - PASSES 13 - 8

Councillor Fletcher is allocated time to finish her point, as is shown in the above transcript point.

Councillor Figueiredo Motions to Extend the Question Period to 3 minutes by, seconded by Senator Buraga - PASSES 15 - 9

Senator Buraga asks if the Varsity Council will be amenable to putting the Varsity Council to a vote about this issue. Councillor Fletcher says no, she feels it's not fair.

Councillor Kara asks if they know the exact divide in the debate. Councillor Fletcher says she can't measure it.



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Councillor Hu asks if the Athletics Leadership organize any poll/referendum regarding this issue. Councillor Fletcher says they did not, explaining that the Varsity Council decided that they would take it to the SSMU Referendum since it was coming up soon.

Councillor Sanchez asks if there is a division between the athletes who are white and the athletes who are people of colour, referring the racial-identity divisions.

Councillor Figueiredo **Motions for a 1 minute extension to the Question Period, seconded by The President - PASSES - 18 - 7**

Councillor Fletcher responds by saying they are not aware of any racial divides on the issue at hand.

Councillor Figueiredo asks if the Varsity Council decided to vote neutral in the issue. Councillor Fletcher says they discussed the neutrality, but no vote took place.

Councillor Briand asks if the Varsity Council would be amenable to having Tomas Jirousek, the SSMU Indigenous Commissioner, come and give his presentation to the Varsity Council.

The President **Motions to extend the question period by 5 minutes, seconded by VP Shapiro - PASSES 17 - 6**

Councillor Fletcher says that she'll bring up these points and allow the Varsity Council to decide.

VP Shapiro wants to clarify an earlier point, he asks if Councillor Fletcher states that the Athletics Association will take a stand after the vote result. Councillor Fletcher says no, that's not what she said.

Councillor Kara asks if it is possible to have a poll in the Athletics Department to voice their opinions, since there is no such thing as a neutral opinion. Councillor Fletcher says the Athletics Department chose not to because of how close the Referendum is.

Senator Buraga asks if they can name what are some of the opinions of athletes. Councillor Fletcher explains that some athletes are strongly opposed to the Name Change, indifferent and some are in favour.



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Councillor Kara asks if there are any indigenous individuals who are on the Varsity Council or are there any Indigenous individuals in Varsity meetings. Councillor Fletcher says no to either due to the fact they happened not to be voted on and that Tomas Jirousek will be meeting with the Varsity President to discuss the Change the Name campaign.

- b. Bejam Smit (Management) (3) - **POSTPONED**
- c. Rebecca Scarra (Arts) (3)

Councillor Scarra could not attend this Council, but Councillor Karia presents the report for her. She explains that the AUS Graduate Fair is coming on November 7th, Bar des Artes is running smoothly and the “Work your BA” event is coming.

Councillor Quiu leaves at 10:14pm.

Question:

Senator Buraga asks if it is true that the AUS is charging the “Change the Name” campaign for tabling in Leacock. Councillor Karia says that she will make sure the campaigners get reimbursed via the AUS VP Internal.

The President says that it can fall under Elections SSMU, since it's under SSMU right now. This way it can be free. Councillor Karia agrees.

- d. Marie Pilote (Law) (3)

Councillor Pilote reads out the report. There is a new sponsorship package for Law firms.

Question:

Councillor Abdelhamid asks if “everyone” has access to the free coffee provided by the Law Society. Councillor Pilote says that she doubts they will check if you’re a Law student.

Councillor Frenette asks if the Faculty of Law will be joining the FEDQ (FEDQ is the Quebec provincial law association). Councillor Pilote says they are working towards that.

- e. Kenzy Abdelhamid (Medicine) (3)



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Councillor Abdelhamid reads out the report, they highlight that she attended a meeting with the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and that they are now using Slack.

f. Zaheed Kara (Clubs) (3)

Councillor Kara reads out their report. He explains that they are working with internim-status clubs, since a lot of people want to become clubs. There is praise for the access of the online banking for Clubs.

g. Julian Jayme (Music) (3) - POSTPONED

Councillor Bazylykut leaves at 10:24pm

The President **Motions to Postpone Executive Reports and move into confidential sessions, seconded Councillor Karia - PASSES 21 - 2**

Councillor Constantin leaves at 10:25pm

Councillor Briand, Hobbs and Senator Buraga leave at 10:27pm

15. Executive Reports (18)

a. President (3) - POSTPONED

b. VP Finance (3)

This is read prior to VP Wang's departure from Council.

c. VP University Affairs (3) - POSTPONED

d. VP Internal (3) - POSTPONED

e. VP Student Life (3)

This is read prior to VP Esterle's departure from Council.



Recording Secretary | Secrétaire de séance

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3600 McTavish St., Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories

f. VP External Portfolio (3) - **POSTPONED**

16. Confidential Session

- a. There is confidential business for this evening

17. Adjournment - **10:33PM**

The President **Motions to adjourn, seconded by VP McLaughlin - PASSES Unanimously**

Expected duration: 3.0 hours

APPROVED