



SSMU LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PUBLIC MINUTES

January 16, 2020

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, January 16, 2020, at 18:00.

1. Call to Order: **18:16**.

The Speaker calls the meeting to order at 18:16.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Speaker reads out the land acknowledgement.

3. Attendance

The Speaker notes that Councillor Roy (Social Work) has resigned.

The Speaker notes that Councillors Wright (Science) and Patzer (Nursing) are attending by teleconference.

Absent: Councillor Franceschini, Councillor Rhamey, Councillor Eisner, Councillor Gurvey, Councillor Morgan.

Senator Sebastien Duckett is serving as a Proxy for Councillor Platt.

Jose Guerra is serving as a Proxy for Councillor Wu.

4. Approval of Minutes

1. Legislative Council Public Minutes 2019-11-28 --**POSTPONED**

Councillor Fakh motions to amend the minutes to remove the timestamp on page 24.

The President motions to amend the minutes to change the acronym SEED to SEDE.



VP External motions to amend the minutes to include “on student life and learning” regarding positive effects of the SEDE programming towards the Deputy Provost, implying that he should be the one taking responsibility for it.

VP External motions to change DPSL to DPSLL, and ESB to ASB. As well, VP External indicates that a section is missing in the discussion concerning acceptable communication practices. In particular, there was a discussion about SSMU’s critics being critical, not of language and lack of professionalism, but rather about inaction.

The Speaker asks Council if it wishes to refer the minutes back to the Governance Manager for review.

Councillor Merali motions to postpone the approval of the minutes, seconded by VP Internal - PASSES.

The Speaker reminds all Councillors to send amendments to him by email.

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

VP Finance motions to add two late motions, Motion Regarding Changes to the Committee Terms of Reference and the Notice of Motion Regarding the Adoption of the Gendered and Sexual Violence Committee Terms of Reference, seconded by VP External - APPROVED.

Senator Lametti motions to move 15.d to follow Question Period, seconded by the President - PASSES.

The President motions to adopt the agenda as amended, seconded by Councillor Dandamudi - PASSES.

6. Report of the Steering Committee

The Speaker presents the report of the Steering Committee.

For Steering Committee innovations, the Speaker notes the new motion format and template.

The Speaker notes that there will be a confidential session this evening.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

7. Guest Speakers

There are no guest speakers this evening.



8. Announcements

VP External states that there is a strike going for Bill 21 in the next few days. Furthermore, the Education Faculty voted in a successful referendum, with 20% participation in 94%, in favour of the strike. Similarly, he states that there will be picketing in front of the Education Building for anyone who wishes to join them. As well, he states that there will be a rally starting at noon in front of the Brown Building. VP External states that both the Faculties of Law and Medicine will be having walk outs and have received endorsements by the Faculties of Arts and Science. VP External states that it is important to show solidarity for people who are being affected by this bill and encourages Councillors to inform their constituents.

The President states that on January 8, 2020, Ukrainian International Airlines Flight 752 was shot down in Tehran, Iran. The President details that two members of the McGill community were on the flight. As such, the President asks for a moment of silence.

A moment of silence is observed.

VP Finance states that the club audit deadline was last week, and thanks the clubs for filling completing it. Furthermore, he states that 95.6% of the clubs filled out the audit. Lastly, VP Finance directs questions towards himself or VP Student Life regarding the audit.

Councillor Daryanani announces that there will be an annual 'Work Your BA' series occurring from January 20-31, 2020. Councillor Daryanani further notes that the series includes a non-profit community fair, a law event, and a public speaking event, among others. He states that further information can be found on the Facebook event titled 'Work Your BA - Connect to Your Future'.

Councillor Dandamudi announces that AUS will be hosting a General Assembly tomorrow at Leacock 132 at 4:30 regarding a strike for Bill 21. Councillor Dandamudi further notes that quorum is 500 students.

VP External announces that on December 5, 2019, the Board of Governors decided not to divest, instead opting for a decarbonization plan. VP External encourages everyone to inform their constituents that decarbonization is not the same as divestment. Furthermore, VP External explains that although divestment may not have significant financial impacts for the companies, it displays that public institutions do not support the use of fossil fuels.

VP Internal announces that tickets for Fac-O Hype Night have been released for \$20.00 each. VP Internal further notes that the event will occur on January 29, 2020, and encourages members to purchase tickets on sspn.ca.

VP External announces that External Affairs, in collaboration with Community Affairs, is hosting a series of four (4) information sessions for new students who are moving to Milton-Parc to explore ways



that students and the community can work together more productively. VP External states the first session will be a housing public assembly, on January 27, 2020. Other topics include good neighbouring practices and homelessness in the community.

The President announces that Winter General Assembly will occur on February 24, 2020 at New Residence ballroom at 18:00. He further notes that quorum is 350 and encourages people to come out.

The President also announces Board of Governors student forum is occurring on Thursday, January 30, beginning at 16:00. He noted that representatives from Midnight Kitchen, Divest McGill, and students from MacDonald Campus will be present. Similarly, the President notes that there is a short cocktail afterwards, but notes that it will be occurring during the first hour of Legislative Council.

The Speaker directs all Councillors to fill out the SSMU Volunteer Form at their earliest convenience, as per the request of the Operations Department and the Governance Manager.

Lastly, the Speaker notes that on December 22, 2019, the Speaker submitted his letter of resignation from his position as Speaker/Chair of Board of Directors. He notes that his Legislative Council meeting will occur on January 30th, and his last meeting for Board of Directors will be Thursday, January 23. The Speaker states that his resignation takes effect on January 31, 2020 at 17:00. The Speaker further explains that he has worked with HR to better define the job description and duties.

Senator Lametti motions to suspend the rules in order to present a late motion, seconded by Councillor Chan - PASSES.

Senator Lametti expresses the gratitude of the Legislative Council towards the Speaker, seconded by Proxy for Councillor Platt - PASSES.

9. Report of the Board of Directors

The President notes he was mandated, at the December 2, 2019 Board of Directors meeting, to present a report in regards to the Board's decision to overturn the Motion Regarding Free Trip Offers to Student Leaders 2019-11-28.

The President reads the report:

[This report was transcribed in verbatim.]

“Dear Councillors,

On Monday, December 2nd, 2019, the Board of Directors held their second meeting of the 2019-2020 governance year.



During the Public session of the meeting, the Board of Directors discussed the ratifications of the Legislative Council motions from its November 28, 2019 meeting. During this session, members of the gallery, as well as Directors, engaged in a lengthy discussion and debate on the Motion Regarding Free Trip Offers to Student Leaders, which was approved during that Legislative Council.

At this meeting, the Board of Directors exercised its right to overturn this motion from Council as per Section 6, Article 1.3.1 of the Internal Regulations of Governance, on the grounds of legal liability and financial risk related to the Society's Memorandum of Agreement with McGill University. The overturning of a motion is a step not taken lightly by the Board of Directors, as we seek to respect the autonomy and democratic representation of the Legislative Council. However, in this case, we believe that this intervention was warranted.

Typically, when a Council motion is overturned by the Board of Directors, it returns to the next regular meeting of Legislative Council, to be debated and voted upon with the Board's concerns or proposed amendments in mind. However, an Exceptional Interim Provision was passed by the Board to prevent this motion from returning to Council because the Board believed that this would create an unnecessary debate, as the trip in question would have already occurred by this time. However, per Section 6, Article 1.6 of the Internal Regulations of Governance, Legislative Council must consider and vote upon this exceptional interim provision.

The Board of Directors acknowledges the sentiments of Council regarding this motion, but ultimately our decision was based on the financial risk threatened by the University, where they could have found us to be in violation of our Memorandum of Agreement, withhold our funds, and therefore put the very existence of the Society at risk. The Board of Directors is also aware of our Members' concerns regarding the Conflict of Interest Policy as it stands and will be implementing revisions to the policy throughout the next few months.

Best regards,
The SSMU Board of Directors"

[End of in verbatim transcription.]

Question Period:

Councillor Dixon asks the President which provision in the Memorandum of Agreement between SSMU and McGill the Board was referring to when they indicated that the Society's financial agreement was threatened.

The President states that it is in regard to a statement released by the University regarding the Motion Regarding Free Trip Offers to Student Leaders passed on the November 28, 2019 meeting of Legislative Council. Within the statement, McGill inferred that SSMU was violating its Constitution. As in such a case, this opens SSMU up to the opportunity for McGill University to hold the SSMU in default



if they believe that SSMU has violated its Constitution, regardless if SSMU did in fact violate the Constitution, in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement.

Senator Lametti asks what specific part of the MoA would be violated. The President looks up the specific part of the Memorandum.

Member of the Gallery, Asa Kohn, inquires why such a one-sided provision exists in the MoA, and if the Board of Directors has considered renegotiating it.

VP External explains that the MoA defines SSMU job protections, room bookings, the McGill name on certain team logos, among other items. In return, they wanted this provision included in the MoA, the ability to hold SSMU in violation of governance documents and withhold funding. To answer Senator Lametti's question, it is in regard to holding the money in trust, which is not a provision under the law, but rather an addition by McGill.

The President indicates that the section being referred to is section 12.1.2. He reads out the aforementioned section.

The President reads from the MoA: 12.1: "Each of the following shall be considered an event of default", followed by 12.1.2, "when the Association violates its constitution..." Reading from 12.2, "In the event of default, the defaulting party shall be entitled to written notice of default and upon receipt of such notice, shall have 30 working days (or 60 calendar days between the period May 1 and August 31) within which to remedy such default." He follows with 12.3: "In the event of a dispute over the existence of a default, either party shall be entitled to submit the dispute to arbitration by giving the other party written notice no later than 90 calendar days from the date of the notice referred to in Section 12.2. Such notice shall suspend the delay granted to remedy the default referred to in Section 12.2."

In terms of remedies, 13.2 states that "Upon the confirmation of default of the Association in accordance with section 12, the parties agree that funds assessed by the University for the Association shall be allocated to an interim trust fund ("Trust Fund") in the name of the Association. The Fund shall be administered by the University and overseen by a committee of five (5) individuals comprising of two University representatives, two Association representatives and chaired by a person selected by agreement of the parties. The Committee shall oversee the administration of the Trust Fund until such time as the Association has been restructured or reinstated, or the default corrected."

Councillor Platt asks if it is public knowledge, what the Memorandum is, and furthermore, asks where it can be found.

VP External notes that it can be found on McGill's website.



The Speaker interjects, stating that it can also be found by searching on Google: 'SSMU Memorandum Agreement'.

Senator Lametti states that since the Board judged that there was a risk of the University finding it in default, the Board must have also concluded that the motion has violated the SSMU's internal documents or procedures. Senator Lametti asks in what way would the motion approved by Council violate the internal documents.

The President explains that the issue is less about whether the motion violated the Constitution, but rather, if the University believes it did.

Senator Lametti moves to extend question period by ten (10) minutes, seconded by Councillor Mackie - FAILS.

In favour: 12

Opposed: 11

1. Appendix A: Motion to Uphold the Interim Provision Adopted at the Board of Directors Meeting of 2 December 2019 2019-01-16 - **APPROVED**

The President motivates the motion in Appendix A. The President explains that the Board of Directors passed an Exceptional Interim Provision. He explains that this is the specific power delegated to the Board of Directors, by division six (6), part one (1), Section 1.6 of the Internal Regulations of Governance. For any Exceptional Interim Provision, it requires to be passed by the Legislative Council, in order for it to completely take effect. The President explains that if the motion is not passed, the Motion Regarding Free Trip Offers to Student Leaders 2019-11-28 would return back to Legislative Council for debate and voting.

The motion is moved by the President, seconded by Councillor Bhutkar.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

Debate:

Senator Lametti questions why the Board of Directors operated on what the University may think, rather than on what the Society would think, and then go to arbitration if needed. Similarly, Senator Lametti also questions if the Board of Directors have considered other reasons why the motion may or may not have been appropriate.



VP External states that they can't speculate as to why McGill University thought SSMU violated the Constitution. VP External explains that they anticipated they would place a hold on the fees. As such, VP External explains that this motion was largely created because people were scared. Furthermore, VP External notes that arbitration would've dragged out the issue.

VP Finance notes that with the timeline outlined, arbitration would drag on until February or March. VP Finance explains that McGill disperses fees to SSMU twice a year, occurring in October and February. As such, the February fund provision is over one million dollars, and funds all SSMU services. Similarly, SSMU requires these funds to also encourage the re-opening of the University Centre. He also states that the risk arbitration presents are much higher at this time, than in a normal-operating year.

VP University Affairs indicates her disagreement with the Board of Directors decision. To speak to the Interim Provision, while the trip has already passed, the conversation about Israel-Palestine on campus has not stopped. For that reason, she will be abstaining from the motion. She further states that there is still conversation occurring, as well as genocide.

Voting Period:

Voting on the Appendix A: Motion to Uphold the Interim Provision Adopted at the Board of Directors Meeting of 2 December 2019 - APPROVED.

In favour: 16

Opposed: 3

Abstaining: 8

10. Question Period

The Speaker states that there was a question submitted by a constituent – Jeremy from Pharmacology. He asks why the position of Vice-President Operations and Sustainability was not included in the elections package released for the academic year 2020-2021.

The President states that it was due to error and omission. Furthermore, he notes that the Board of Directors will be discussing if they think it is necessary to have such a position, considering SSMU does not currently have a building, and that comprises the majority of the duties of the position. Lastly, he states next Council, he will have a more concrete answer.

Councillor Merali states that he has received numerous concerns from constituents regarding the SSMU volunteer form, citing concerns about the extensiveness of the information being given. Furthermore, he states that certain Services have volunteers who are on the basis of certain information being kept confidential. Similarly, they do not wish for there to be a database of queer activist students on campus or students of a certain category, and do not wish to have that



information out there. He asks whoever is responsible to explain why the information is being collected, and what alternatives there may be for Services that have been wary of this form.

VP Finance explains that the development of the form was to protect the liability of the SSMU. By extension to Services, this is done to obtain comprehensive insurance and to keep the records up to date with SSMU's insurance company. SSMU is one of the few associations in Montreal that can provide the kind of insurance and kind of protection for services, should legal needs arise. VP Finance explains the form is important to quickly gather information to protect and serve Services. He further notes that it is not a database to pick people out. Furthermore, VP Finance explains that the information is being stored in the SSMU office and will not be shared. As well, the information will not be accessed unless it absolutely needs to be.

Member of the Gallery, Asa Kohn, asks if the VP External could say something about the AGSEM unionization drive and asks for an update of the current state of affairs.

VP External explains that the way that unionization drives work. Similarly, VP External explains that signing a card does not mean joining a union, but rather, it expresses the interest of individuals as an individual within a potential bargaining unit joining that union. VP External notes that undergraduate TAs, note-takers, among others, are not currently unionized. VP External explains that 50% plus one of potentially unionized employees in a defined bargaining unit need to sign cards for the group to automatically be unionized. If there is an expression of interest below the 51%, marked as between 35-50%, a vote will be held with the entire bargaining unit, at which point it is determined if 51% is in favour of joining a union. Furthermore, VP External explains that if they become unionized, they will be subject to protections, vast pay increases, and will have to pay a certain percentage of their salary to union dues.

11. Comprehensive Governance Review Committee 2019-11-28 --**APPROVED**

The Governing Documents Researcher, Husayn Jamal, presents the report of the Comprehensive Governance Review Committee.

Question Period:

Councillor Chan asks if the position of the Arts and Science Representative is preserved under the report. The Governing Documents Researcher states that it is.

Councillor Chan asks if the report took into account any name changes Arts and Science may have in the coming terms. The Governing Documents Researcher states that the recommendation reflects the current name, as stated in the Memorandum of Agreement signed by the AUS and the DPSLL. Furthermore, he states that if the name changes, a change regarding the seat can occur.



The President asks if any changes have been made that have occurred since the last time this report was presented. The Governing Documents Researcher indicates that the report has remained the same since the last Council meeting of November 28, 2019.

The Governing Documents Researcher goes over some highlights of the report, which is available on the SSMU website.

Councillor Fakih asks for clarification concerning a proposed amendment of striking out certain sections from the previous Council meeting. The Governing Documents Researcher clarifies that no amendments have been approved at the last Council meeting, with confirmation from the Recording Secretary.

VP External asks if this would be the last chance to change the list of Officers in the Constitution. The Governing Documents Researcher explains that the list of Officers is in Article 10, and it could still be revisited at a future time.

Senator Lametti inquires about the voting rights of Officers at Council, what consultations have been conducted regarding this, will this cause any issues or conflict. The Governing Documents Researcher explains that this did come up in their Committee's work meetings and the reflection was regarding several portfolios, such as Equity, Indigenous Affairs and Francophone Affairs. He further explains that Indigenous Affairs is almost treated like a Service and has operational autonomy. In addition, Equity, Indigenous Affairs and Francophone Affairs has a large degree of latitude, so there should not be any issues.

VP External yields his time to Councillor Fakih. Councillor Fakih inquires if the Minutes have been removed from the Council folder.

Senator Lametti motions for a two-minute recess, seconded by Councillor Chan – PASSES.

[Recess at 19:16.]

[Return at 19:18.]

Debate:

The President motions to adopt the recommendations, seconded by Proxy for Councillor Platt.

Debate:

VP University Affairs motions to strike 8.2a, voting restrictions on Officers, stating that the recommendation is unwise to limit Executive voting powers. VP University Affairs explains that Executive Officers are elected on mandates, and that the most effective way to fulfill the mandates is through passing motions in Legislative Council. She further notes that by removing the votes of the



executives, this largely hampers the ability of the Executives to fulfill their mandates, as they are privy to certain information that is not accessible to other Councillors. For example, the motion regarding the Reopening of Gerts Fee, she believes, was voted down because of Officer votes, which is not operationally wise. Similarly, VP University Affairs explains that when executives vote, regardless of if they vote in a block, they are subject to special information other Councillors may not have access to.

VP University Affairs motions to strike section 8.2a, seconded by VP Internal.

Debate on the amendment:

VP External believes that Legislative Council, near the end of the year, should be mandating Executives to do certain tasks; going clause by clause, and setting the mandates for each Executive. VP External explains that between meetings of Legislative Council, Executives have the proper guidance from constituents and work on platforms.

Senator Lametti indicates he disagrees with the amendment. Senator Lametti states that in the large number of people that were consulted during consultation, many indicated that this was a change that they'd like to see on Council. Secondly, he states that the Legislative Council is even more representative of the will of the students than the Executive Committee, and presumably, if the students vote for a certain platform, then they should also vote for representatives who will also be given a platform. If there's a disconnect between the platform and the will of Council, he believes that the Council should be superior to that of the platform because it is more representative.

Member of the Gallery, Alex Karasick, states that the argument of the Executives not being able to fulfill their mandates, if they do not vote holds little weight. Similarly, he refers to the Concordia Student Union (CSU) for a successful implementation of non-voting Executives.

Proxy for Councillor Platt echoes Senator Lametti sentiments and believes Legislative Council should strike the proposals made by the VP University Affairs. Proxy for Councillor Platt explains that the mandate of Legislative Council is to hold the Executives accountable, and that voting should be removed in order to hold the Executives accountable.

VP University Affairs argues that democratically voting for Officers and Councillors doesn't hold too much weight, for her personally. Speaking on the US system, a popular vote for the President may be a certain way, but then in the House of Representatives, the makeup can differ, even being a different party than the President. In regard to putting it to the membership, while she does agree, notes that this change did originate in a more recent version, and furthermore, notes that the first version of the report did not include the provision for the removal of votes from officers. As such, she believes it to be a big change in Council and deserves more consideration and thought before the motion is put to a vote.



Councillor Bhutkar states that in terms of representation, Legislative Council as a Council should be representative of the students, which is why they are individually voted upon by their respective students. Furthermore, they are voted on by smaller cohorts of people than the Executives, making the Councillors more representatives than the Executives of the faculties they represent. Councillor Bhutkar adds that this provision was added after consultations after looking at other student unions, and seeing that in our student union, executives tend to vote as a bloc, swaying votes, especially when concerning contentious issues. As such, he states that it is important Councillors keep in mind that Council is very representative of their constituents.

Councillor Fakih states that in response to the statement that executives vote in a bloc, Councillor Fakih believes executives are the most knowledgeable of everyone at Legislative Council concerning SSMU. Thus, Councillor Fakih states that if they vote in a bloc, it is because they have the most experience and knowledge in certain fields.

Councillor Marcoux motions to call the question, seconded by Proxy for Councillor Platt - PASSES.

In favour: 17

Opposed: 7

The question has been called.

Voting Period:

Voting on the motion to strike 8.2a from the Report of the Comprehensive Governance Review Committee - FAILS.

In favour: 8

Opposed: 15

Abstaining: 2

Debate on the main motion:

Councillor Fakih moves to strike all mention of the words “following vacancies” from the report, seconded by VP External.

Councillor Fakih motivates.

Councillor Fakih states that quorum should be kept the way that it is.

Debate on the amendment:



VP External states that lowering quorum removes the incentive of the Board of Directors to fill vacancies.

The President echoes what has been stated in previous Council meetings, stating that last year the Board of Directors had issues meeting quorum, resulting in great difficulties properly dealing with the business of the Society in a timely and efficient way. Similarly, he disagrees with the notion that a lower quorum would remove the incentive to fill vacancies. As such, he will be voting against the amendment and urges others to do the same.

Proxy for Councillor Platt inquires if Board of Directors members can send proxies on their behalf. The Speaker replies that they cannot. Each Director is registered with the Régie des Entreprises de Québec, and are entitled to cast one vote on the Board of Directors, so proxies are prohibited.

VP External states that alternatively, if there is difficulty meeting quorum, he would suggest working with the Services Representative to reach marginalized and otherwise underrepresented groups because they tend to represent a lot of those voices. VP External does not know how much effort has been done to work with a Service Representative this year and last year, however.

The President states that currently, the Board of Directors is a full slate, but does agree that representation is an issue. The President explains that on his first year on Board, Board membership dropped to 8, and quorum for Board of Directors is 7, with email approval being 8 directors. He states that they were very close to Board not being able to fulfill their duties properly.

VP Finance expresses his concern about a Board of Directors that can meet with a quorum lower than seven (7). Furthermore, he explains that if the Board of Directors cannot meet, decisions can be made by the Executive Committee. Similarly, he notes that it is not typically difficult to fill vacancies, as last year, they received 24 applications for two (2) positions.

Councillor Marcoux motions to call the question, seconded by Councillor Mackie - PASSES.

Opposed: 3

Voting Period:

Motion to strike the phrase 'following vacancies' from Section 7 in the report, appearing in 7.4 and 7.6 - PASSES.

In favour: 17

Opposed: 7

Debate on the main motion:



The President thanks the Governing Documents Researcher, Husayn Jamal, for his work.

VP External echoes the sentiments that large faculties have a disproportionate effect on the affairs of the society. Already, there is a perception that SSMU is a society for Arts and Science students, and as such, believes one vote for association is fairly pertinent.

Councillor Chase states that if one looks at the faculties of each Councillors, the Executives are primarily Arts students. But when those votes are removed, Council will be much less Arts students-focused in proportion. While removing the votes of Executives will have a disproportionate effect on Arts students, it will be able to start a bigger conversation of focusing SSMU on faculties that are just not Arts.

Senator Lametti proposes an amendment on page 29 of the report, within the sixth paragraph, change the words to a maximum of four (4), to a maximum of two (2)- seconded by Proxy for Councillor Platt.

Senator Lametti motivates the amendment.

Senator Lametti is a supporter of the one association, one vote, and believes most other institutions in Quebec functions that way. However, Senator Lametti recognizes that there is a historical convention to grant more votes to the larger faculties at McGill University. As such, he wishes for the amendment to serve as a balancing point for these two views. Similarly, he states that if this report is approved at referendum, there will be an addition of three voting seats for Commissioners which historically, have come from the Faculty of Arts. Similarly, he thinks that the amendment would give more of a voice to the faculties that have historically be unrepresented because of their lower numbers.

VP University Affairs personally disagrees with the motion but notes that a conversation should be had with a lot more extensiveness rather than during a meeting of Legislative Council.

The President motions to commit the amendments to the CGRC, seconded by VP External.

Debate on committing the amendment to the CGRC:

The President motivates and indicates his agreeance with VP University Affairs' comments.

Senator Lametti states that there has been prior discussion in regard to it in the CGRC and thinks it's an idea worth looking at.

Councillor Kaye agrees with the President and VP University Affairs' sentiments about further thinking, but cautions Council to limit the work of the Speaker. Councillor Kaye does not think it is smart to take down the number of representatives, but instead, believes Council should think of ways to further include faculties that are underrepresented.



Councillor Chan indicates that the report has been committed numerous times, and believes Council should have the conversation at this time.

VP Internal states that if the point of committing it back to CGRC is for further consultation, she remarks that most of the people that show up to consultation are in the room. As such, VP Internal voices her strong opposition towards committing it back to the CGRC.

Councillor Fakh states that although it would be beneficial to commit the report back the CGRC for further consultations and for the Governing Documents Researcher to provide his own input with regard to the matter, most of the people who are most likely to show up for consultations are in this room already.

VP University Affairs asks to clarify, asking the Speaker if the motion was only to commit the section regarding the representation of the Legislative Council back to CGRC. The Speaker replies, indicating that it is.

Proxy for Councillor Platt echoes the sentiments that it should be dealt with tonight.

VP External states that the drawback to limiting number of seats would limit the amount of consultation that occurs. That being said, he supports faculties holding more General Assemblies to compensate for such a loss.

Councillor Marcoux motions to call the question, seconded by Proxy for Councillor Platt - PASSES.

Voting on the motion to commit to CGRC - FAILS.

In favour: 6

Opposed: 16

Discussion on the amendment:

The President indicates his concerns about making such an important decision now, considering that SSMU has yet to do consultations with the faculty associates, which representation for their SSMU representatives are ingrained in their own constitutions.

Councillor Chan states that the report should not be changed this late into the development of the recommendations.

Councillor Dandamudi states that in terms of the ratio, it is important to remember that representatives take time to hold office hours and are each responsible for 2,000 students. Furthermore, Councillor Dandamudi states that the more students there are in a faculty, the more representatives there should be in order for the students to have more points of contact.



Councillor Daryanani states that it affects the VP External role of the AUS as well and agrees that it should go back for further consultation to the CGRC, which can then discuss with AUS as well.

Senator Lametti takes issue with the statements made by the three previous Arts Councillors who just spoke. He does not believe that the rights or constitution of the AUS should take precedence over the SSMU. If this amendment was passed, the Faculty of Arts would be responsible for reviewing their constitution.

Councillor Fakih voices his concerns regarding the discussion and that he believes the main talking points should revolve around if SSMU should represent students per number or representing faculties. However, Councillor Fakih believes that the options should be to only have one representative, or one for each 2,000 students, as trying to find a balance between those two options does not do it justice. He suggests that in the case of lowering the number of representatives, suggesting lowering it to one per faculty. If not, Councillor Fakih recommends keeping it as is.

VP External states that these changes will only be implemented at the end of the year, which would mean it doesn't necessarily affect things currently. Secondly, in terms of consultation of membership, VP External remarks that this topic came up twice at council and also in multiple meetings of the CGRC, so if the faculty organizations are going to be consulted, they should have already at this point. Furthermore, the VP External states that it is the responsibility of the representatives to conduct consultation with the student body at large, in which they then come to the federative meeting and voices the consultation. Similarly, if there are fewer representatives, the faculty becomes responsible for bringing people into their activities at large in order to have a conversation.

Councillor Bhuktar states that this amendment is not only what kind of representation faculties have, but more so, it changes the ways people can interact with council in regard to voting. Having the same number of votes from a small faculty like Music, as opposed to Science, would disproportionately change the ways individuals can interact with council, as 2,000 students may have the same amount of voice as a faculty of 500 students.

Councillor Kaye speaks on the daily workload of the AUS representatives, explaining that each one of them sits on at least one SSMU committee as well as an AUS committee. By reducing the number of representatives, that would also lead to a reduction of representation on committees.

The Speaker notes that the issue of one vote or lowering threshold did come up, but not during public consultation, but rather, from a member of the committee. During which, the issue was generally set aside, in one part operational, considering that the Legislative Council has 20 committees that have a mandated number of seats. By reducing the number of Councillors, that would mean Councillors doubling or tripling up on their committee work. Similarly, the Speaker explains that there is a historical context of SSMU being a federated body, rather than a one faculty, one vote organization.



Councillor Chase believes that reducing seats has unintended consequences. Furthermore, he explains that if it occurs, they will not know about it until AUS elections. That means that if three representatives are elected, one will have to be let go off. Councillor Chase states that with the current system, Arts voices are able to be more accurately represented.

Proxy for Councillor Platt echoes the sentiment that small faculties feel like SSMU is an organization of Arts students and will strongly support this amendment.

Councillor Bhuktar states that changing the number of representatives is not exclusively an “Arts thing”, and states that the Faculty of Science will be affected too. Furthermore, he states that the motion includes all faculty associations and SSMU.

Member of the Gallery, Alex Karasick, states that there is a strong argument can be made from Proxy for Councillor Platt’s statement of people seeing SSMU as an “Arts group”, but does not know if that is because there are a lot of Arts students on SSMU.

Member of the Gallery, Asa Kohn, voices his agreement with Councillor Bhuktar.

Councillor Fakhri states that the main talking point is if SSMU wishes to represent students per number or representing faculties. If you assume that the faculties have one view and everyone within the same faculty has the same needs, representation by faculty is acceptable. However, Councillor Fakhri states that if you are representing based on a per head approach, it would require ratio representation.

The President motions to amend to add one Councillor appointed in accordance to the standards set forth by the constituents, installing a one faculty, one representative amendment.

[Recess at 20:14.]

[Return at 20:24.]

[Councillor Wright arrives at 20:24.]

Debate on the amendment:

Councillor Kaye refers back to her comments on it not being an Arts Issue and explains the only reason she is speaking for Arts is because she is an Arts student. Furthermore, she states that her seat could be filled by someone of any faculty, but she ran for it.

Proxy for Councillor Wu explains that SSMU is the Students’ Society of McGill University, and that any and every seat should be representing students. Furthermore, the Proxy explains that the more people there are representing students at Legislative Council, the more accurate representation of the students it will be. As such, representation should be kept as is.



Councillor Mackie states that as speaking as someone from a small faculty, she understands the sentiment expressed from small faculties, but has concerns about the time and work needed for the representatives to do their work to a sufficient standard. As such, she states that it may be too much of a workload for representatives if the number of representatives was reduced.

VP External state that faculties have a job of consultation and should not be putting it on one or two people in the first place. Similarly, VP External believes that the point raised by the Law Representative may just be specific to her, given the amount of the workload for law students compared to other faculties.

Councillor Chan addresses the notion that it being a “motion of Arts students”. Councillor Chan explains that SSMU is an inherently political body. Furthermore, politics is largely studied by students in Art. Furthermore, he states that the whole discussion of representative democracy versus a federation is a question of political theory. He explains that there is no way to separate what SSMU does with politics.

Councillor Das states that considering that Arts is the largest faculty, if the number of representatives were reduced, SSMU would not really be representative of all the identities and demographics in the Society.

[Proxy for Councillor Wu departs at 20:30.]

Senator Lametti states that representation has not been brought up in regard to the smaller faculties, noting that one faculty may have 80 students, while another has 800. Similarly, there is the recommendation to add seats for Equity, Indigenous Affairs, and Francophone Affairs, which is not based on the number of people, but instead, on ideas.
Not on basis of number, but on ideas

Councillor Chase states that it is the opinion that two Arts Representatives, or one extra representative does not change the purpose of Council in the way that it would make it Arts-centred, and more so, unable to listen to the voices smaller faculties. To prove the point, Councillor Chase asks for permission to leave temporarily.

[Councillor Chase leaves the room temporarily.]

VP External points out the irony of the departure, stating that if Councillor Chase’s departure didn’t have much of an effect, asking why is everyone bothered by having less representatives.

In terms of representation, VP External finds it odd to default to the idea of representation by population because then you are liable by representing or overrepresenting people with large populations. In the same framework, this is systematically and necessarily disadvantaging small populations.



Lastly VP External addresses a comment made by Councillor Kaye, stating that her position could be held by any faculty. That being said, VP External says it's more likely to be an Arts student because they have more 'free time'.

Proxy for Councillor Platt motion to call the question, seconded by VP External.

Voting on the amendment - FAILS.

Debate on the main motion:

The President motions to amend, seconded by Proxy for Councillor Platt. The President motivates the motion.

The President notes that while he was definitely in favour of keeping the status quo prior, but through serving in his position, he notes that students tend to represent themselves, as opposed to representing their constituents. The President believes that SSMU serves as a federative organization, to share the opinion of faculties, and as such, would be in favour of moving to a one faculty, one vote system. That being said, if necessary, he would be in favour of committing this to CGRC for further study, including compiling more data on voting tendencies or vote as a bloc, as well as the practices of other Quebec universities, and Canadian universities.

Debate on the amendment:

Councillor Bhutkar asks for in regard to seats such as Clubs representatives, if those will be reduced as well.

VP University Affairs states that she does not understand how this motion is different from the previous motion. Specifically, VP University Affairs notes that they just voted on the motion of peer representation versus vote cap/representation by faculty.

Councillor Merali states that any movement away from proportional representation fails to capture the purpose of the Legislative Council and would be a distillation of the SSMU membership.

VP External states that that point was one that was considered in CGRC but notes that he reached the opposite conclusion. Furthermore, VP External stresses that it will not lead to proper representation like one might assume.

Senator Lametti takes issue with the idea that there is currently proportional representation at SSMU, and asks if that is the case, why can the positions for Clubs and Services representatives be continued to be supported, as well as the newly introduced Commissioner seats. He furthermore states that the Legislative Council is not proportional representation. He states that the representation of ideas can



be supported by a 'one faculty, one vote' system, as well as for Services, Clubs, and the various commissioners.

Councillor Chan states that Senator Lametti's comments support why a status quo works, stating that the status quo is a Council of both representation of ideas and representation of proportionality, and strikes a good balance.

Proxy for Councillor Platt states that earlier this evening one of the reasons that VP University Affairs' amendment to keep voting seats for executives was because they tend to vote in a block. Similarly, he states that in the last vote, it was pretty representative that there was a clear block.

Councillor Chase indicates his disagreement with the comment. Councillor Chase explains that in most issues, Arts Representatives are constitutionally required to split their votes, especially concerning contentious issues.

Councillor Chan indicates that he voted in favor of VP University Affairs' amendment. Furthermore, Councillor Chan explains that three arts representatives mean that they can take on special projects and aid the executives in specific tasks they would not be able to do if there were fewer representatives. As such, Councillor Chan states that taking away Arts Representatives inhibits the AUS Executives for doing fun things for their constituents.

Councillor Kersch states that they are going in circles. He reiterates what Proxy for Councillor Wu states, stating that his position is Varsity representative to SSMU, drawing attention to the fact that he is SSMU representative to Legislative Council of the Student Society of McGill University.

Councillor Dandamudi states that in regard to comments made directed to Arts students, she does not have more time than anyone else on Council. Furthermore, she receives countless emails, and notes it takes significant time for the representatives to filter through the emails. As such, it goes to show how necessary the positions are.

Councillor Daryanani states that he is proposing three (3) seats for Arts, as opposed to two (2) or four (4). Considering he is VP External for SSMU, he states that his role primarily is not sitting on Council. As such, he believes that two maybe too less, or four maybe too much, but believes three may be just right. As such, he proposes that it goes back to CGRC.

Senator Lametti answers in response to all four Arts Councillors expressing the same view, he states that it is not up to the SSMU to solve the internal organizational issues of the AUS. Furthermore, he does not think that the current balance of councillors is appropriate.

The President motions to commit this back to the CGRC, seconded by Councillor Mackie.

Debate on the motion to commit:



Councillor Chan indicates his opposition towards committing the motion back to CGRC. Furthermore, he states that Legislative Council has expressed their democratic opinion on it and does not think it's necessary to burden CGRC with this unnecessary labour. VP External echoes these sentiments.

Councillor Kaye echoes the sentiments of Councillor Chan and VP External.

Councillor Chase motions to call the question, seconded by Proxy for Councillor Platt - PASSES.

Voting to commit the amendment to the CGRC - FAILS.

In favour: 6

Opposed: Majority

Debate on the amendment:

Proxy for Councillor Platt motions to call the question, seconded by Councillor Chan - FAILS.

In favour: 11

Opposed: 10

VP External states that if the Faculty of Arts is having trouble recruiting people to complete tasks, he suggests maybe paying stipends to people to help executives. As well, he would like to propose a model used by ASSE. He explains that each association has a General Assembly within its membership for direct consultation on issues as they come up. Then, they come to a federative body where each group has one vote as per their constituencies' opinion, in which opinions will not be disproportionately outweighed.

Councillor Daryanani apologizes to Senator Lametti and Proxy for Councillor Platt for misunderstanding the intention of Arts students. Similarly, he states that he has not voted as a block with the other Arts Councillors.

The President continues to stand by his sentiment that each faculty should receive one vote.

VP External states that the best-case scenario is that a faculty is overrepresented for one faculty, one vote. The worst case is that in cases of contentious issues, the Councillor may be forced to abstain.

Voting Period:

Vote on the amendment to strike for every 2,000 students' part thereof, and to limit each faculty to one representative - FAILS.



Senator Lametti motion to vote by roll call - PASSES AUTOMATICALLY.

In favour: Councillors Fakhri, Dixon, Platt, Lametti, Garneau, President, VP Internal, VP External.

Opposed: Councillors Chan, Chase, Dandamudi, Kersch, Flaherty, Kaye, Sbayte, Das, Fried, Bhutkar, Wright, VP University Affairs, VP Student Life.

Abstaining: Daryanani, Bulhoes, Marcoux, Mackie, Merali, VP Finance.

In favour: 8

Opposed: 13

Abstaining: 6

Debate on the report as a whole:

Councillor Chase motions to change the word choice from “appointed” to “elected”. Councillor Chase motivates the amendment. Councillor Chase states that with his amendment, all Legislative Council representatives would be elected by SSMU.

Debate on the amendment:

VP Finance explains that SSMU does not have the capacity to run elections for a single faculty. Furthermore, he states it would require faculty collaboration that has not been addressed yet.

Senator Lametti states that he is a strong believer of federation, and as such, he believes it should be left to the faculties to decide how their representatives are selected.

The Speaker notes that a few years ago, all SSMU Senators were elected by the SSMU, but notes that elections were moved directly to the faculties to make it easier, due in part to low turnout, and make voting easier.

VP External thinks they are having a serious misinterpretation of what is meant by SSMU as a council made up of faculty associations.

Councillor Marcoux motions to call the question, seconded by Councillor Fried - PASSES.

Voting on the amendment - FAILS.

In favour: 1

Opposed: Majority

Debate on the report:



Proxy for Councillor Platt motions to call the question, seconded by VP Student Life – PASSES.

Voting Period:

In favour: 23

Opposed: 2

Abstaining: 3

The recommendations of the report are carried.

12. Generative Discussion

1. Relationship with UTILE and Potential Financing Models

VP External motivates the motion. VP External explains that for students, students often pay more in housing costs than for tuition. VP External states that this Information was presented by UTILE during a Legislative Council meeting last year. UTILE is a non-profit, the profits they make go to fixed salaries. Then, the excess profits go back into a fund which will be used for future projects. In the past, SSMU has worked with UTILE on housing surveys with them in 2014 and 2017.

VP External states that he has been given a mandate in regard to the development of affordable housing and presents three options for Legislative Council to consider. The first option is to stop working with UTILE completely. Secondly, SSMU could continue researching options. Thirdly, they, in collaboration with UTILE could build an apartment building.

Councillor Merali motions to extend by two minutes, seconded by VP Internal - PASSES.

Speaking on the options for building the apartment, VP External notes that there are two options. Firstly, a referendum could be organized in order to put forward a \$6.50 fee. Alternatively, they could lower the capital expenditure fund of the SSMU, but notes that it would have negative consequences, including less frequent renovations to Gert's and the University Centre. VP External states that the public assembly on January 27 will be an opportunity to solicit feedback from students regarding this development.

[Councillor Marcoux departs at 21:25.]

Question Period:

Councillor Chan asks if this would be a six-dollar fee for every student, even though not every student will be benefitting equally from this housing project, and if so, would it not make sense to the students who are not benefitting from the housing.



VP External states that all people are benefitting, by making an investment in affordable student housing.

VP Finance notes that Councillor Chan's sentiment comes out a lot, and it can be seen in situations such as various safety services, in which those services benefit female students a lot more than male students.

Senator Lametti states that if there is a significant issue with affordable housing for McGill students, he would like to see McGill have more of an effort in working to rectify this. Similarly, he finds the idea of housing that's segregated for a certain population of us trying to foster affordable housing in general. As such, he is not comfortable with SSMU taking part of this project.

Alex Karasick states that the goal of SSMU is to help the students. He states he has worked with UTILE previously, and notes that they do good work. He states that although SSMU may not be able to get everyone student housing, that doesn't mean they should not make an effort to rectify part of the issue.

Councillor Mackie asks if the fee is non-opt-outable. VP External indicates that it is.

VP University Affairs indicates her support for the third option, in which she supports a referendum question. While she does believe that it should be the university's responsibility, she does believe it is possible to do both. A being putting money aside that SSMU, as their own entity, can involve themselves in affordable student housing and simultaneously advocate for the university to lower the fees of residence and lower the fees of cafeterias.

VP External explains that the reason why housing isn't affordable at McGill University is because McGill gouges students so that they can pay the salaries of people working for McGill. Similarly, working with UTILE is particularly advantageous because they work on raising funds and developing social partnerships for student housing.

Senator Lametti states that he is in favour of a continuation of a relationship, but not necessarily for the building of housing.

Councillor Fried echoes the sentiments of VP University Affairs, and notes that there are issues that uniquely affects residence users. Councillor Fried explains that IRC is not able to lobby the administration. Similarly, he strongly urges Councillors to support adopting a future motion.

VP Finance provides details of the financial estimates, stating that UTILE has estimated the project to cost 40 million dollars, and desires \$1.5million contribution from SSMU. He states that this will be collected through a six-dollar fee charged over 5 years, which would result in approximately \$1.4 million. The other \$100,000 would be covered by SSMU.



The President notes that the Brown Student Services Building was created in collaboration with McGill, and that furthermore, a \$50.00 fee was levied onto students, and it passed through referendum.

VP Finance motions to extend discussion by one minute and thirty seconds, seconded by Councillor Chan - PASSES.

VP External states that other funding would come front a trust, which is funding for cooperative and social economic projects, granting them approximately \$1million. Furthermore, VP External states that \$4.4 million would come from UTILE, \$3.7million from the City of Montreal, and then a mortgage loan from the CMHC, the Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation for approximately \$29.8million.

Councillor Merali motions to suspend the rules in order to allow the submission of a late mission, seconded by Councillor Bhutkar - PASSES.

The rules are suspended.

Councillor Merali motions to accept the possibility #3 in Document 11A Generative Discussion of UTILE and of Potential Financing Models, seconded by VP Student Life.

Debate:

Senator Lametti prefers option #2, and as such, will be voting against the motion. Furthermore, he asks what PGSS's opinion on the endeavor was.

VP External explains that PGSS communication was prolonged and resulted in inaction.

Proxy for Councillor Platt asks how many units there would be in the apartment building complex.

VP External indicates approximately 300 units, with a one to two-year turnaround.

Councillor Merali states that the rationale for how PGSS views this project may be different.

Vote on the Motion of Option 3 in regard to Student Housing - PASSES.

In favour: 14

Opposed: 8

Abstaining: 2

[Proxy for Councillor Platt departs at 21:45.]

13. Recess, Consent Items



14. Business Arising

15. New Business

1. Notice of Motion Regarding Amendments to the Internal Regulations of Student Groups 2020-01-16

VP Student Life motivates the report.

2. Notice of Motion Regarding Amendments to the Effective Committees Policy 2020-01-16

VP External motivates the report.

VP External explains that it enshrines the subdivision of committees between ones dealing with purely internally-facing legislative structures as opposed to one dealing with external issues. He states that this motion was done in consultation with various commissioners in line with other amendments, in which the executives help to bring to Legislative Council with regards to empowering Commissioners. Similarly, this motion can bring people into the SSMU, and make sure that different groups doing work can use the SSMU platform as a way to speak as experts.

3. Notice of Motion Regarding Adoption of the SSMU Mental Health Policy and Plan 2020-2023 2019-01-09

VP Student Life motivates the report.

VP Student Life explains that it is the guiding document for the Mental Health Commission as well as the Mental Health Commissioner. VP Student Life explains that within the plan, the structure of the Commission will be changed, going from two commissioners to one commissioner with two coordinators. Similarly, the round table will also be institutionalized.

4. Motion Regarding Changes to the Committee Terms of Reference 2020-01-10
--**APPROVED**

VP Finance motivates.

VP Finance explains that the motion strikes the Financial Ethics committee, which has not sat since Winter 2017, and replaces it the annual review of the Society's Investment Portfolio of the Finance Committee. He states that this will give the Finance Committee work to do. Similarly, it also adds the Finance Commissioner to the committee, as well as move more Councillors to the Finance Committee.



Question Period:

Councillor Chase states that as it's a committee of the Board, asks if the addition of more Legislative Councillor seats than total amount Board seats will have any effect.

VP Finance states no, as Board would still have to ratify decisions from the Committee.

Debate:

There is no debate.

Voting Period:

[Departure of Councillor Dixon at 21:53.]

Motion Regarding Changes to the Committee Terms of Reference - APPROVED.

In favour: 21

Against: 0

Abstaining: 1

VP Finance motions to postpone the Nomination of Councillors, due to lack of attendance, seconded by Councillor Mackie - PASSES.

5. Notice of Motion Regarding the Adoption of the Gendered and Sexual Violence Committee Terms of Reference 2020-01-16

VP Finance gives notice of the motion.

6. Motion Regarding a Provincial Student Assembly 2020-01-16 --APPROVED

VP External motivates the report.

VP External explains that the Quebec government has made it clear that they don't wish to deal with individual university student concerns. VP External explains that there are two kinds of provincial assemblies that pop up. The first is a lobby group that focuses on research, organized by the government. The second type is one that governments do not wish to be involved in, organizations that centralize coordination and financing of students, to be able to oppose such things as tuition hikes. VP External states that it is different than AVEQ, as it has a floor. VP External notes that four other student associations must pass similar mandates before negotiations begin for the formation of a student association.



Question Period:

Councillor Chan wonders if McGill University's position as one of the few English schools in Quebec would be drowned out as more French-speaking universities begin to participate.

VP External states that a lot of it depends on the ground floor. That being said, VP External states that anglophone schools' views tend to align with regional schools as well.

VP External states that although there is a risk, they do not see it becoming a reality.

Councillor Kaye asks what the representation at the assembly will look like in terms of representation from McGill. Councillor Kaye also notes that McGill is the most international university in the province and asks how it will be reflected at the assembly.

VP External states that method of representation will be determined by governing documents. On the second question, VP External states that if the group that is being formed is committed to serving under-represented schools, international students tend to come up in discussions. Similarly, there would hopefully be paid staff to maintain relationships with parliamentary secretaries, give media contacts, and give press releases. As well, there would be council meetings of members of schools to determine the orientation of the overall association. As well, the executives of the association would be responsible for carrying out the mandates given to them.

Councillor Chan motions to extend discussion by three minutes, seconded by Councillor Fried - PASSES.

Councillor Chan asks if students in Quebec have a history of promoting separatist interests. VP External states it not typically.

Senator Lametti states that despite the references to UEQ and AVEQ, he assumes it would not be an association, but rather an open forum. He asks if this motion is more in line of creating an open forum to discuss mobilization, migration and other issues, or in the spirit of potentially participating in a new principal association.

VP External states that inherent to the amendment is both. He states that he has been pushing for another student association.

Councillor Mackie asks for clarification on the risk factor section, in which it states that UEQ has been unsuccessful. Furthermore, she asks in which way could the new proposed student assembly succeed in the ways the UEQ could not.

VP External, clarifies, stating that UEQ was not unsuccessful, but rather, the way they went about things was unsuccessful, as they go for a safe approach.



Senator Lametti motions to add during Winter or Fall of 2020, seconded by VP External - PASSES.

Debate on the motion:

VP External encourages faculties to have conversations in regard to provincial representation.

Councillor Chase states that a debate on provincial representation has been around for years. As such, he states that Councillors should be cautious when voting on this. He states that a few years ago, McGill voted on AVEQ affiliation and it was rejected by 62% of the students. He states that because of McGill's unique nature, it would be better for McGill University to work with the provincial assembly on its own rather than be tied to groups that are radically different.

Senator Lametti states that this is not a new provincial association, and that the motion should not be interpreted as such.

VP External replies to Councillor Chase, stating that the vote he mentioned had a high abstention rate, and according to the lack of approval for membership, most cited it due to lack of information. Similarly, VP External states that any time McGill University has tried to do its own lobbying, it failed.

Councillor Kaye asks if this organization is fundamentally bilingual. Senator Lametti states that it would be as bilingual as SSMU. VP External states that it depends on who is on the ground floor.

Voting Period:

Motion regarding Provincial Student Assembly - APPROVED.

In favour: 12

Opposed: 3

Abstaining: 7

[Departure of Senator Garneau at 22:17.]

[Recess begins at 22:18.]

[Recess adjourns at 22:28.]

7. Motion Regarding Plan on Clubs and Services as SSMU's Highest Priority 2019-03-28
--COMMITTED

VP Student Life motivates the motion. VP Student Life explains that it outlines actionable steps in order to prioritize communications and steps to clubs and services.



Question Period:

The President asks why the plan will expire at 2024, rather than 2025. Furthermore, the President asks VP Student Life if he foresees it being a four-year plan, or a plan that can be renewed to continue on past this benchmark. VP Student Life explains that the timeline is such because a lot of the steps should be able to be done in four years. Following the four years, SSMU should re-evaluate and have new goals.

VP External asks how the number of 50-100 clubs was determined. VP Student Life states that they determined that it was a reasonable amount, in consultation with the Clubs and Services Coordinator.

Councillor Fakh points out that in the body of the motion, the plan is said to expire in 2024, but in the Conclusion section of the motion, it says that it is five (5) years in duration.

VP Student Life motions to make a friendly amendment to make the expiry of the plan January 2025.

VP Finance motions to add a .6 under operation, giving a line of credit to every service come Winter 2021. Councillor Kaye indicates it as a friendly amendment.

VP Finance apologizes to VP Student Life and Clubs Representatives, and states that his amendment codifies what Finance Committee is already doing.

VP External motions to commit the motion to a combined committee of representatives from Clubs and Finance committees, seconded by VP Finance.

Debate:

VP External states that as per the base free increase and the referendum question that's associated, there was positioned envisioned for the creation of a Clubs and Services Manager to oversee much of the work done in clubs and services.

Voting Period:

Motion to commit - PASSES.

8. Motion to Endorse the Student Mobilization Against Bill 21 2020-01-16
--UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

VP External motivates the motion, stating that there is a big mobilization against Bill 21. Similarly, VP External states that the actions align with SSMU's leadership goals in the matters of human rights, social justice, and environmental protection. Furthermore, VP External states that there is no real way to lobby the government against Bill 21, as they rushed through consultation sessions on the bill in six



days. VP External states that if passed, the motion should be upheld as a statement that should be released to the student body tomorrow, before the strike starts.

Question Period:

VP Internal asks if there is a desire for this statement to be translated if the motion passes. VP External states that there is a desire to do so, but in regard to logistics, is doubtful it can be done.

Debate:

Councillor Kaye asks for an individual to address the issue of the timing of the AUS assembly.

Councillor Chase states that when the AUS executives were made aware of the petition, they immediately tried to book a room, initially for Wednesday evening. However, the only time available for such a large space was for Friday at 16:30. As well, Councillor Chase states that had there been more notice, they may have been able to get the proper room on time.

Voting Period:

The President motions to adopt by unanimous consent, seconded by Councillor Chan.

Voting on the Motion to Endorse the Student Mobilization Against Bill 21 - UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

[Councillor Das departs at 22:43.]

16. Reports by Committees

1. Executive Committee 2020-01-16

The President motivates the report.

The President states that they approved a motion regarding hiring and budgetary decisions of \$10,000.

Question Period:

Councillor Fakhri inquires if this is the same report that the Board approved. The President states that it is the one presented to the Board of Directors.

VP External asks whose role it is for information to be redacted, indicating that the individual roles of the SACOMMS should be redacted.

The Speaker states that it is the role of the Governance Manager.



Councillor Chan motions to suspend the rules, seconded by VP Internal.

VP Finance states that certain roles of SACOMMS are private and public, and notes that these roles are public.

2. Club Committee 2020-01-16 --**APPROVED**

VP Student Life motivates the report.

VP Student Life states that they have reviewed full status clubs, constitutional amendments, and status revisions for clubs who had not done their duties.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

VP Internal motions to approve seconded by Councillor Daryanani - PASSES.

3. Funding Committee 2020-01-16

VP Finance motivates the report.

VP Finance states that this report details all of the funding decisions made in the second half of the Fall semester. He notes that the Funding Committee, on November 27, approved \$32,000 for Midnight Kitchen. He explains that Midnight Kitchen has been paying a rental for a commercial kitchen for almost two years. Furthermore, he states that there is only so long that this model can be sustainable. VP Finance states that this \$32,000 is the cost that Midnight Kitchen will have to cover this year.

Question Period:

VP Internal asks if there is any funding left in the Campus Space Fund.

VP Finance states that the IRs allow the Funding Committee to disperse up to 65% of the fund in a single semester. He states that they have dispersed exactly 65%, and thus, have 35% left.

VP Internal asks if there is a section of the IRs of Finance that groups can apply for, so that Midnight Kitchen could theoretically apply and get the remaining amount available.

VP Finance states that this is not possible; this application covers all their operational costs for the rest of the year until the building opens.



Councillor Fakih inquires in regards to Formula Electric, and points out that three (3) out of four (4) trips were funded and one of them was not within the fiscal year, and asks VP Finance to elaborate on that.

VP Finance explains that the IRs do not permit funding to fund projects outside of the fiscal year.

VP Internal inquires regarding MIR's application, asking if there is there a reason why they weren't referred to TVM who already has equipment.

VP Finance states that MIR is not a club, only a campus group, and as such, it is within their prerogative to do so.

VP Finance motions to approve, seconded by Councilor Flaherty - PASSES.

17. Reports by Councillors

18. Executive Reports

1. President

The President presents the report.

He notes that his report is quite sparse. He announces that Legislative Council will be meeting in McConnell 603 for the remainder of the semester. Similarly, the President indicates that the Winter General Assembly will occur on February 24, 2020 at 6:00 pm in the New Residence Ballroom. The President notes that there have been two Board of Directors meetings since last Legislative Council. On the Board of Governors, he notes that they did not divest, choosing to adopt instead other non-divest recommendations, including increasing impact divestments, furthering the screening process of the McGill investment portfolio, practicing active shareholder engagement, decarbonization, ESG integration, annual reporting on recommendations, socially responsible investment reviews, and serving as an institutional leader. On the latter, however, he believes that it is not possible for McGill to be an institutional leader based on their position in regard to divestment. For Senate, he notes that he could not attend the most recent meeting. Lastly, the President has been attending the Men's Varsity Team Naming Committee, which convenes once to twice a week.

Question Period:

Councillor Merali states that the Services that will be moving back into the building do not know what a move-in would look like nor the timeline and asks for details.

The President recommends Councillor Merali ask the question again later during Council.



2. Vice-President (University Affairs)

VP University Affairs presents the report.

VP University Affairs states that the Deans of Management, Agriculture and Environmental Science, and Science have all been reappointed for five-year terms.

VP University Affairs also notes that Dean of Students Chris Buddle is now going to be an Associate Provost. VP University Affairs explains that it is a brand-new position. Furthermore, Glenn Zabowsky, who was the Associate Dean of Students, is now serving as the interim Dean of Students, and states that the selection process will begin shortly.

In regard to Schulich Library construction, she notes that it hasn't even begun, with the completion date being estimated during 2022.

VP University Affairs is now on the advisory committee for the term extension for the Dean of Libraries. VP University Affairs explains that while the Dean has already served two full terms, the Provost wished to reappoint her for stability. Furthermore, she states anyone with feedback on the Dean should message her.

VP University Affairs announces that Senate met on December 4, 2019. At this meeting, she states that the student Senators sent a question regarding out-of-province Canadian students. She explains that the Government of Quebec has set regulations on the percentage of McGill students that have to be from the province. More so, VP University Affairs states that university also has its own internal targets on the number of international students, which means that McGill will have to decrease the number of out-of-province McGill University students that it targets for recruitment, by roughly 5%.

VP University Affairs also states that McGill Senate met on January 15, 2020.

Councillor Daryanani motions for a three-minute extension, seconded by VP Finance - PASSES.

VP University Affairs states that the Senate Caucus had two questions. One was on divestment, asking for clarification because in multiple statements to the community as well as the CAMSR report, McGill states that they used the word divestment when discussing a reduction of investment in fossil fuel companies, but notes that what McGill is doing is not investment. VP University Affairs explains that the goal was for the Principal to admit on the record that McGill was not divesting, and states that a version of that succeeded.

VP University Affairs states that a public assembly that held in collaboration with AGSEM on the Wellness Hub in December.

VP University Affairs states that all researchers are working diligently.



For Equity, VP University Affairs states that Equity Committee held a coffee house on November 29, and that a new Equity Commissioner should be selected in the next week.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

3. Vice-President (Internal)

VP Internal presents the report.

VP Internal states that Fac-O Hype Night will occur on January 29. Similarly, Fac-O will occur from March 9-13, 2020. She explains that as Fac-O comes at the tail-end of other weeks, such as Hype, Carnival, and Science Games, numerous venues did not want to work with McGill. VP Internal indicates she is looking to find new venues for Fac-O events.

VP Internal states that SSPN has been working to get meetings with various McGill departments (DPSLL, Security) to see if SnOwAP could happen, but notes that it is too late to organize it now, but they are working on something less ambitious could be achieved this year.

VP Internal states that tomorrow, EdUS will take over the SSMU Instagram to showcase the strike on Bill 21.

For First Year Council, VP Internal states that they are holding a First Year Legislative Council. VP Internal states that First Year Council is collaborating with History Students' Association and the Cancer Society of McGill to respond to the work they are doing or just have elaborative ventures.

VP Internal notes that the Students Sustainability Network, which is a conglomeration of student groups have all come together to discuss sustainability initiatives. Currently, they are working on a mug reuse project that will be arriving to Dispatch soon.

VP External motions for a two-minute extension, seconded by Councillor Bhuktar - PASSES.

VP Internal encourages Councillors to donate mugs that they do not use. She explains that this project will be used for students to be able to get drinks in a reusable cup. VP Internal states that the aim is to expand it across campus but notes that the project needs to have dishwashers nearby. Lastly, they are working to revamp the Sustainability website.

Lastly, VP Internal has had a couple of meetings with McGill's head art curator, and notes that she is currently working on having a more public exhibition to showcase Art.



Question Period:

VP External asks if VP Internal has had any meetings with the IAC and the Curator to further the conversation of inclusion of Indigenous art.

VP Internal states that she hasn't had a meeting with them together unfortunately.

4. Vice-President (Finance)

VP Finance presents the report.

VP Finance states that he has started budgeting meetings this month, meeting with commissioners, executives, staff, attempting to give SSMU casual staff and executives more control over their expenses account.

Regarding bank transition, VP Finance states that this year they are doing services, accounts payable, and payroll. VP Finance explains that there should be no black out.

VP Finance states that they are looking to phase out cheques and move to electronic fund transfers instead.

Regarding the investment portfolio, VP Finance remarks that a portfolio without fossil fuels could do well. Furthermore, VP Finance states that the investment returns were up quite a lot by the end of the year.

For Clubs, VP Finance states that more finance workshops will be held in the Winter semester.

VP Finance states that he has met with RBC commercial team, alerting them of issues they have been experiencing.

For the credit card pilot project, VP Finance states that expansion to IAC should begin next week hopefully.

Councillor Daryanani motions to extend by three (3) minutes, seconded by Councillor Merali - PASSES.

Regarding funding, VP Finance states that there are a couple of underutilized funds, naming the Green Fund, Community Engagement Fund, First Year fund, among others.

Question Period:

Councillor Merali states that the Services that will be moving back into the building do not know what a move-in would look like nor the timeline and asks for details.



VP Finance states that he had a meeting with McGill, and states that move-in should be either at the end of March 2020 or early April 2020. VP Finance also indicates that McGill confirmed verbally that SSMU will be able to use 3501 Peel and 680 Sherbrooke until June 2020.

[Departure of Councillor Flaherty at 23:17.]

Councillor Fakih asks VP Finance to describe what 3501 Peel would be used for. VP Finance explains that the top two floors will be rented to tenants, with those tenants being wellness and mental health professionals. Furthermore, he states that one of the criteria for selecting tenants was that they would accept the SSMU Health and Dental plan. The other floors should be bookable for student groups to use.

5. Vice-President (Student Life)

VP Student Life presents the report. VP Student Life states that Fall audits were due last week, and they had a 95% completion rate.

As well, VP Student Life met with a variety of students who are interested in starting projects under SSMU using SSMU resources.

Further, VP Student Life has met with various services in regard to the SSMU volunteer form and the idea of privacy.

Currently, he has been reviewing with the Communications department in regard to Walksafe's re-branding. Similarly, he met with Nightline and TVM about office space in the University Centre.

For mental health initiatives, VP Student Life states that the first mental health round table took place on December 3, 2019, and said it was a success. VP Student Life states that the next one will occur on January 28, 2020. Similarly, they are working on a mental health policy. VP Student Life states that one of the Mental Health commissioners, the outreach committee chair has resigned. As such, VP Student Life indicates that they are following the new plans in the policy to create a coordinator role. As well, they are currently planning the eating disorder awareness weekend which will occur in early February.

For Activities Night, VP Student Life states that he made a promotional video with TVM. Furthermore, he states that it occurred last Thursday and Friday, with over 2,000 people in attendance, allowing them to break even.

Councillor Fakih motions to extend by two minutes, seconded by VP Finance – PASSES.



Lastly, VP Student Life is working with McGill to get an alcohol permit for annual Redpath Museum gala.

[VP University Affairs leaves at 23:26.]

Question Period:

There are no questions.

6. Vice-President (External)

VP External presents the report. VP External states that hiring rounds have begun for a researcher into the history of political organizing at McGill University.

VP External states that he is exploring the role of the VP External in taking on an increased financial burden for supporting campaigns.

Similarly, he is working on training guides to strengthen the role of Commissioners.

VP External states that he is working on a focus group into community-engaged learning.

As well, he has begun hiring rounds for a Community Engagement Project Coordinators, splitting it off from the Community Affairs Coordinator.

VP External states that LPSU and Divest are swelling into one group. Similarly, Demilitarization McGill doing research into the militarization of McGill.

AGSEM has a working group, working to create a mental health policy of the University.

He announces that there is a protest tomorrow for Bill 21.

For community affairs, VP External states that they will be holding public assemblies. As well, in the future they will hold celebrating community events, including one being held on Valentine's Day weekend.

Councillor Merali motions to extend by two minutes, seconded by Councillor Fried – PASSES.

As well VP External is working with CL&E on first-year outreach, especially in regard to how disruptive frosh is.

Francophone Affairs is planning an event on the use of inclusive language, hosted by Michael David Miller.



VP External states that numerous unions are upset with McGill, and notes the situation is getting pretty bad.

Similarly, VP External states that there will be a federal lobbying group going to Parliament Hill to make budget recommendations and indicates to let him know if anyone wishes to attend.

VP External announces that the IRP was finally completed and signed.

19. Confidential Session: **23:37**

The Legislative Council enters into Confidential session at 23:37.

20. Adjournment: **00:04.**

Councillor Chan motions to suspend the rules, seconded by VP Internal.

The Council sings 'Happy Birthday' for Councillor Mackie, in both English and French.

Councillor Wright motions to adjourn, seconded by VP Internal - PASSES.

[Legislative Council adjourns at 00:04.]

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

Bryan Buraga, President