



# SSMU LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PUBLIC MINUTES

February 27, 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, February 27, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order: **18:15**

The Speaker calls the meeting to order at 18:15.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Speaker reads out the land acknowledgement:

3. Attendance

Absent: Councillor Kaye, Councillor Patzer, Councillor Kersh, Councillor Dixon, Councillor Daryanani, Councillor Morgan, Councillor Fried, Senator Garneau and VP Internal.

Ashley Lau will be serving as Proxy for Councillor Das.

Sydney Meritt will be serving as Proxy for Councillor Wu.

Darby Drew will be serving as Proxy for Councillor Watson.

4. Approval of Minutes

- a. Legislative Council Public Minutes 2020-02-13 --**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

VP Finance motions to approve the minutes as distributed, seconded by Councillor Mackie - PASSES.

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

VP University Affairs motions to add the Motion Regarding Amendments to Winter 2020 Referendum Dates, seconded by Councillor Duckett - PASSES.

Opposed: 2



VP External motions to add Notice of Motion Regarding an Events Policy, seconded by Councillor Rhamey - PASSES.

Councillor Rhamey motions to add Motion to nominate Councillor Rhamey to the Environment Committee, seconded by Councillor Duckett - PASSES.

VP External motions for the Report of the of the Comprehensive Governance Review Committee to follow the other guest speakers, given that the presentations prior will be less lengthy items of discussion, seconded by Councillor Chase - PASSES.

Opposed: 5

The President motions to add the Motion Regarding Nomination to the Society's Board of Directors to be discussed, seconded by Councillor Fakih - PASSES.

Senator Lametti motives to move item 14 on the Agenda before Question Period, seconded by Councillor Chan - PASSES.

Opposed: 2

The President motions to move item 13.e. to follow Question Period, to respect the time of the Governing Documents Researcher, seconded by Councillor Fakih - FAILS.

Senator Lametti motions to move the presentation by the McGill Library to the beginning of Guest Speakers (item 7.), seconded by Councillor Rhamey - PASSES.

Opposed: 4

VP Finance motions to adopt the agenda as amended, seconded by Councillor Sbayte - PASSES.

## 6. Report of the Steering Committee

The Speaker presents the Report of the Steering Committee.

Questions:

VP University Affairs inquires about the motion that was submitted concerning the Fiat Lux fee.

The Speaker states that although there was a motion submitted, given that it would go against the Moratorium instituted by the Legislative Council, the Steering Committee ruled it out of order. However, she notes that the Legislative Council can still entertain it, as it is the will of Council to do so.



Councillor Chase motions to suspend the rules to add the motion of the Fiat Lux Library Fee to be considered in Legislative Council, seconded by Councillor Duckett - FAILS.

Senator Lametti inquires as to why the omission of the motion concerning the Fiat Lux fee was not mentioned in the Report of the Steering Committee.

The Speaker explains it was an error in drafting the report.

## 7. Guest Speakers

### a. McGill Library (Dean Colleen Cook)

Dean Colleen Cook presents the upcoming Fiat Lux library project.

Cook explains that it is a project that McGill has been working on for the past eight years, and one that is fundamentally for the students.

Cook explains that there are 2.5 million visits to the library each year, and on average, each student uses the library at least once a week. Cook states that currently, there are 2,950 seats in the McLennan Library, resulting in seating for only 12% of the student population, which she notes is below that of other institutions. She states heavy consultation has occurred, involving stakeholders and students, at every opportunity available. She states that the key takeaways for students involve more seating, better atmosphere, outdoor green spaces, better food options. She states that they are very much involved with sustainability and creating spaces that are welcoming and green.

In terms of funding, she states that they wish to eventually levy a Fiat Lux fee, when it is appropriate. She states that McGill thinks that the project is so important, that they are not going to the government for funding. Instead, they are funding it exclusively internally. Cook states that 25% of the funding is through philanthropy, largely through the contributions of a single donor, who will be announced in the Fall. She states that it is someone everyone will recognize, and a close friend of McGill. She states that philanthropy efforts total \$50 million. She states that 71.5% will be funded by McGill, and they are asking for students to fund 3.5%, roughly contributing \$7 million over a 12-year period.

Cook states that they have looked at enrollment projections and has calculated the fee of totaling \$13.26 a semester per student. She states that in three years, they will be breaking ground. Cook further states that they will be creating a warehouse in order to maintain various publications, existing in a robotic storage solution.



She states that the 500,000 most recent volumes, which have been bought in the last five years, will be kept in the McLennan-Redpath complex, on open browsable shelves. In total, over a million volumes will continue to be maintained in the library.

She hopes that the SSMU Legislative Council will eventually push for funding.

Question Period:

Councillor Duckett inquires on what will occur next, given that a fee by SSMU will not be considered at this time.

Colleen Cook states that they will try again. She reminds Councillors that it is their library, and they need to determine what the right thing to do is. She states that libraries are hugely important, noting them as the agoras of our time. She states that she has worked extremely hard to get the \$50 million in donations and is now asking for help.

Councillor Fakih asks if there is a guarantee on the six-year renovation time, given that Schulich Library has already been delayed by a year, as well as the delay of the University Centre Building project.

Colleen Cook states that she has had recent conversations with individuals relating to the Schulich Library, and states that she hopes it is still on schedule.

Councillor Bhutkar motions to extend speaking time ad libitum, seconded by Councillor Fried – PASSES.

Colleen Cook states that library services will be maintained throughout the entire project. She states that Schulich Library must be open before they begin the project. She states that they require \$7million (dollars) from students, and notes that funding from students will occur past the finishing of the renovation.

VP University Affairs motions for a six-minute extension of Question Period, seconded by Councillor Chase – PASSES.

Senator Lametti states that the student contribution is quite small, stating that it can potentially be seen as an ideological fee. He asks why the University is expecting students to fund a school project, given that the library renovation will also help professors, and researchers. Furthermore, he asks why professors and researchers are also not paying for the project.

Colleen Cook states that there is nothing more fundamental for space for students than libraries at this point. She states that it is common for students across North America to pay library fees, and notes that the one being proposed is quite modest. She also states that when individuals have to pay



for something, they are more engaged. She states that this is a real contribution, and not simply a statement.

Councillor Mackie asks if the study spaces that remain open will actually be valid study spaces, given that there will be construction going on right beside it, and states that she believes there is a significant loss of silent study spaces.

Colleen Cook states that she cannot promise construction will not be noisy, but states accommodations will be made, such as doing noisy work in the morning. She states that across libraries, she thinks that quiet spaces will always be available. Lastly, she stresses the importance of the project, given that it is so outdated.

VP External inquires about student representation on the advisory committee.

Colleen Cook states that each library has an advisory committee, and notes that there is student representation on all of them. As well, she notes the presence of students on the Senate Committee on Libraries. She notes that they go further, actively reaching out to students outside of these vessels.

Councillor Flaherty inquires on the figure of funds if the fee is non-opt-outable.

Councillor Chase motions to extend question period by ten minutes, seconded by Councillor Fakhri – PASSES.

Colleen Cook states that if it is non-opt-outable, it will be a 30% increase in funding.

Diane Koen states that the \$7million (dollars) assumes that all students contribute at some point during this process.

Senator Lametti asks what the situation will be, if not all student associations accept the fee. Colleen Cook states that she does not have a good answer for it, but states that they will not change their tactics if one association chooses not to participate.

Councillor Sbayte asks that if the \$7million (dollars) is secured earlier, if it would the funding stop earlier. Colleen Cook indicates that it would.

Member of the Gallery, Andres Perez Tiniacos, MCSS Representative, states that although MCSS students only represent 3% of students that go to the Redpath-McLennan library, those students are being asked to contribute the same amount as a SSMU student. He asks if there is any plan for MacDonald library, and asks how MCSS students will benefit from this.



Colleen Cook states that all libraries will benefit from this. As well, she notes that the census conducted indicates that there is a significant number of MacDonald Campus students that use the McGill libraries. As well, she states that libraries should be viewed as a system, not individually.

Member of the Gallery, Alex Karasick, McGill Daily, asks if other parts of the library will be open 24-hours a day during construction, if previously-available 24-hour spaces are not available.

Colleen Cook states that throughout the process, there will always be parts of their libraries that are available 24-hours a day. She states that 24-hour opening is incredibly important, and something they wish to maintain, and build upon.

Councillor Duckett inquires where the money from McGill is coming from. Colleen Cook states that it is not money that has been 'hidden' in other spaces or taken from other projects.

Councillor Chase asks if the Society Executives consulted with Colleen Cook in the Fall, prior to the installation of the moratorium. Colleen Cook indicates that they did.

Councillor Rhamey motions to extend Question Period by three minutes, seconded by Councillor Merali – PASSES.

Councillor Flaherty asks if there will be an effort to move more books and articles to e-books, to ensure books are more easily available to students. Colleen Cook replies that e-book acquisition has increased in the last eight years, and notes that most recent acquisitions are e-versions.

The President states that the moratorium is a statement of student values on where McGill funding should be allocated. He asks if she has discussed with McGill Administration concerning the lack of funding from students, given the Moratorium, and highlights that students will be willing partners in this, if McGill is willing to extend.

Councillor Fakh motions for a four-minute extension of Question Period, seconded by VP University Affairs – PASSES.

Colleen Cook indicates that she has. She states that the university leadership is very aware of the students' views towards divestment.

Member of the Gallery, Andres Perez, asks if Colleen Cook would be willing to come to MacDonald campus to discuss with MCSS. As well, he asks where the storage facility will be created.

Colleen Cook indicates that she would be willing to. For the storage building, she states that it will be built in an unknown area, but most likely an industrial area.



Councillor Fakih states that the \$7million (dollars) is a small percentage of the project, but a large portion stemming from student budgets. He states his belief that making students pay should be a last resort. He asks what other avenues McGill has looked at in terms of funding.

Colleen Cook states that philanthropy is 25% of the budget.

Councillor Merali motions for a one-minute extension on Question Period, seconded by Councillor Rhamey – PASSES.

Colleen Cook states that the money is very much needed.

Senator Lametti moves for a five-minute extension, seconded by Councillor Chase – FAILS.

The Speaker thanks Colleen Cook for her service.

b. Keep.me.SAFE (Steven Cameron)

Councillor Bhutkar motions for a one-minute recess, seconded by Councillor Mackie – PASSES.

The Speaker states that the Keep.me.SAFE presenters will be presenting by teleconference.

Christine begins by stating that Keep.me.SAFE is a 24/7, 365-day mental health service. She states that it was created in 2015, in collaboration with Morneau-Shepell, given the noted increase of hospitalization due to mental health of international students.

Steven Cameron states that Keep.me.SAFE has been created to understand the unique needs of international students, matching students with Councillors based on culture and language, and the utilization of technology.

He states that the main vehicle of accessing services is through the app. He states that the app operates in seven languages. Within the app, students can receive push notifications. He states that when students reach out for support, they are separated into two streams of support: immediate and ongoing. Cameron states that typically, individuals are reaching out for immediate support. He states that if individuals are desiring support outside of the seven main languages offered, they encourage them to call in for support, noting upwards of 30+ languages spoken in call centres.

He states that ongoing support is determined through consultation with students.

Cameron indicates that the Counsellors serving on Keep.me.SAFE are qualified. He highlights the partnership with Morneau-Shepell. He states that Counsellors hold a minimum of a master's degree in a Counselling related field, are licensed to work in Quebec, and have a minimum of five years working with students. As well, they participate in continuous professional development.



For top-reaching out demographics, he states that counselling concerning stress, depression and anxiety are predominant, and notes the presence of counselling pertaining to cultural adaptation issues. He states that the app is most popular in terms of Counselling, and individuals most typically reach out from 4 pm to midnight, especially on Wednesday, with lowest usage on the weekends. He states that Keep.me.SAFE wishes to become part of the McGill community.

Question Period:

Councillor Duckett states that the fee proposed is \$2.75 per student, coming in at around \$132,000 a year. He asks how the service provision can be so low in cost.

Christine states the cost of the program has been divided between various student societies and the universities. She also notes that the fee cost highlighted is all-inclusive, and notes that there will be no additional costs associated with it.

Councillor Duckett inquires on why the service offered is inexpensive overall.

Christine states that their partnership with Morneau-Shepell allows for such affordability, given the pre-existing nature of the call centres.

Megan Weekley states that the modality that 18-24 year olds prefer tend to be digital, highlighting the affordability of both app and chat functions. She also states that Counselling sessions are largely untraditional and can range in time.

Councillor Mackie motions for a ten minute extension on Question Period, seconded by Senator Lametti – PASSES.

Senator Lametti asks if there are any referrals to physicians through the services available. As well, he asks on how the service would serve in situations if the student that was calling in who may be actively suicidal or psychotic.

Christine states that Keep.me.SAFE is a short-term solution for individuals with low to moderate needs. She states that if Counsellors believe further referrals are needed, they will consult with the Counselling centre present on campus, but notes they also practice community referrals. As well, she states that every session, students are assessed in a risk to themselves or others. She states that if students are assessed imminent risks to themselves or others, they intervene, breaching confidentiality in order to contact emergency services.

- i. Motion Regarding SSMU Keep.me.SAFE Fee Referendum Question 2020-02-27  
–APPROVED





The Speaker states that given the technology difficulties, all questions can be referred to the VP Student Life.

VP Student Life motivates.

VP Student Life states that Keep.me.SAFE is a 24/7 365 digital counselling service. He states that the fee is calculated at \$2.75 per student per semester, and that the service would provide service around the clock, which he highlights would complement existing McGill services. He states that this would replace Empower Me.

Question Period:

Councillor Mackie states that University of Toronto also uses this for international students. She asks if consultation has been conducted with their student society, especially concerning success.

VP Student Life yields his time to Dakota Rogers.

Dakota Rogers, PGSS Secretary General states that the main two users of the program in Canada are Simon Fraser and University of Toronto. He states that Keep.me.SAFE at U of T has recently been rolled out for all students. As well, he states that as SFU, all students are allowed to use it as well. He states that the universities were reached out to, and they provided glowing recommendations.

VP University Affairs inquires about the data exchanged between McGill students and Keep.me.SAFE. VP Student Life states that no information will be shared, unless the student has given their consent.

VP Finance states that Keep.me.SAFE can provide information to McGill, students must provide their consent three times in order for information to be shared.

Councillor Duckett states that according to the office of the DPSLL, there is apparently an e-mental health fee currently being proposed, and asks if this is true. VP Student Life states that it is not.

Councillor Duckett asks if the fee being replaced is a fee formally funded by students or by the university. VP Student Life states that it was part of the Health and Dental Plan, thus, funded by students.

Debate:

The President indicates his support for the fee. He states that he was worried about the potential limitations of counselling, such as the limited sessions offered by Empower Me. However, he was made aware that with Keep me.SAFE, this would not occur.

Councillor Rhamey inquires if this would get around the moratorium fee.



VP Student Life indicates that it would, as it is not an ancillary fee.

Councillor Wu arrives.

Member of the Gallery, Andres Perez expresses the disappointment of MCSS, as they were not consulted, and hopes that it will not occur in the future.

Voting Period:

Voting on the Motion Regarding SSMU Keep.me.SAFE Fee Referendum Question 2020-02-27 – APPROVED.

In favour: 21

Abstaining: 1

Opposed: 2

[Councillor Eisner departs at 19:52.]

c. Eating Disorders Resource and Support Centre (EDRSC)

Belle Sullivan and Sophia Esterle present on the Eating Disorders Resource and Support Centre.

Sophia Esterle states that last year, she, in her capacity as VP Student Life, ran the first Eating Disorder Awareness week. She highlights that this week contained many activities of advocacy. Following that, weekly meetings developed, eventually forming the Eating Disorders Resource and Support Centre. She states that they have received training from eating disorder stakeholders in Montreal.

Belle Sullivan explains the purpose of the creation of the Eating Disorders Resource and Support Centre, and the role of volunteers. She highlights that the service does not replace more formal, therapeutic sessions. For mandate, she states that it is to create an environment of open communication for those with lived experiences concerning eating disorders, as well as those recovering. As well, she notes that another part of the mandate is to hold events that strengthen the awareness of eating disorders, collaboration, and advocacy.

She states that the proposed fee would be \$0.90 per student per semester, if passed in referendum.

Sullivan highlights that significant portions of these funds will go towards coordinator salaries, and the cost of external and internal training, consultation with physicians, and the eating disorder week. Belle Sullivan explains that the structure is non-hierarchical.



For services, she states that they provide active listening, which is provided by their volunteers, who have significant training in eating disorders and active listening. She also states that they have support groups, which she notes have just begun. As well, they are looking towards creating more nuanced and specific support groups, as well as working with consultations in order to improve training. For resources, they offer books, as well as referral information, as well as clinical care available for anglophones and international students.

Belle Sullivan states that they are working on a Eating Disorder Centre closure report, largely through the participation of various interviewers. As well, they have finished Eating Disorder Awareness week, as well as participating in Mental Health Awareness week. She also states that tabling occurs outside as well.

She notes that they have been featured in the press, such as on CBC and the Bull and Bear.

[Recess begins at 20:05.]

[Recess ends at 20:15.]

Question Period:

VP External asks if volunteers are trained in situations concerning intervention.

Sophia Esterle states that they address it in the training manual, and is featured in support groups.

Senator Lametti inquires on the needs-assessment that was conducted concerning the provision of positions, the hierarchy of services, and so on. Belle Sullivan states that as the Centre was functioning prior, they are aware of how many coordinators are required in order to run services.

Esterle states that their conclusions were largely built on survey results and previous experience actually running the Centre.

Member of the Gallery Andres Perez, MCSS, states that MacDonald Campus has a similar program, and asks if they would be willing to work with them. Esterle states that they have had discussions with them. They are hoping for further integration coming forward, such as tabling, and they are willing to explore their relationship further.

Councillor Duckett inquires on why the McGill Eating Disorder Centre was closed in 2017. Estelle states that it was largely due to the feasibility of funding.

- i. Report - Recommendation of the Services Review Committee 2020-02-27 [10] –  
**APPROVED**



Adeline Wang, Services Administrative Assistant and Chair of the Services Review Committee presents the report and recommendation.

She states that after meeting with members of the Eating Disorders Resource and Support Centre, she states that the committee found that the mandate of the centre of the Centre is in line with what is expected of services. Due to their unique perspective, as well as the crucial information and support they provide, the Services Review Committee recommends their formation as a service.

Voting Period:

Voting on the Recommendation of the Services Review Committee 2020-02-27 – PASSES.

In favour: 24

Abstaining: 0

Opposed: 0

The Speaker states that due to the reshuffling of the agenda, Governing Documents Researcher Jamal will be unable to present, as he has to leave by 8:30.

#### 8. Services Review Committee

Adeline Wang, Services Administrative Assistant and Chair of the Services Review Committee presents the report of the Services Review Committee. She states that the Services Review Committee meets bi-weekly, to ensure that Services at McGill continue to follow their mandates.

Wang states that for reviewing services, they looked at four main pillars. They are direct service audits, external surveys sent out to the student population, an internal survey sent out to the services themselves, as well as the Constitution.

She explains that services are thus reviewed on qualities of utilization of funds, how well they are fulfilling their mandate, if their mandate aligns with what is expected of them, as well as the audits and external feedback. She states that they will be graded on a Pass/Fail basis, and if they fail, services have one month to act on the recommendations of the Committee. She states that they are currently in the process of reviewing services. She states that Direct Service Audits have been completed, and they are currently waiting for feedback from internal and external surveys, to be used in a report which will come in April.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

#### 9. Question Period



The President motions to move the Comprehensive Governance Review Committee Report 2020-02-27 to immediately.

Governing Documents Researcher Husayn Jamal states that he cannot stay, as he was due to leave at a certain time.

The President withdraws the motion.

Senator Lametti states that there was a statement made by the McGill Daily concerning the endorsement of SSMU Executive candidates. He states that within the statement, it states that there was miscommunication concerning regulations that were not followed. He asks for clarity on the situation, and if the integrity of the election is safe.

The Governance Manager states that there was a miscommunication between campus media and Elections SSMU, and states that there is a statement on Elections SSMU social media that explains the situation further.

Senator Lametti asks if there is a specific reason why Council was not aware in advance of the necessary departure of Governing Documents Researcher.

The Speaker states a definitive answer was only received following the shuffle of the agenda.

Councillor Fakhri states that there is a new app called Waitz, which tracks traffic in the libraries. He asks if Executives were aware of the creation of this app, and if they were consulted, given the data-centric nature of the app.

VP University Affairs states that they were only informed of this creation, once an agreement had been signed, and data collection had begun. She states that McGill owns the data aggregate, which they can use to their administration. She states that she has been in discussion with the Library Improvement Fund Commissioner.

Councillor Merali asks if that meant McGill provided consent on the behalf of the student body to collect data. VP University Affairs indicates that it does.

## 10. Recess, Consent Items

The Speaker explains the process of consent item voting.

[Recess begins at 20:38].

[Recess ends at 20:43.]

## 11. Announcements



The Speaker reminds Councillors of the location of both bathrooms and water fountains available.

VP University Affairs states that the proposal form for the Library Improvement Fund is still open.

Secondly, she states that there is a survey on the VP University Affairs Facebook page on the usage of preferred names.

VP Finance states that the re-opening of the University Centre is delayed by another two months. He states that in the most recent email, there is a form for individuals to voice feedback, which will then be directed to McGill administration.

The President states that there have been audio difficulties due various individuals perhaps streaming high-data items, and encourages individuals to halt the practice of such activities.

The President announces the hiring of a new General Manager, Daniel Dufour. He notes that Daniel Dufour will begin working on March 2, 2020. He encourages everyone to come meet him. As well, he thanks the larger student body for their patience during this time.

The Speaker also reminds Councillors that the practice of submitting late motions is discouraged, as it not only does a disservice to both the Speaker and the Parliamentarian by increasing the work-load, it also does a disservice to fellow Councillors, granting them improper time for review of the motion, as well as well-educated discussion.

## 12. Business Arising

- a. Motion Regarding the Creation of a Services Committee 2020-02-13 --**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**
- b. Motion Regarding Affordable Student Housing Plan 2020-02-13 --**APPROVED**

VP External states that it explains a five-year plan concerning student housing.

Question Period:

Councillor Duckett asks if any consultations were conducted with SHHS and/or McGill as a whole.

VP External explains that they were largely un-necessary, due to the nature of the plan.

Debate:



VP External encourages everyone to vote in favour of the motion, and draws attention to the housing situation in Montreal currently at hand.

Voting Period:

Voting on Motion Regarding Affordable Student Housing Plan 2020-02-13 – APPROVED.

In favour: 21

Opposed: 1

Abstaining: 1

- c. Motion Regarding Plan on Clubs and Services as SSMU's Highest Priority 2019-03-28  
--**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

### 13. New Business

- a. Notice of Motion Regarding Financial Matters of Council Policy 2020-02-27 FOR APPROVAL

VP Finance provides notice of the motion.

VP Finance explains that it creates a financial process for motions going to Council that require funding. Furthermore, he explains that it mandates individuals to consult with the VP Finance or the SSMU Comptroller or the General Manager, as some motions passed by Council can put finances in a potentially precarious situation.

- b. Motion Regarding SSMU Referral Services Fee Referendum Question 2020-02-27 --  
**APPROVED**

VP Student Life states that the referral services are the Peer Support Centre, Queer McGill, Union for Gender Empowerment, Nightline, and the Eating Disorders Resource and Support Centre. He states that the fee has not changed since 2006, and is asking for an increase, increasing from \$1.75 to \$3.35.

Question Period:

Senator Lametti asks what will happen if the referendum question fails, and furthermore, what will happen if the opt-out rate is higher than predicted.

VP Student Life states that if it is not funded, the Services in question would not have funding for a year. If there is a higher opt-out rate, they will make adjustments as necessary.

Debate:



The President commends the VP Student Life for taking the time to create this, and holding proper consultation. He states his full support, and encourages others to vote in favour of it due to the value the services offer.

Voting Period:

Voting on Motion Regarding SSMU Referral Services Fee Referendum Question 2020-02-27 – APPROVED.

In favour: 24

Abstaining: 0

Opposed: 0

c. Motion Regarding SSMU Club Fund Fee Referendum Question 2020-02-27 --**APPROVED**

VP Student Life motivates.

VP Student Life explains that the motion is coming back to Council, as when it was last discussed, the Samosa situation had not occurred. He states that it is for food handling and permit costs, as well as some money allocated for the portal.

Question Period:

The President asks if the motion is passed, if clubs and services would no longer have to pay the \$25 fee associated with running a food sale. VP Student Life indicates that it is.

Debate:

Councillor Duckett is concerned that the solution for solving the samosa situation is by a fee, and advocates for appealing to Montreal Department of Public Health, and other means.

VP External asks for clarification concerning lobbying.

Senator Lametti believes that lobbying against Montreal Public Health to not follow the rules is against the core values of the SSMU. However, he also believes that subsidizing the price of samosas is also against the core values. He states that there are other available affordable food locations on campus, such as Midnight Kitchen.

Councillor Chan indicates he is pro-price fixing. He states that Clubs are reliant on the funding of the clubs, and furthermore, a \$25.00 fee is counter-productive to their efforts.





Councillor Flaherty echoes the sentiments of Councillor Chan, states that there are limited affordable options for food on campus, and states that the fund presented is reasonable.

Councillor Chase is concerned about the notion of subsidizing the cost for clubs to make money, and believes that SSMU could instead fund them directly.

VP Student Life states that earlier in the Council, Council passed the Motion Regarding Plan on Clubs and Services as SSMU's Highest Priority, which stipulates supporting Clubs and Services as much as possible. He also reminds that the fee will also be used in the management of the Club Portal, which he notes is important for club management and outreach.

Member of the Gallery, Alex Karasick, McGill Daily, echoes the sentiments of Councillor Flaherty. He states that there are limited amounts of affordable food options available, and by funding clubs directly, it would restrict students from accessing more affordable food options.

Senator Lametti states that although he enjoys cheap food, he does not enjoy the notion of subsidization of these sales, which will partly be done by students who will not benefit from such sales, such as those who still will not be available to afford it.

Councillor Franceschini echoes Councillor Chan's sentiments. He states that the samosa sale builds student morale and culture, as well as granting individuals the opportunity to purchase affordable food options.

Councillor Merali is worried that the fee will be seen as predominantly focusing on samosas, and have little to do with the Club Portal. He asks if any consultation has been done, in terms of how the fee is being perceived by students.

Councillor Duckett states that it is a dangerous precedent to set by solving issues by instituting new fees. On the point of the VP External, he notes that he is not openly advocating for lobbying efforts against Montreal Health, but rather, believes that other options should be considered prior to the levying of a new fee.

VP Student Life states that from his understanding, the reason why the fund was not passed last semester was because of the large amount.

Councillor Rhamey states that regardless of whether the fee is passed at Council, it will go to referendum, and this vote is more so on the methods Councillors choose to follow. As well, he represents many clubs and associations that have fundraisers, and states the near-integral nature that such sales have on the well-being.



Councillor Chase states that he is not in favour of subsidization, he will still vote in favour of the motion due to the Clubs Portal aspect. Speaking on experience as a former VP Finance of his faculty, he states the difficulty associated with a lack of clubs portal presence, due to lack of centralization.

Councillor Flaherty thanks Councillor Merali for feedback on the marketing of the referendum, as she will be working on the Yes campaign, and believes that the Clubs Portal is integral. She states that Samosagate was out of left field, and believes that there are limited solutions to the issue. She also states that because of the closure of the University Centre, is that Midnight Kitchen is no longer accessible, and stresses the accessibility of samosa sales.

Councillor Duckett takes issue with the notion that the lack of this fee would halt fundraising, and instead, looks for Clubs to fundraise in different ways.

Member of the Gallery, Alex Karasick, states that voting against the fee would make it more difficult for clubs to fundraise, and believes that voting against the fee would be punishing clubs.

Senator Lametti states that instead of charging a fee, prices of samosas could be increased instead, and does not believe that samosa prices should be seen as being set by an innate force. He admits that although it will go to referendum regardless, he states that they should be focusing on asking the correct questions, given the different natures of the aspects of the clubs portal and samosas.

Councillor Rhamey reminds Council that they had just passed a motion which regarded Clubs as the SSMU's highest priority, and thus, such a motion should be considered.

Councillor Duckett states that although clubs may be the highest priority, that does not mean they have a carte blanche, and to pass a fee on that basis alone is quite ignorant.

Councillor Flaherty states that the reaction is very revolutionary and absolutist in nature.

Councillor Bhutkar motions to call the question, seconded by Councillor Fried – PASSES.

Voting Period:

Voting on Motion Regarding SSMU Club Fund Fee Referendum Question 2020-02-27 – APPROVED.

In faovur: 14

Opposed: 6

Abstaining: 3

VP External motions for a two minute recess, seconded by Councillor Wu – PASSES.

[Recess begins at 21:30.]



[Recess ends at 21:32.]

d. Motion Regarding Amendments to Winter 2020 Referendum Dates 2020-02-27 –  
**APPROVED**

VP University Affairs motivates.

VP University Affairs explains that the motion would amend the fee levy deadline from February 27 to March 12. She explains that there were issues regarding the publication of deadlines, and believes it would allow the incoming Executives to be consulted regarding the potential creation of referendum questions in line with their platforms. As well, she notes that all individuals consulted, namely VP Finance and DPSLL, accepted such an amendment.

Question Period:

Senator Lametti asks why the deadline for fees would be March 12, 2020, which is the day of Legislative Council. He asks why the deadline would not be earlier, as it would give Councillors more time to look at questions and messages.

VP University Affairs states that that is a fair argument, and would be open to amending the date, but would not motivate it herself.

VP Finance explains that the reason is that motions that come to the Council are bound to the Standing Rules of Legislative Council, which stipulates that they must arrive one week prior. As such, he does not believe it sensible to change the date, as Council will still have to see them a week in advance.

Councillor Duckett asks if it would impact immediately. VP University Affairs states that it is a one-time change.

Senator Lametti asks for elaboration on the notion of next year's executives being able to propose fees as incoming executives, as opposed to simply putting them forward as members of SSMU.

VP University Affairs states that currently, especially with positions that are contested, potential executives at this point would only be able to put questions forward as members of SSMU. However, if they were executives-elect, it would hold different recognition and is a different situation, as well as serving as an opportunity for them to begin to fulfill their platform.

Debate:

Councillor Fakhri recognizes that certain individuals and groups would benefit from the extension, however, notes that there are some individuals who have followed the deadlines, and would have to



wait to approve fee motions, and states that the motion is being unfair to individuals who have followed the deadline.

Senator Lametti moves to amend, changing March 12, 2020 to March 5, 2020, seconded by Councillor Duckett.

Senator Lametti motivates, stating that it would allow Council more time to look at Council, while still offering various individuals and groups an extension of sorts.

The President understands the sentiments. However, he notes that altering the deadline to March 5, 2020, would put individuals putting forward referendum questions at a disadvantage, due to the fact that it would become extremely difficult to collect the 100 signatures needed.

Senator Lametti thinks that it is important to note that it is still an extension of a deadline, and steps, such as signature collection should have been collected beforehand, and as such, believes that such an amendment would be reasonable and fair to Council.

The President is concerned about student-initiated questions. He asks if Senator Lametti would be open to dividing the question pertaining to Council- and student-initiated questions.

Senator Lametti indicates that he is not.

VP University Affairs apologizes for creating such strong debate.

Councillor Duckett motions to call the question on the amendment, seconded by Councillor Wu – PASSES.

Voting on the amendment – FAILS.

In favour: 5

Opposed: 11

Abstaining: 7

Debate on the main motion:

Councillor Duckett motions to call the question, seconded by Councillor Rhamey – PASSES.

Voting Period:

Voting on the Motion Regarding Amendments to Winter 2020 Referendum Dates 2020-02-27 – APPROVED.



In favour: 13  
Opposed: 3  
Abstaining: 6

e. Report - Comprehensive Governance Review Committee 2020-02-27 -- **POSTPONED UNTIL MARCH 12 MEETING**

The President moves to postpone the report until the March 12, 2020 meeting, seconded by VP Finance.

The President does not believe it is in the best interest of Council to discuss such important information without the presence of the Governing Documents Researcher. He indicates his preference for the report to be presented by the Governing Documents Researcher.

Debate:

VP External states that the Governing Documents Researcher may be available by teleconference, and asks if it has been made clear that the individual is unable to do so.

The Speaker indicates that she has not heard anything thus far.

Councillor Flaherty motions to leave the report on the table, seconded by VP Student Life – PASSES.

f. Notice of Motion Regarding an Events Policy 2020-03-12

VP External provides the notice of motion.

VP External states that the motion is coming back from a while ago. He states that the motion was drafted by an ad-hoc committee of the Board of Directors, which was then brought to Council to be synced with another partial events policy. He explains that the Operations staff wanted further distinctions between the roles of Executives and full-time staff, as well as limitations concerning resource provision.

The President explains that discussion could continue, and if there were any disagreements or qualms, those could be sent back to the Board for discussion.

VP External asks if there was an attempt to contact the Governing Documents Researcher.

The Speaker indicates that there was, but he is not available.

Councillor Fried motions to call the question, seconded by Councillor Wu – PASSES.



Motion to postpone – PASSES.

Councillor Fried motions to reconsider, seconded by Councillor Chase – PASSES.

Return to question on postponing:

Councillor Fakh states that the report does not seem contentious, and thinks that delaying it until the next Legislative Council would complicate the various reports' ratifications.

The Speaker states, as the opinion of the Dais, that entertaining the motion without the presence of the Governing Documents Researcher would be disrespectful to the Researcher in question, and would strongly advise against it.

VP External states that considering before this year, a Governing Documents Researcher was not in existence, and as such, believes that Councillors are educated enough to discuss the topic on their own.

Councillor Fakh understands that Husayn Jamal should be present to present. However, he does not believe the items being put forward will create much debate, citing the low number of changes.

Councillor Chan states his confusion, due to the desire to get it to referendum on time, but at the same time, downplaying its significance. He asks for clarification.

The President states that they are currently deciding when to debate the changes presented, with some people desiring to have the Governing Documents Researcher present, while others believe the report speaks for itself in its recommendations. The President reiterates that if it is passed tonight, he states that it would simplify the situation for legal counsel, granting them more opportunity to consult, but if it was postponed, everything that had been approved prior by Legislative Council would move to legal counsel for review.

Councillor Rhamey indicates that Council is in an impasse and believes that they should call the question.

Senator Lametti disagrees with the comments of Councillor Fakh, stating that the changes are contentious, especially when discussing the changes to the society's preamble, as well as the fundamental changes of the Judicial Board, highlighting the significance of the changes. He also believes that these specific changes can be discussed at a later time.

VP External states that Husayn Jamal has given him authority to speak on the report if he is comfortable, and the VP External indicates that he is.

Vote to postpone – PASSES.



g. Motion to nominate X to the Environment Committee – **APPROVED**

Councillor Rhamey nominates himself.

Voting Period:

In favour: 22

Opposed: 1

[Recess begins at 22:04.]

[Recess ends at 22:14.]

h. Motion Regarding Nomination to the Society's Board of Directors 2020-02-27  
**--UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

The Speaker explains the nomination process, and states that all individuals wishing to be nominated must provide a two-minute speech.

VP External states the two committees which will require filling are the GSVP and HR Committee, as well as Health and Dental Review.

The President motivates on the necessary requirements. The President states that all candidates must be 18 years of age or older, must be a Canadian citizen, must not have declared bankruptcy, must not have been declared incapable by a court, and must not have a criminal record.

Councillors Mackie and Councillor Duckett nominate themselves.

Councillor Fakh would like to nominate Senator Lametti.

Senator Lametti accepts.

Councillor Mackie states that although the open committees are not necessary legal or financial, she notes she sits on the Finance Committee, and as a law student, can give legal information. She states that during her time on LSA, she has had to make operational decisions which at times she notes have not been easy. She also notes a lack of women on the Board.

Councillor Duckett explains his experience sitting on various Board of Directors, including one of a Toronto charity. As well, he notes that as he has a light course-load, he would be able to make the time commitment necessary.



Senator Lametti states that he has served on Legislative Council for the past three years, on Senate Caucus for the past two, as well as served in the General Council and Executive Committee of the Medicine Students' Society. He notes that he has served on various boards part of the larger McGill ecosystem.

VP External requests a vote by secret ballot, seconded – PASSES.

Senator Lametti motions to vote by preferential secret ballot, seconded – PASSES.

VP Student Life motions for a five minute recess, seconded by VP Finance – PASSES.

[Recess begins, time unknown.]

[Recess ends, time unknown.]

The Speaker explains the process of voting by preferential secret ballot.

Voting Period:

The Speaker announces that Senator Lametti has received 52% of the vote. Given that it is past the majority threshold required, a second vote will not occur.

Voting Period:

Vote to nominate Senator André Lametti on the Board of Directors – PASSES.

In favour: 22

Abstaining: 1

Opposed: 0

The President states that there is an issue relating to the resolution clause. He states that per the Constitution, the Board of Directors can nominate an individual without sending it to referendum, making it unnecessary.

Senator Lametti motions to reconsider, seconded by VP Finance – PASSES.

Senator Lametti motivates.

Voting Period:

In favour: 22

Opposed: 1





The President motions to eliminate everything in the resolution section following November 15, seconded by Councillor Rhamey.

The President moves to adopt by unanimous consent, seconded by Councillor Gurvey – PASS.

Vote – PASSED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

- i. Motion to Endorse the Student Strike for Climate Justice 2020-02-27 – **APPROVED**

VP External motivates.

VP External explains that CJAM is attempting to organize a series of strikes in the week of April 1, and explains that this motion would be used in order to remind students to attend General Assemblies in order to put forward and approve a strike motion, as well as authorizes communications to student societies as a whole.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

Debate:

VP External motions to suspend the rules to return to Question Period, seconded by Councillor Chase – PASSES.

Question Period:

Councillor Rhamey inquires if this motion is just an endorsement.

VP External states that it is just an endorsement, as SSMU does not have the ability to organize strikes.

The President asks what the set of demands will be for the set of student strikes.

VP External states that he cannot, but he notes it is most likely on their social media channels. However, he speculates and states it will most likely include divestment.

Councillor Rhamey motions to read from the papers, seconded by Councillor Fried – PASSES.

Senator Lametti asks that given the strike is largely in line with SSMU values, if it is necessary to bring it forward to Council, noting that it puts a burden on Council, as it both lengthens the meeting as well as being submitted late.



VP External states that it is a matter of precedent, and states that if issues are brought to Legislative Council, they are brought to Council for a reason, in order to allow Councillors to communicate about them to their constituents.

Councillor Chase inquires on why it is being submitted as a late motion, and asks why there is no statement submitted.

VP External states that it had to be a late motion, as it was submitted to him today. As well, he states the motion was submitted to him as is, and as such, does not include a statement.

VP External motions for a five minute extension, seconded by Councillor Rhamey – FAILS.

Debate:

Senator Lametti indicates that he will be voting against the motion, as it is bad practice to bring forward late motions.

VP University Affairs states that while she agrees that bringing forward a motion for items such as this may not be necessary, she believes that it is better to vote out for such items out of principle.

VP External states that if CJAM believes it necessary to bring it forward to Council, he will agree with them, as it can help to improve legitimacy.

Councillor Rhamey motions to call the question, seconded by Councillor Fried – PASSES.

Voting Period:

Vote on the Motion to Endorse the Student Strike for Climate Justice 2020-02-27

In favour: 16

Abstaining: 2

Opposed: 3

#### 14. Reports by Committees

The President moves to take item 13.e from the table, seconded – PASSES.

##### a. Executive Committee

The President presents the report.

Question Period:



There are no questions.

b. Indigenous Affairs Committee --**POSTPONED UNTIL MARCH 12 MEETING**

Given that IAC's inability to attend Legislative Council this evening, VP University Affairs motions to postpone until March 12, seconded by Councillor Sbayte – PASSES.

c. Building and Operations Management Committee

The President presents.

The President indicates that BOMCOM has not met thus far. However, he states his desire for a meeting to occur this semester.

Question Period:

Councillor Fakh asks if this committee would be responsible for organizing the move-in for clubs and services back into the University Centre.

The President states that currently, VP Student Life is overseeing it.

15. Reports by Councillors

a. Councillor Gurvey (Management)

Councillor Gurvey presents.

Councillor Gurvey states that the new MUS Board of Directors was elected a few weeks ago.

He states that the Executive interviews conducted by the Board of Directors has just completed.

He also indicates that construction of Bronfman is almost complete.

He states that a team participated in an international case competition in Copenhagen, where they received second place.

The Winter involvement package is going out soon, and positions are open to all McGill students.

Question Period:

Councillor Duckett extends his congratulations to Councillor Gurvey for his win of MUS President.

VP External inquires on what the Winter Involvement Package is.

Councillor Gurvey states that the package states that it is a package containing all positions within the



MUS portfolio, and states that all positions go out in one package.

b. Councillor Wu (Science)

Councillor Wu states that SUS held a General Assembly on February 5, 2020, but they failed to hit quorum. She also notes that they are appointing a new SSMU representative due to the resignation, and the individual will be ratified at the General Assembly. Councillor Wu also states that executive elections are coming up soon. She announces that Charity Week will occur from March 16–20, 2020. She states that SUS is currently working with AUS on Grad Ball. As well, she notes that SUS Gala occurred. She notes that on March 23, they will be holding a General Assembly for the climate march in Leacock 132. She states that she is part of both SSPN, and the Daycare Board of Directors.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

c. Councillor Sbayte (Dentistry)

Councillor Sbayte states that last month, the Canadian Dental Student Conference occurred in Vancouver. He states that significant fundraising has occurred, highlighting efforts such as the Outreach benefit concert. He states that he met with the Community Affairs Commissioner to potentially discuss dental students providing dental service to citizens of Milton-Parc. He states that they also had a Health and Dental review committee meeting.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

d. Councillor Duckett (Music)

Councillor Duckett states that executive elections are currently occurring, and encourages other individuals in Music to run. He states that they are currently undergoing constitutional changes.

e. Councillor Dandamudi (Arts)-- **POSTPONED UNTIL MARCH 12 MEETING**

Councillor Mackie motions to postpone until March 12, seconded by Councillor Bulhoes – PASSES.

16. Executive Reports

a. President

The President presents the report. The President states that the General Assembly was held on Monday, February 24, and notes the higher turnout, largely due to the executive candidates debate that followed.



Regarding the Board of Directors, he highlighted that they had a meeting on February 20, 2020.

He notes that he attended a CAMSR meeting on February 18.

He notes that the University Center is once again delayed for a few months.

He notes that he met with Principal Suzanne Fortier, and the Deputy Provost.

Councillor Mackie motions for a ninety-second extension, seconded by Councillor Marcoux – PASSES.

He notes that he spoke to Principal Fortier about space issues for the upcoming GAs.

Question Period:

Councillor Chan asks if the The President was aware that the AUS actually met with Deputy Provost Fabrice Labeau to discuss space issues, and that he promised the Arts Lounge would be open April 30, 2020.

The President states that he was not aware.

Councillor Chase asks if The President was able to secure more funding for athletics as part of his meeting with Principal Fortier.

The President states that he did not, stating that their conversation focused on the use of self-funded units, but notes his advocacy continues.

b. Vice-President (University Affairs)

Highlights include: the menstrual hygiene products program is subject to expansion, and notes that the Principal Fortier does not view McGill as a political entity. As such, she is currently working on a strategy to counter it. She notes the recent work concerning the use of preferred names at McGill.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

c. Vice-President (Internal)

VP Finance presents in her absence.

Question Period:



There are no questions.

d. Vice-President (Finance)

VP Finance presents the report.

He notes that the bank transition has been completed. He also notes the recent work on 3501 Peel. VP Finance states that club workshops are being rolled out online.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

e. Vice-President (Student Life)

VP Student Life presents the report.

For Clubs, he notes that the Clubs and Services Coordinator is settling in well. He states that the Service Summit occurred two weeks ago.

For Mental Health, he notes that he has been working with Keep.me.SAFE closely. As well, he states that there is an upcoming Mental Health Round Table occurring on March 11.

He also notes that the Eating Disorders Resource and Support Centre has just become a service.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

f. Vice-President (External)

VP External presents.

He notes he spoke with various organizations regarding Bill 21.

As well, VP External states that planning for the Community Engagement Summit is going well.

He states that they are reformatting the Policy and Plan book.

He notes that there will be a Bill 21 protest occurring in March in Quebec City, and that buses will be available.



**Students' Society of McGill University**

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Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories

He states that the Housing Plan was approved.

He states that IRP Implementation is ongoing with the Equity Commissioner.

VP University Affairs motions to suspend the rules to go into Confidential Session, seconded by VP Finance – PASSES.

17. Confidential Session: **23:44**

18. Adjournment: **00:10**

VP Student Life motions to adjourn, seconded by Councillor Bulhoes – PASSES.

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

Bryan Buraga, President

APPROVED