



SSMU LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

September 26, 2019

The regular bi-weekly Legislative Council Meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) will be held in Room 603, McConnell Engineering Building, Montreal, on Thursday, September 26, 2019, at 6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order: **18:18**

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Speaker reads out the Land Acknowledgement.

3. Attendance

Councillors that are absent : Music Councillor, Councillor Patzer.

The Speaker announces that there is currently no Social Work Councillor. In addition, there is no Residences Councillor elected thus far.

4. Approval of Minutes - **APPROVED**

The Speaker asks if there is any opposition to the approval of the minutes.

The minutes from Legislative Council meeting 2019-09-10 are unanimously approved.

5. Adoption of the Agenda - **ADOPTED**

Motioned by Councillor Flaherty, seconded by Councillor Bhuktar. The agenda is unanimously adopted.

There is no confidential session this evening.

6. Report of the Steering Committee

The Speaker reads out the report from the Steering Committee.

7. Guest Speakers



a. Professor Christopher Buddle, Dean of Students

Professor Christopher Buddle, Dean of Students, presents McGill's new policy on involuntary student leave. Dean Buddle explains that the policy has been drafted due to a rise of significant student cases. Dean Buddle explains that the university currently lacks resources when dealing with significant student crises. As well, Dean Buddle notes that the university does not wish to use disciplinary actions in such situations, which currently is the only policy available. Dean Buddle explains that the goal of the policy is to provide a robust process in which students are put on involuntary leave. The need for a leave would be assessed by a case management team, with the decision ultimately being made by the Deputy Provost of Student Life and Learning. Dean Buddle notes that the policy includes a full appeal process, also noting that the involuntary leave is not meant to be permanent, and as such, includes a return plan. Dean Buddle explains that this policy would be used as a last resort, after all other options have been exercised, and is estimating that, it would be used less than half a dozen times per year. Dean Buddle explains that this number was calculated through a number of reasons. Firstly, Dean Buddle explains that basing it off of experience in the office, in the past, there would be at most two cases a year for which such a policy should be applied. Similarly, Dean Buddle also notes that discussions were held with other universities of such size and nature who currently have such a guideline or policy in place, and the same number is used. Dean Buddle explains that the planning for the policy started in 2017 through discussions with the Office of the Dean of Students, Student Life and Learning Executive, and General Counsel. Dean Buddle also explains that the long time frame of the policy implementation process is due to the complexity of the nature the policy is directed to treat. Dean Buddle notes that it took a great amount of time to figure out how to frame the policy. Dean Buddle explains that other universities have framed this as a guideline or a directive for senior administration, but McGill realized during the initial development stage that it was better to adopt as a policy, and not a guideline. Dean Buddle explains that these resulting discussions ultimately slowed down the development of the policy. Dean Buddle notes that by Spring 2019, a more complete draft was developed. Dean Buddle explains that over the summer, targeted consultation with the executives of the four main student societies (SSMU, MACES, MCSS, PGSS) occurred. Similarly, Dean Buddle notes that both Deans and Senior McGill Administration have reviewed the policy. Dean Buddle announces that they are now entering a phase of broad consultation. He notes that this policy will be available online, where anyone is able to view the draft policy, as well as consult. Dean Buddle hopes for a fairly significant consultation period over the next few weeks, with the policy ultimately being brought to Senate in October.

Question Period:

Senator Lametti inquires about the timeline of the policy. Senator Lametti explains that while it was developed since 2017, it has only become publicly accessible in past few days, providing students only a couple months to review the policy, in contrast to the long period designated for drafting the policy. Thus, Senator Lametti asks why such a short timeframe for consultation exists.



Dean Buddle explains that the immense period designated for drafted the policy was that they could ensure a well-developed draft was in place before bringing it forward for consultation. Dean Buddle also notes that this consultation period does not have a strict deadline, and as such, if more time is required to review the policy, Dean Buddle will extend the consultation process.

Councillor Dixon asks about Consideration of #25, whereas “involuntary leave imposed on the student residing at the university requires that the student must also vacate residences, transitory housing arrangements may be considered”. Councillor Dixon expresses concerns about this, citing that they would be removed from their residences in which they may have already paid monthly rent for, and that alternative housing arrangements may be facilitated, but would not be mandatory.

Dean Buddle replies, saying that actions such as this would be taken on a case-by-case basis, and that the Office of the Dean of Students has access to emergency funds, if access to temporary alternative housing is required. There would also be a discussion about financial reimbursement for departure from the residences, but cannot generalize.

Senator Lametti inquires about the student designation of the policy. Senator Lametti explains, that as indicated in the draft policy, students placed on leave would no longer be seen as students. Senator Lametti expresses concerns for situations in which “student status” is required, such as in visas, insurance, or financial aid. Senator Lametti asks in what ways would removing student status, affecting the status and available of such programs that help students, would help the students in question.

Dean Buddle explains that this policy would only be enacted in serious student cases, and what the policy looks like would differ on a case-by-case basis. The Office of the Dean of Students looked at the option of transitional support offered through Student Services, as well as discussing with International Student Services. Dean Buddle indicates that removal of status may be a possibility, but it depends on the case. Dean Buddle also states that efforts would be made to find ways to support the student in crisis during the transition period.

Councillor Fakhri inquires about the case management team, asking if Dean Buddle has considered the inclusion of a student on the case management team.

Dean Buddle replies, noting that expertise is needed on the case management team, and not all students may have it thus far. Dean Buddle also brings attention to the fact that those on the team will have decades of experience in case management. Similarly, Dean Buddle explains that due to the infrequency of the policy being used, student turnover could potentially disrupt the process. Lastly, Dean Buddle notes that the case management team would be dealing with highly confidential and sensitive material, and consequently, have concerns about students on the case management board.

Senator Lametti motion to extend discussion by 20 minutes, seconded by Councillor Wright. This motion is unanimously passed.



Senator Lametti indicates that although this is not framed as a disciplinary action, there is clear reference to disciplinary actions in the policy, such as the policy being used when the student is “disrupting the activities of the university”. Senator Lametti asks Dean Buddle how students can be convinced that this is not a disciplinary action when this policy would be used in cases in which the student threatens the activities of the university.

Dean Buddle notes that he is open to adjusting the wording to make it more clear to make clear that it is not a disciplinary action.

VP University Affairs notes that given the timing of the opening of Wellness Hub and passing of policy, asking how Dean Buddle would respond to students’ concerns that this is a substitute for other mental health services on behalf of the university. Dean Buddle explains that this policy would be enacted in cases that are outside the purview of the Wellness Hub, and would be enacted when the resources currently offered from the university are not accurate.

Member of the Gallery Asa Kohn, Science, asks Dean Buddle if the policy is available online.

Dean Buddle notes the policy has been put online, and it will appear as a notice on the What’s New Students listserv. Similarly, the notification will be distributed to SSMU and other societies to notify students through listserv.

Councillor Morgan asks if it would be possible to add an appendix for all the other formal and informal interventions that have been tried prior to the enactment of this policy.

Dean Buddle thanks Councillor Morgan for the suggestion, and will move forward with the recommendation.

Councillor Dandamudi asks Dean Buddle to outline the measures the case management team would take when dealing with such a case that warrants the policy being invoked. Dean Buddle notes his appreciation for an appendix. Office of the Dean of Students is alerted through the early alert tool, due to connections to student and wellness advisors and professors. Dean Buddle notes that the case is different with every student that is seen, working with a team and on-campus services to solve the issue. Similarly, Dean Buddle also notes that case management happens daily in the office, and the appendix can be used to detail examples of these actions. Dean Buddle stresses that the policy is seen as a last resort, if all previous efforts didn’t work.

Councillor Das asks if it applies to all students. Dean Buddle states that it applies to all students.

Council Dixon notes that throughout the policy, beginning with the recommendation to enact the involuntary leave policy, while this decision is made by the case management team, subsequent



decisions are made unilaterally by the Deputy Provost of Student Life and Learning. Councillor Dixon asks if any work has been done to make every step of the policy stage more democratic.

Dean Buddle states that it is a good suggestion, but could look at it again. Dean Buddle notes that the Office went back and forth when considering a model for the process itself, but notes that no policy is perfect.

Councillor Daryanani inquires regarding about Clause 45, and the policy's impact on graduation. Councillor Daryanani asks how the case management team will insure that the student's future is not constrained. Dean Buddle notes that it is case-dependent, but in any case, hopes that a solution is found.

Senator Lametti - concerns items such as limited enrollment and degree and inquires how they would ensure that people in programs with limited enrolment or set-degree times. Senator Lametti provides an example through the Faculty of Medicine, where an external institution is responsible for the distribution of e-numbers, and if the student is removed from the institution, must re-apply for a new number, something that is not in the control of the university. As such, Senator Lametti asks how the university would treat such cases. Dean Buddle replies, stating that the office will have to look at that, but notes he has touched base with one of the Associate Deans of Medicine, and as such there may be exceptions or concerns for certain faculties.

VP University Affairs affirms the understanding that the policy can also affect graduate students, as well as graduate students serving as a teacher. VP University Affairs asks how this would impact those classes who may lose a teacher if a graduate student is placed on involuntary leave. Dean Buddle notes that they are currently in consultation with PGSS Council, and while there is no easy answer, they will look at it in the future.

Councillor Flaherty refers to Clause 33, and inquires if the notation that will appear on voluntary withdrawal will have the same notion on a transcript as those who are involuntarily withdrawn. Dean Buddle indicates that disciplinary actions are not noted on the transcript, and there is no further notation. Dean Buddle also states that it is the responsibility of the student to disclose.

Senator Lametti motions to extend question period by 10 minutes, seconded by VP University Affairs - Four oppositions, this motion is unanimously passed.

Dean Buddle states to offer to return to Legislative Council at a later time.

Senator Lametti states that relative to the determination of "danger" of a student to themselves and others, presumably, this information is complex that is often taken from a physician or counselor that is confidential. Senator Lametti asks how the case management team be able to reach a decision of such caliber, in the case of external advice from a physician is not accessible due to confidentiality.



Dean Buddle states that the case management team would take all advice currently available. Dean Buddle indicates that if there is disclosure of medical information, the case management team would take all information available and make the best decision possible.

Councillor Daryanani notes that McGill is a public university that anyone can enter at any time, and thus, inquires how this policy can prevent dangers to the university through security management. Specifically, Councillor Daryanani asks if this is a leave from classes, or from the university. Dean Buddle states that generally speaking, they would remove card access from the individual and inform key individuals, based on a need to know basis, and coordinate in that way if there are concerns about the individual coming to campus.

Senator Lametti asks in what way would the case management team to ensure that individuals who do not wish to disclose their medical information are not penalized for such a response. Dean Buddle states that does not have a solution yet, that it is based on a case-by-case basis, but reminds that this would not be a precedent case management team, but would certainly try to ensure students did not have to disclose information they were not comfortable disclosing.

VP External advises Dean Buddle to include that an individual must be seen by a mental health professional prior to the implementation of the policy, and similarly notes that the professional could also be on the committee. Dean Buddle responds, explaining that the individual may not wish to see a professional.

VP University Affairs states that the Deputy-Provost of Student Life and Learning will be making a large number of high calibre decisions, and asks if the Deputy-Provost will receive any specialized training, with regards to mental health and illness, and anti-oppression. Dean Buddle agrees with the recommendation of the VP University Affairs.

Dean Buddle thanks the Legislative Council for asking good and difficult questions, states his welcoming of extending time on the consultation process, and advises everyone to reach out to him personally for any other concerns they may have.

b. Krista Houser, Sustainability Projects Fund

Krista Houser shares last year's progress of the Sustainability Projects Fund. Krista Houser states that currently, there is \$985,000 available in the fund on campus. Krista Houser explains that each semester, each student contribute \$0.55, which is then matched by the university. Krista Houser notes 46% of applications for funding were approved. Krista Houser brings attention to the fact that over 200 people were trained, with over 600 volunteers participating in the last year. Lastly, Krista Houser announces that eligibility and evaluation criteria for funding was updated.

Question Period:



Councillor Chase asks what “needs-seed” funding is. Krista Houser explains that the fund is often used to kickstart projects, but that the projects, following the beginning, are self-sustaining.

Motion to suspend standing rules by President Buraga, seconded by Councillor Bhutkar. This motion is unanimously approved.

8. Announcements

Councillor Mackie announces that Faculty of Law held referendum for cancelling classes for the Climate Strike, and the referendum passed. As a result, Dean Leckey cancelled all classes taking place on Friday. Councillor Mackie recognizes all the work done by the different faculties in cancelling classes.

VP University Affairs announces to all Councillors to ensure they have filled out the spreadsheet sent by SSMU Communications regarding basic information.

Councillor Dandamudi announces that the AUS held a General Assembly, making quorum, with over 900 people present, and they are currently in the only voting stage. After meeting with CJAM, Councillor Dandamudi alerts the Council that CJAM will be soft-picketing on Friday, peacefully encouraging students to not show up to class.

Councillor Gurvey informs that Board of Directors of the MUS has unanimously formally endorsed the climate strike.

VP Finance informs Councillors that the total and nature of funds of McGill Cycling is equal to \$8,504.00, and is all self-raised funds from McGill Cycling.

Councillor Dixon announces that the Faculty of Medicine will be striking on Friday to participate in the climate march.

Councillor Morgan announces that the Faculty of PT/OT will be striking and cancelling classes on Friday. Similarly, for classes that cannot be cancelled, penalization for non-attendance will be removed.

VP External congratulates all faculties that are going on strike. VP External encourages emailing Planet Takes McGill to organize soft picket lines.

Councillor Fakhri notes that one of the engineering department societies will be having a poster-making session in EUS Common Room on Friday morning.

VP External also notes that there is a poster evening happening tonight in Ecole.



Councillor Kersch announces that Homecoming is this weekend, and calls upon Councillors to come support McGill Athletics.

Senator Lametti motions to extend announcements by five minutes, seconded by Councillor Franceschini. This motion is unanimously passed.

The Speaker introduces Phoebe Lee, Speaker of Council on Call. The Speaker announces that there will be no food in Legislative Council meetings going forward, given the requests of building management. Similarly, the Speaker announces that there will be a meeting of the Comprehensive Governance Review at 12 PM on Sunday, noting that it is open to everyone of SSMU. The Speaker also announces that the Accountability Committee is currently soliciting applications.

9. Question Period

a. Submission of Question (1): Senate Caucus Representative Lametti

The submission of Question 1 is read out to the Legislative Council. The motion is in regards to the upcoming installment of the Bachelor's program offered by McGill under the Faculty of Medicine offered outside of the downtown campus. Understanding that students on MacDonald Campus are not members of SSMU, Senator Lametti inquires about the relations between these new students and SSMU.

VP External explains that SSMU is to represent all undergraduate students of McGill, and that MacDonald Campus thought their interests would be suited better by a different students' society is their prerogative. VP External states that depending on the formation of their student union, they may or may not be part of SSMU. Similarly, if they are completely disaffiliated from SSMU, VP External replies that they will not have access to the health and dental funds.

b. Submission of Question (2): Senate Caucus Representative Lametti

The submission of Question 2 is read out to the Legislative Council. As summary, none of those who submitted pronouns in French on the spreadsheet for pronouns entered "il/lui" or "elle/elle", yet those are the translations that appeared on the placards. Senator Lametti asks when McGill will take ownership of the responsibility to respect the needs of Francophone students seriously.

VP External speaks on behalf of the Francophone Commissioner. In summary, the Francophone Commissioner recognizes the legitimacy of the question, and admits that SSMU made errors. Currently, the Francophone Commissioner is working with SSMU, and they are trying their best. The Francophone Commissioner notes that through working together, there is a clear willingness to get better, such as through improving translations.

Question Period:



Councillor Chan notes that a constituent came to him about reserving space at Bar des Pin for an event, but the manager refused to sign any contract for a SSMU club, noting the rental space provision. Councillor Chan asks VP Student Life if that is something that Student Life has seen before, and what they are doing about it.

VP Student Life states that he has not heard this concern previously, and encouraging those encountering issues to contact him.

Councillor Flaherty asks VP Student Life why the decision was made to do the Clubs Workshops in New Residence in person, when alternatively, it could've been done as a seminar where all executives could be present and potentially quizzed.

VP Student Life replies, indicating that there was a consideration of virtual workshops, however, due to the tight timeline, believed it valuable to offer the workshop as soon as possible. Similarly, VP Student Life believed it beneficial to have discussions about Equity and GSVP in order to allow individuals to ask questions.

Motion to extend Question Period by five minutes by VP External, seconded by Senator Lametti - PASSES.

Member of the Gallery Asa Kohn notes that Science Reps did not mention the strike, and as such, asks if the SUS does not endorse it.

Councillor Wright notes that the SUS was not able to hold a GA in time, but has put a statement on Facebook endorsing the climate strike. Councillor Wright explains the difficulty to cancel labs, but multiple courses have offered alternative lab dates.

Senator Lametti asks for thoughts from Councillor Wu. Councillor Wu states that SUS emailed many professors to ask to cancel or not make assignments due on Friday. Many professors agreed, and as a result, a large amount of classes are cancelled, there is just simply not a formal strike.

Councillor Chan asks VP Student Life what the motivation is for contracts to have a rental agreement.

VP Student Life asks to defer answering until next Legislative Council meeting.

Councillor Flaherty notes concerns regarding audits and finance workshops, explaining that people expressed frustration at being sanctioned from last year, when it was a different SSMU executive, who might have not made expectations as clear.

VP Finance notes that initial audit sanctions only last three months, as well as taking place over the summer. As well, VP Finance announces that revision of the auditing process has occurred. Regarding



club finances in general, VP Finance announces that the access to club bank accounts will occur much earlier in the semester.

10. Recess, Consent Items

The Speaker explains how a consent item works, indicating that Councillors may either vote “approve” or “debate” for all motions.

11. Business Arising

- a. Motion Regarding an Interim Provision for the Internal Regulations of Finance
2019-07-16 - **APPROVED**

VP Finance motivates the motion. VP Finance explains that this motion would, at the beginning of the year, allocate \$5.00 from each club from the restricted fund to off-set fees. Councillor Chase asks if political clubs are barred from receiving funds due to election law. VP Finance clarifies that no club is receiving funds, and that these funds are being removed from the restricted fund.

Voting procedure:

In Favour: 21

Opposed: 2

Abstaining: 3

This motion is unanimously approved.

12. New Business

- a. Notice of Motion Regarding Policy on Moratorium on McGill Fees Until Fossil Fuel Divestment 2019-09-26

The President announces that McGill has rejected calls from both its community and its Senate to divest from fossil fuels. The President calls upon Councillors’ to act. In the Constitution, it states the commitment to demonstrating leadership in human rights, social justice, and environmental protection. The President explains that this motion will establish a moratorium on any new ancillary fees or any fees requiring a referendum, but notes that this will not impact students’ bursaries or scholarships, or funding faculties receive from McGill. In the next two weeks, the President asks Councillors to reach out to their constituents on the motion to mobilize their financial power. The President calls upon the passing of this motion to prove to McGill that its students care about climate justice.

- b. Notice of Motion Regarding Amendments to the Internal Regulations of Elections and Referenda 2019-09-26



VP University Affairs motivates the motion, explaining that the amendments are to reflect the current attitudes going forward.

- c. Notice of Motion Regarding Changes to the Health and Dental Review Committee Terms of Reference 2019-09-26

VP Finance motivates, explaining that general councillor seats have been removed, allowing for general standing seats for POTUS and NUS.

- d. Motion Regarding Development and Implementation Process for Policies and Plans 2019-09-26 - **POSTPONED**

Councillor Wright, on behalf of The President, motivates the motion. Councillor Wright explains that if someone wishes to develop a new policy or plan, one must follow the checklist, in order to make it more concise and tangible.

Councillor Dixon asks if there is a peer review process currently. To Councillor Wright's understanding, there is not, but recommends following up with the mover, the President.

Councillor Chase motions to suspend the rules in order to re-enter question period, seconded by Councillor Mackie. This fails.

Voting procedure:

Approved: 17

Not approved: 9

Based on quorum, motion to suspend the rules fails.

Senator Lametti motions to postpone the motion to the next Council, seconded by Councillor Wright - With two oppositions, this motion is unanimously passed.

- e. Motion Regarding Creation of Indigenous Equity Fund and Fee 2019-09-26 - **APPROVED**

VP University Affairs yields time to motivate to Tomas Jirousek, Indigenous Affairs Commissioners.

Tomas Jirousek explains that Indigenous Equity Fund was created for a number of reasons, largely due to the fact that indigenous students face issues that other students on campus do not. Many times, the way this burden is reduced is by siphoning off resources from other organizations on campus, such as through the Change the Name campaign.



Question Period:

Senator Lametti asks, relating to the \$1 semesterly figure, how this figure was calculated. Thomas Jirousek explains that this number was calculated by taking the consideration of budget of the First Peoples' House, the cost of the Change the Name campaign, and other events that Indigenous Affairs organizes.

Councillor Franceschini asks if the funds would go into the Indigenous Affairs committee. Tomas Jirousek explains that the Indigenous Affairs Committee would have first access to funds, but other Indigenous students/student equity groups would have access to funds. Tomas Jirousek explains that they are working out how individuals can apply for funds, as the funds may be able to be used for individuals struggling financially. Senator Lametti highlights that it may not be legally possible to give money to individual members. Tomas Jirousek explains that both VP University Affairs and Finance looked into it, and as a result, 10% of the fee is permissible to allocate to individuals on campus, which is approximately \$4,000-\$5,000 a year.

Councillor Fakih asks Tomas Jirousek what events the Indigenous Affairs Committee plans on holding. Tomas Jirousek explains that if the motion passes, they are planning on organizing an international conference on intergenerational trauma on indigenous communities. Through this, includes honorariums, travel, and accommodations. Similarly, Tomas Jirousek wishes to bring indigenous knowledge holders to campus, and grant proper compensation for elders.

Councillor Morgan speaks on the second 'further resolved' clause in which any further legal changes will not be approved by the Legislative Council, and asks what kind of legal changes these are. The Speaker explains that all referendum questions needs approval from Deputy of Student Life and Learning office, all subsequent changes are minor and grammatical.

Councillor Gurvey motions to extend discussion by one (1) minute, seconded by Councillor Fakih. This is unanimously passed.

Councillor Gurvey asks for the rationale on making fee non-opt-outable. VP University Affairs indicates that there is a plan to also make equity fee non-opt-outable, explaining that there is no consistency between opt-outable and non-opt-outable.

Councillor Fakih motions to extend discussion by two (2) minutes, seconded by Councillor Marcoux -this motion is unanimously passed, with one (1) abstention.

Councillor Fakih refers to the national conference, asking if this would be an annual event. Tomas Jirousek replies, indicating that it has been an annual event for seven or eight years, with it normally being held in partnership with Indigenous Affairs Commissioner and Indigenous Students Alliance.



Councillor Chase asks if it would be possible to make the fee opt-outable but also increase the fee to account for variances. VP University replies, stating that it is possible, but looks unfavorably on that option.

Councillor Marcoux states, that given that the Change the Name campaign will only happen once, asks Tomas Jirousek if \$1 is still an accurate amount necessary. Tomas Jirousek replies stating yes, as indigenous students will always have the opportunity to pursue further opportunities.

Debate:

VP University Affairs clarifies that the motion is to send the fee to a referendum, will not be approved right now, but be approved by the student body at a later date.

Senator Lametti hopes there will be a sufficient campaign during the referendum period to educate the student body on the purpose of this fee. While Senator Lametti notes that he is often opposed to non-opt-outable fees, Senator Lametti agrees that this fee should not be opt-outable. Tomas Jirousek vows to include the rationale for the fee number calculated, but at the current time, there are limited resources available to the Indigenous Affairs Committee to elaborate at this time.

VP University Affairs motions to amend the motion to add a clause of “be it further resolved that LC mandates the offices of VP UA and VP Finance to create breakdown for rationale of \$1 fee amount and include it on the referendum with the question, seconded by Councillor Wu. This passes unanimously.

Voting Procedure:

In favour: 28

Opposed: 1

Abstaining: 1

This motion is unanimously approved.

f. Motion Regarding Support of Climate Justice Actions at McGill 2019-09-26 -

APPROVED

The VP External explains that SSMU has a commitment to leadership in the matters of human rights, social justice, and environmental protection. VP External explains that strikes are a good way to impose economic pressure on institutions and governments, and thus, asks all to support the strike.

Question Period:

Councillor Chase asks that, understanding that we are mandated to support CJAM, does that mean SSMU would be reimbursing their financials, and if so, would SSMU's finances be able to handle such a



financial responsibility. VP External explains that additional funding can also be applied from the restricted fund.

Voting Procedure:

In favour: 27

Opposed: 0

Abstaining: 2

This motion is unanimously approved.

g. Motion Regarding 2019-2020 Elections SSMU Timeline 2019-09-26 - **APPROVED**

Councillor Dandamudi explains that there is a timeline for all SSMU-endorsed elections, and looks for approval.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

Debate:

There is no debate:

Voting Procedure:

In favour: 27

Opposed: 0

Abstaining: 1

13. Reports by Committees

a. Executive Committee

VP Finance presents the report. Highlights include approving MSERT staff.

Question Period:

Councillor Dixon asks for a progress update on finding a new General Manager for SSMU. VP Student Life announces that the job posting is up currently, and they are currently soliciting job applications.

14. Reports by Councillors

a. Adin Chan (Arts)



Councillor Chan announces that the Climate Strike GA was incredibly successful, with over 900 people showing up voting unanimously for the strike. Similarly, Councillor Chan announces that voting for the strike ends in 20 minutes. Councillor Chan gives a sincere shoutout to Climate Justice Action McGill for their work on the strike. Councillor Chan also states that the Leacock Building is currently under construction, and as a result, table and room bookings are more difficult.

Question Period:

Councillor Kersh asks what is currently being done to the Leacock Building. Councillor Chan replies, explaining that an amphitheatre is being built next to Leacock, but they are also renovating the Arts Lunge. As a result, the whole building is out of commission for the school year.

b. TBD (Education)

The Speaker announces there is currently no Representative from Education.

c. Elan Eisner (Management)

Councillor Eisner announces that the first MUS Board of Directors meeting was two weeks ago, with the second one occurring today. Currently, MUS is in the process of electing new first year reps for U0 and U1 students. Similarly, the Executive committee has established goals and timelines for the year over the summer, and has begun to work on accomplishing the goals. Councillor Eisner announces that Hype Week will occur from November 4 - 9, and is hoping IRP policies are implemented by then. Councillor Eisner also states that MUS Mental Health and Wellness Week will hopefully be spearheaded jointly with SSMU in mid-to-late November.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

d. Kevin Franceschini (Arts & Science)

Councillor Franceschini announces that the Arts-Science Council is holding an information night tonight. Currently, the faculty is preparing for semi-formal. Councillor Franceschini also announces that they have begun the buddy system, pairing an older student with a first-year student. Councillor Franceschini also sits on the Environment Committee, which he recognized to have a large turnout so far. Lastly, Councillor Franceschini announces that the Steering Committee meeting went well.

Question Period:

There are no questions.



e. TBD (Social Work)

The Speaker announces there is currently no Representative from Social Work.

f. TBD (Environment)

The proxy for the Environment Representative states that affairs have been very busy with the Climate Strike. Similarly, there was an event yesterday, which was a panel discussion on the history of climate strikes, which was also live streamed.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

15. Executive Reports

a. President

The President reads out the report. Highlights including process of planning the upcoming General Assembly on October 28, 2019, in New Rez ballroom, as well as thanking Midnight Kitchen for provision of future meals during Legislative Council. Similarly, the President notes that the Board of Directors is currently full, but will be seeking four more board members-at-large to begin on November 15, 2019. Similarly, the President also notes that the Judicial Board currently has three justices, and is soliciting for four more justices. Lastly, President Buraga announces that the move back into the SSMU building will begin in December 2019.

Question Period:

Senator Lametti asks why the majority of the Judicial Board became vacant over the summer. The President notes that five of the seven justices resigned due to personal reasons, and while the nominating committee undertook nominations to fill seats, they were unable to meet over the summer. Furthermore, on June 1, 2019, the terms ended, and all the seats became vacant.

b. VP University Affairs

VP University Affairs presents the report. VP University Affairs announces that the Associate Senator program is now accepting applications. VP University Affairs announces that within the month, menstrual hygiene products will be located in all washrooms in McLennan and Redpath, including in men's and gender-neutral washrooms. Following that, VP University Affairs plans on expanding the project to the music building and Burnside. VP University Affairs announces the conclusion of the Know Your Rights campaign, noting that it was very successful. VP University Affairs indicates that an application for a special researcher on the usage of deadnames in McGill bureaucracy and



communications and how to universalize preferred names, through partnership with QPIRG McGill and Queer McGill is now open. VP University Affairs states that the Equity Committee is currently accepting applicants to serve as members-at-large. Lastly, VP University Affairs announces that Library Improvement Fund Committee is now accepting applicants.

c. VP Internal

VP Internal presents the report. VP Internal states that SSPN is now up and running, with the first meeting coming in the upcoming week. On the topic of Halloween, VP Internal announces that the theme, date, location, and promotional material has been finalized, and to keep a look out for the announcement of the event. Regarding the Listserv, VP Internal announces that they ran an apology for the French translation, which also had flaws in it, but is currently working with Communications and HR to address the issue. Currently, First Year Affairs elections are taking place. Lastly, VP Internal has begun work with McGill Office of Sustainability.

d. VP Finance

VP Finance presents the report. VP Finance remarks the activity after resignation of GM, overseeing more of the business side of McGill, which is untypical. VP Finance believes the club workshop went well. VP Finance announces that the bank account reset is done as of this evening.

Senator Lametti motions to extend report by five minutes, seconded by Councillor Chan. This is unanimously passed.

Continuing on, VP Finance announces that passwords and access to bank accounts will be sent out tomorrow. Similarly, VP Finance notes that credit cards will now be opt-in, largely due to the number of credit cards that remained unused last year.

Question Period:

Councillor Flaherty asks if the on-going finance and audit workshops will impact the bank account resets. VP Finance states that it will.

Councillor Chase asks if the bank accounts of the clubs who do not have credit cards will remain open. VP Finance replies, stating that are open.

e. VP Student Life

VP Student Life presents the reports. VP Student Life announces that Activities Night was very successful, and they are currently in discussion with Athletics to see if Activities Night can occur in the Fieldhouse every year. VP Student Life indicates that both Clubs Committee and Services Review Committee are recruiting for members at large. VP Student Life also announces that Mental Health



Awareness week is beginning on October 6, with events being planned for the 7, 8, and 9. Lastly, VP Student Life met with Wellness Hub leadership.

Question Period:

Councillor Kaye asks if there is a stream-lined way for Clubs to receive SSMU emails if they do not have one. VP Student replies, stating that there is, there is a link in the Student Group Resources area of the SSMU website, stating that there is a request form.

Councillor Mackie asks where individuals can give feedback on Clubs workshops. VP Student Life replies, stating that a link was in the Clubs listserv, as well as being on the SSMU Clubs and Services Facebook page.

f. VP External

VP External presents the report. VP External states the current progress on the LPSU, anti-racism campaign, and Peace Club. VP External announces the beginning of canvassing of Divest McGill. VP External also indicates that two more schools have signed on to the Mauna Kea letter. Lastly, VP External reminds everyone of the upcoming federal and municipal elections.

16. Confidential Session

a. There is no confidential business this evening

17. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by VP Student Life, seconded by Councillor Kaye. This motion is unanimously passed.

The meeting is adjourned at **21:12**.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'B Buraga'.

Bryan Buraga, President