



# SSMU LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PUBLIC MINUTES

March 12, 2020

The regular bi-weekly Legislative Council Meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) will be held by teleconference, on Thursday, March 12, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order: **18:17**

The Speaker calls the Legislative Council to order at 18:17.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Speaker presents the land acknowledgement.

3. Attendance

Absent: Councillors Chan, Flaherty, Sbayte, Bulhoes, Rhamey, Gurvey, Duckett, Patzer, Wu, Bhutkar, Merali, Watson, VP Internal.

Henrique Mecabo is Proxy for Senator Garneau.

4. Approval of Minutes

a. Legislative Council Public Minutes 2020-02-27 –**APPROVED**

Councillor Fakhri indicates that he emailed an amendment to the Governance Manager.

Councillor Dixon motions to approve the minutes approved as amended, seconded by Senator Lametti – UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

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

The Speaker asks an individual to move to suspend the rules in order to move Recess, Consent Items, to directly follow the Report of the Steering Committee.

Councillor Kaye moves to suspend the rules to this effect, seconded by Councillor Morgan – UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.



The Speaker notes that there are a number of highlighted items on the agenda that must be added as they are late motions, through a suspension of the rules.

VP University Affairs motions to suspend the rules in order to add the late motions, seconded by Councillor Fried – UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Councillor Mackie moves to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Councillor Fried – UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

#### 6. Report of the Steering Committee

The Speaker presents the report of the Steering Committee.

The Speaker explains that the agenda was approved through email approval.

The Speaker explains that due to the fact that Legislative Council is being held virtually via Google Hangouts, a number of alterations to voting procedures have occurred, including the introduction of a Speaking List, and unanimous approval opportunities.

#### 7. Recess, Consent Items

[Recess begins at 18:35.]

[Recess ends at 18:40.]

The President motions to extend recess by two minutes, seconded by Senator Lametti – UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

The Speaker indicates that Legislative Council has still not hit the quorum required for passing consent vote items.

Councillor Marcoux asks the Speaker who has not voted yet.

The Speaker indicates that one of the Engineering Representatives haven't, as well as the Management Representative Eisner, and Proxy for Senator Garneau.

Councillor Fakhri inquires which Engineering representative did not vote.

The Speaker indicates that both of them have now voted.

Councillor Dandamudi states that the Proxy for Senator Garneau still does not have access.

Councillor Dandamudi states that the Proxy was able to successfully vote.



The Speaker states that none of the motions up for consent vote passed unanimously.

The Speaker states that as the Motion Regarding Greater Integration Between Athletics and SSMU 2020-02-13 was not considered in the Google Form, a consent vote will occur through vote by voice.

The Speaker asks if there is any opposition towards passing the motion through unanimous consent.

VP University Affairs indicates she would like to vote for debate.

The Speaker states that as such, the motion is not approved unanimously, and will continue to be considered for discussion and voting during Legislative Council.

#### 8. Report - Comprehensive Governance Review Committee --**APPROVED**

Governing Documents Researcher, Husayn Jamal, presents.

Governing Documents Researcher Jamal speaks on refining the Society's commitment to representation. Governing Documents Researcher Jamal states that the preamble clause on representation was re-written, which was partly written by VP External and VP University Affairs.

As well, Governing Documents Researcher Jamal states that there are changes being made to the Judicial Board, involving changing the name of the body and providing greater clarity on its structure of existence.

Further Jamal notes that the level of authority between the French and English languages has changed. He states that going forward, by nature of Bill 101, the French language version is authoritative.

Regarding composition, Jamal highlights that a new seat will be granted to the Theology Students' Association, given that they are no longer a part of the Faculty of Arts. He also notes the removal of the General Manager as an ex-officio member of Legislative Council.

Question Period:

Senator Lametti inquires about the changes to the preamble, asking why there is no reference to the Gatineau campus students that will begin to be represented as of next year, and further inquires what prompted the changes to lengthen the preamble.

Governing Documents Researcher Jamal states that he does not have an answer for why only the downtown campus is referenced and refers Senator Lametti to VP External. For the second question,



he states that the other two preamble clauses within the Constitution are the length of the proposed representation clause, and states that the representation clause was quite short.

Councillor Kaye inquires what making the Judicial Board a committee of the Board of Directors means in terms of structural changes.

Governing Documents Researcher Jamal states that already, the Judicial Board is a body of the Board of Directors. He notes that that is unclear however, given that no other committee acts simply as a 'body' of the Board. He further notes that the Judicial Board acts like a committee already, given that the members of the Judicial Board are appointed by the Board, serve the Board of Directors, and can be removed by the Board of Directors. He states that by making it a committee, they would be reflecting current practices, as well as being honest with how the Judicial Board is situated within the SSMU.

Councillor Fried motions to extend question period by five minutes, seconded by the President – UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Councillor Fakih asks how many students are enrolled in the Bachelor of Theology. Governing Documents Researcher Jamal states there are between 29 to 36 students.

Councillor Fried asks Governing Documents Researcher Jamal to elaborate on what self-representation means, as referenced in the preamble. Governing Documents Researcher Jamal states that it is to reflect the views of the VP External, speaking on groups that are already doing advocacy, would, through the SSMU, be able to have their voices amplified by the SSMU, noting advocacy by BSN as an example.

Debate:

Councillor Fakih speaks on the inclusion of a seat for TUSA, stating that there is an issue between less than one hundred students getting one vote, while other faculties, such as the Faculties of Medicine and Law also getting one vote each, yet having hundreds of students.

Senator Lametti motions to amend to change 'downtown campus' to 'downtown and Outaouais campuses' in the preamble; seconded by Councillor Morgan.

Senator Lametti states that the amendment is to reflect reality as of next year.

Debate:

There is no debate.

Voting on the amendment – PASSES.



In favour: 14  
Opposed: 0  
Abstaining: 4

Debate on the main motion:

Councillor Mackie motions to amend to state that neither English nor French is paramount, and in the case of conflict, the Governance Appellate Committee should reconcile both versions by analyzing the context, scope, and purpose of the rule in question; seconded by Councillor Kaye.

Councillor Mackie states that there is a rule in Canadian law called the Equal Authenticity Law, which indicates legislation in French and English should be of equal authority. She states that although she understands that this may be a method used by SSMU to promote French and bilingualism, she does not think that this should be the way to do it, given that the French version is the translated version.

Debate on the amendment:

Governing Documents Researcher Jamal strongly advocates against the amendment. He states that the motion is not to promote French language within SSMU, but rather to comply with Bill 101 as a corporation.

Councillor Chase states that the vast majority of students are Anglophone, and as such, does not believe it appropriate to have two versions of the Constitution saying different things.

Councillor Mackie states that she was unaware of Bill 101 and would encourage individuals to vote against her amendment.

[VP External arrives at 19:26.]

Voting on the amendment:

In favour: 1  
Opposed: 13  
Abstaining: 4

The amendment fails.

Debate on the main motion:



The President speaks on Councillor Fakh's point on providing representation to TUSA. He notes that he understands that their faculty is small, they currently have no representation, and notes that similar size faculties, such as the Bachelor of Social Work, are currently represented in SSMU.

Governing Documents Researcher Jamal states that TUSA is not represented at all, and given that they are now a faculty, they should be granted the necessary representation within SSMU.

Senator Lametti inquires on why the preamble came to be, stating that in his opinion, it is unnecessarily lengthy, and states his concerns on the preamble shifting representation of everyone to a mouthpiece of certain groups.

Councillor Chase motions to amend to include noting that the English version of the Constitution is reconciled, seconded by Councillor Mackie.

Debate on the amendment:

Governing Documents Researcher Jamal urges Councillors to oppose the amendment. He states that members of the Society will continue to be able to use both English and French. He states that the only change given is that in a situation of discrepancy between the two versions, they will be legally obligated to give authoritative status to the French version.

Senator Lametti states that the amendment is both contradictory, as well as stating that it is not the role of the Executives to amend the Constitution.

Voting on the amendment – FAILS.

In favour: 2

Opposed: 13

Abstaining: 4

Debate on the main motion:

VP External states that the preamble was changed to recognize the status quo of various organizations, noting the superiority of knowledge that certain groups hold over the SSMU.

Senator Lametti motions to amend, including that “SSMU is the official representative of all its members”, removing mention of the “Downtown campus”, seconded by Councillor Dandamudi.

Senator Lametti explains that it is not a contradiction in regard to self-representation, and believes it is important to ensure that the Society continues to act in the best interest of its constituents.

Debate on the amendment:



VP External states the amendment does not appear to be grammatically correct.

Senator Lametti clarifies as to where the deletion would occur.

Voting on the amendment – PASSES.

In favour: 12

Opposed: 0

Abstaining: 7

Voting Period:

Vote on the Report of Comprehensive Governance Review Committee -- APPROVED.

In favour: 15

Opposed: 0

Abstaining: 3

## 9. Guest Speakers

### a. SSMU General Manager (Daniel The General Manager)

Daniel Dufour, SSMU General Manager, presents his introduction report.

The General Manager states that prior to joining SSMU, he was with Saputo Dairy Division for two years, responsible for the Continuous Improvement Department. Prior to this, he was with Rogers for four years, responsible for the Centre of Excellence, where he was responsible for standardizing projects across the five business units, developing project framework, including governance and compliance, developing reporting on KPIs and metrics, and identifying technology platforms across the organization. Prior to this, he worked for General Electric, in various roles. He states that his last role as the Vice President Operations – Retail Consumer Finance. Prior to that, he was the General Manager Operations for Appliances. Prior this, he was certified as a Master Black Belt Six Sigma – Appliances. In addition, he also worked as the National Manager, Risk Management, and prior to this, working in Commercial Insurance, in both Risk Management and as a Sales Manager.

Regarding his work experience, the General Manager states that he has eight years in the financial services industry, eight in the manufacturing industry, four in telecommunication, and two years in the food industry.

Regarding competencies, the General Manager indicates that he is certified MBB in Six Sigma and Lean Manufacturing, and competent in operations, building operations, governance & compliance,



customer service, sales, risk management, audits, general accounting & finance, sports entertainment, acquisitions/divestitures, and information technology.

For his position at SSMU, the General Manager indicates that his responsibilities include the day-to-day administration, governance, corporate obligations, accounting and finance, human resources, business operations, and all legal matters. He states that he acts as a key advisor to the Board of Directors, Legislative Council, and the Executive Committee to provide continuity essential to the ongoing success of the Society in meeting its social, cultural, educational, and financial goals. He also states that he is responsible for the well-functioning operations of the Students' Society at large and for the maintenance of institutional memory. He states that his primary responsibility is to provide continuity and coordinate the training of Executives from year to year. He notes that he also acts as the main liaison between the Executives and permanent staff members and is the primary source of institutional memory within the Society. As well, he acts as the representative for SSMU at various events, meetings, etc. in coordination with the Executive team. The General Manager also attends social events as required. He is also the immediate supervisor of the Daycare Director and fulfills the role of the Secretary of the Corporation.

[Recess begins at 20:03.]

[Recess ends at 20:13.]

Question Period:

Senator Lametti inquires on what the opinion of the General Manager is regarding the recent decision of the CGRC to remove the General Manager as an ex-officio member of the Legislative Council.

Daniel Dufour indicates that it is a good question, however, given that he has only been in the position for two weeks, it is something he will look into in the future.

#### 10. Question Period

Councillor Dixon asks the President for updates on COVID-19, what efforts have been made thus far, and what the future looks like.

The President states that he spent the day meeting with various members of McGill administration. He states that the University is planning on following the guidelines set out by the provincial government. He states that plans to meet with the Deputy Provost and Dean of Students tomorrow.

He states that on the SSMU end, he states that they have instructed all staff able to work from home to do so, starting tomorrow. He states that Clubs and ISGs will be suspending their events, and Services will be suspending services until further notice.





He notes that the university will be shutting down tomorrow, and states that all university events exceeding 250 people will be cancelled until Sunday.

Councillor Chase asks if that means DriveSafe will no longer be offering their services. VP Student Life states that DriveSafe will most likely be suspending their service as of tomorrow.

Councillor Fried asks the President to speak on the presence of COVID-19 on campus. The President states that he has not confirmed the various rumours, but he notes that he has heard that a professor and a student may have it, and notes that they are both in self-isolation. However, he notes he asked to confirm this with the Dean of Students, who indicated that this was untrue, but notes that the situation may have changed since then. He states that there is a rumour that an individual in Upper Residence has COVID-19 but has been unable to confirm this.

## 11. Announcements

VP External states that the McGill Course Lecturer Instruction Union is holding a special general assembly tomorrow to determine if they will go on strike and encourages everyone to check out their website to view their sticking points with McGill administration.

Councillor Dixon states that the MSS has sent a letter to the Executives of SSMU regarding the condemnation of Homophobic and Transphobic Blood Collection Practices on Campus, expressing their discontent on how the letter was done. They state that while they agree with the main idea of the motion, he states that the message was contradictory, as well as failing to recognize the benefits that blood collection provides to people, especially in situations where health care resources are scarce.

The President states that classes are cancelled tomorrow, and notes that he is working to put out a statement with the Communications Department for tomorrow morning regarding next steps, as well as the various services available for them. He also notes that there are large volumes of discontent towards how the McGill administration is reacting to the situation.

## 12. Business Arising

- a. Motion Regarding Financial Matters of Council Policy 2020-02-27 – **APPROVED**

Question Period:

There are no questions.

Debate:

Senator Lametti moves to recess for one minute, seconded by VP External – UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.



Return to debate:

Senator Lametti moves to amend, detailing on what will occur if the plan is not approved, seconded by VP Finance.

Senator Lametti states that there should be a plan in case the fee is not passed, and furthermore, the plan should be available to Councillors ahead of time.

Debate on the amendment:

There is no debate.

Voting on the amendment:

In favour: 16

Opposed: 0

Abstaining: 3

Senator Lametti moves to lay the motion on the table, seconded by the President – UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

The motion is taken from the table.

Voting Period:

Voting on Motion Regarding Financial Matters of Council Policy 2020-02-27 – APPROVED.

In favour: 16

Opposed: 0

Abstaining: 3

[Permanent departure of Councillor Daryanani at 20:27.]

- b. Motion Regarding an Events Policy 2020-02-27 FOR APPROVAL --**POSTPONED UNTIL MARCH 26, 2020**

Question Period:

Councillor Dixon inquires on the existence of a VP Operations and its relation to the motion.



VP External states that Operations refers to the Operations Department of SSMU, and not the VP Operations portfolio.

[Arrival of VP Finance 20:29.]

Senator Lametti inquires if the requirements for drinking events remain the same for non-drinking events, such as the number of first aid responders present.

VP External indicates that it would be the same.

Debate:

Senator Lametti asks the VP External if he thinks it is appropriate that the same rules apply.

VP External states that a large amount of programming ran by SSMU would be done by SSPN but understands his point.

VP External motions to postpone until the next meeting, seconded by Senator Lametti – UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

- c. Motion Regarding Greater Integration Between Athletics and SSMU 2020-02-13 – **APPROVED**

Councillor Franceschini motivates.

Councillor Franceschini states that McGill has lacked school spirit, and states that SSMU can work to mitigate this through greater integration between Athletics and SSMU, such as through advertisements.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

Debate:

There is no debate.

Voting Period:

In favour: 14

Opposed: 1

Abstaining: 3



Senator Lametti moves to take 12.a) from the table, seconded by the President – UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

### 13. New Business

#### a. Notice of Motion regarding the creation of SSEC 2020-03-12

VP Internal motivates.

VP Internal explains that while many VP Internals campaign on the notion of inclusive events, SSPN is the primary events-planning portfolio, and notes that SSPN is not necessarily focused on dry events. As such, VP Internal proposes the creation of SSEC. She notes that four people would be a part of it: VP Internal, Internal Logistics Coordinator, a Councillor, and a single member-at-large. She states that there is space for both committees to exist. She notes she has spoken with past Directors, Councillors, VP Internals, and Internal Logistics Coordinators, as well as the VP Internal for next year, and notes that there is a general consensus that the creation of such a committee would be beneficial.

#### b. Motion Regarding Discretionary Funding for the UGE 2020-03-12 –**APPROVED**

VP Finance motivates.

VP Finance states that the UGE would like to use part of their funds to donate to various organizations.

Question Period:

Councillor Kaye inquires as to how many services have discretionary funding currently, and if discretionary funding is tracked.

VP Finance states that Drivesafe has discretionary funding, who uses it for carbon-offsetting, SACOMMS, and Midnight Kitchen. He states that services must give the VP Finance the minutes of the meeting in which they approved the amount, as well as it must match the mandate within the constitution of the service.

Debate:

Councillor Fakih asks where they got the percentage from. VP Finance states that they budgeted it, and notes that it is not an additional fee.

VP University Affairs yields her time to Belle Sullivan. Sullivan states that discretionary funding will be used to sponsor events, and states that this would help to streamline the process.



Voting Period:

Voting on the Motion Regarding Discretionary Funding for the UGE 2020-03-12 – APPROVED.

In favour: 16

Opposed: 1

Abstaining: 1

c. Motion Regarding First Year Council Fee Referendum Question 2020-03-12 --

**APPROVED**

VP Finance motivates.

VP Finance states that the fee is a renewal and explains that the fund runs about a 10% surplus, and as such, notes that there is no need to increase it.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

Debate:

The President states that within other referendum questions, there is the inclusion of a statement regarding that a 'No' vote would result in the dissolution of all funding and asks the VP Finance if he would be amenable to an amendment to that capacity.

VP Finance motions to lay the motion on the table, seconded by the President – PASSES.

The Speaker introduces Yazan Abu Yousef as the new Science Representative. Yazan Abu Yousef introduces himself.

The motion is taken from the table.

VP Finance motions to amend, seconded by the President.

Debate:

There is no debate.

Voting on the amendment – PASSES.

In favour: 18



Opposed: 0

Abstaining: 0

Voting Period:

Voting on Motion Regarding First Year Council Fee Referendum Question 2020-03-12 – APPROVED.

In favour: 15

Opposed: 0

Abstaining: 3

d. Motion Regarding Increase and Nature of the Charity Fund 2020-03-12 – **APPROVED**

VP External motivates.

VP External states that due to the introduction of a new casual staff member, the External portfolio requires further funding for Community Affairs. They note that an increase would allow for the creation of an expense account and to pay the salary of the Coordinator.

Question Period:

Senator Lametti inquires on the potentiality of a budget. VP External states that a budgeted increase is within the background and rationale section.

Senator Lametti states that there was no fee increase breakdown provided. VP External states he will prepare something for that regard.

Debate:

Councillor Dixon states his support for the motion.

VP External moves to lay the motion on the table, seconded by Senator Lametti – UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

VP Finance moves to take 13.c) off the table, seconded by The President – UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

VP External takes the motion from the table.

VP External motions to amend, seconded by Senator Lametti. VP External provides the in-depth budget.

Debate:



Senator Lametti thanks VP External for the information.

VP External motions to vote by unanimous consent, seconded by the President – UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Debate on the main motion:

There is no further debate.

Voting Period:

Voting on the Motion Regarding Increase and Nature of the Charity Fund 2020-03-12 – APPROVED.

In favour: 17

Opposed: 0

Abstaining: 1

e. Motion Regarding Plate Club Fee Referendum Question 2020-03-12 – **APPROVED**

VP Finance motivates.

VP Finance indicates that the fee would pay for the salary of the relevant coordinator.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

Debate:

VP Finance motivates the amendment, whereas a 'No' vote would result in the discontinuation of the fee, seconded by the President.

Debate on the amendment:

There is no debate.

Voting on the amendment:

The President moves to vote by unanimous consent, seconded by Councillor Kaye – unanimously approved.



The amendment is unanimously approved.

Debate on the main motion:

There is no further debate.

Voting Period:

Voting on Motion Regarding Plate Club Fee Referendum Question 2020-03-12 – APPROVED.

In favour: 18

Opposed: 0

Abstaining: 0

[Recess begins at 22:03.]

[Recess ends 22:13.]

VP Finance motions to take item 13.d) from the table, seconded by Senator Lametti – UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

- f. Motion Regarding Proposed Increase to Indigenous Equity Fee 2020-03-12  
–**APPROVED**

VP University Affairs yields her time to Tomas Jirousek, Indigenous Affairs Commissioner.

The Indigenous Affairs Commissioner motivates.

Tomas Jirousek explains that they wish to expand the fee, based on what they were able to accomplish this past semester. He states that funding focused on the conference, as well as a partnership with Drivesafe. He states that rather than relying on other funds, a larger fund would provide the IAC with further stability.

Question Period:

Senator Lametti asks Tomas Jirousek to explain the table calculations. Jirousek explains the numbers concerning the conference. Jirousek explains that a number of presenters/attendees have been pulling out due to COVID-19, and notes that there are some missing figures. Jirousek further states that the large part of why the conference has cost so much is due to booking fees, as well as flights and catering.

VP External motions to set the speaking period for individuals for Legislative Council to be ad libitum, seconded by Councillor Kaye – UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.





Jirousek states that they desire to expand the portfolio.

Senator Lametti asks if they expect to have to return to ask for increased funding every year.

Tomas Jirousek states that after this fee increase, he believes that they should be set for a while, going forward.

Debate:

There is no debate.

Voting Period:

Voting on the Motion Regarding Proposed Increase to Indigenous Equity Fee 2020-03-12 – APPROVED.

In favour: 19

Opposed: 0

Abstaining: 0

- g. Motion Regarding SSMU Menstrual Hygiene Products Fee Referendum Question 2020-03-12 – **APPROVED**

VP University Affairs yields her time to Claire Downie, Menstrual Hygiene Products Coordinator.

Claire Downie states that the initiative began in 2016, and states that the initiative began quite arbitrarily. Now she notes that there are about 50 baskets/dispensers on campus in various washrooms. She states that the increased fee would allow for the continuation of product supply, replacing baskets with dispensers, installing new dispensers, and grants the coordinators an increase in pay.

Question Period:

Senator Lametti inquires as to what the effect of a 'No' vote would be. Claire states that a 'No' vote would be an end to the program after Fall 2020, given that the fee expires at the end of 2020, and notes that there would be a vote for a renewal.

Debate:

Senator Lametti states that if the program cannot exist with that level of funding, he believes that the referendum question should essentially state that a no vote would essentially end the program.



VP University Affairs states that the increase would be to increase the number of dispensers, as well as an increase in pay for coordinators. She notes that a failure of this vote would result in no advancement of the initiative but notes that the initiative would be able to continue running.

VP University Affairs thanks Claire Downie for her work.

Councillor Abu Yousef asks if, in the case that the fee increase does not go through this year, if they could ask for a fee increase at the end of next term.

Senator Lametti asks if they can see a way forward if funding was to remain as is.

Claire Downie states that she cannot comment on the exact impact, but states that if the fee increase did not go through, operations would be severely constrained.

VP External states that they would technically be able to.

Senator Lametti states that he hopes that it does not come to that and hopes that the fee passes now.

VP University Affairs encourages Councillors to vote in favour of the fee.

Councillor Kaye inquires if the increase would allow for the inclusion of new menstrual products, and if it would allow for the installation of dispensers in male-identifying bathrooms.

Downie states that they have looked into different products but notes that the dispensers require specific products for it to operate. Downie states that she is very in favour of introducing them into male washrooms, but states that it is difficult as it is ultimately McGill's decision.

Voting Period:

Voting on the Motion Regarding SSMU Menstrual Hygiene Products Fee Referendum Question  
2020-03-12

In favour: 18  
Opposed: 0  
Abstaining: 0

- h. Motion Regarding Condemnation of Changes to Harm Reduction Approach Within SHHS and Student Services 2020-03-12 – **APPROVED**

VP University Affairs motivates.



VP University Affairs states that McGill University has begun to move away from a harm reduction approach regarding drugs and alcohol to an absence-only approach, which she notes is troubling. Furthermore, she notes that any individual who sees others with drug paraphernalia or cannabis has the responsibility to report it. She states that the motion would condemn these practices.

Councillor Fried states that SSMU has an obligation to protect its students in solidarity.

Question Period:

Councillor Kaye inquires on the details of the meeting between the VP University Affairs and the Associate Director of Residence Life.

VP University Affairs states that the Associate Director had no idea on why the page regarding harm reduction was removed.

Debate:

Proxy for Senator Garneau asks if there would be any benefit to waiting for a response from the University at the next Senate, and furthermore, should SSMU focus more on advocacy or educating students.

VP University Affairs states that they do not think it is prudent to wait for an answer at Senate, given that their answer most likely will not change their response. As well, she notes that they can provide resources in the statement of condemnation.

Councillor Duckett indicates his concern at this issue.

Voting Period:

Voting on the Motion Regarding Condemnation of Changes to Harm Reduction Approach Within SHHS and Student Services 2020-03-12 - APPROVED.

In favour: 19  
Opposed: 0  
Abstaining: 0

- i. Motion to pass an Interim Provision to suspend the fourteen (14) day deadline for the approval for Referendum questions mentioned in the Internal Regulations of Elections and Referenda, Section 4, Articles 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 until April 1st, 2020 – **APPROVED**

The President motions to suspend the rules to add a motion to the agenda, seconded by Proxy for Senator Garneau.



The President notes that there is a specific provision within the Internal Regulations of Elections and Referenda which stipulates that there must be a 14 day time limit between benchmarks. As such, he wishes to overrule this.

Voting to suspend the rules – UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

Debate:

There is no debate.

Voting Period:

Voting on the Motion to pass an Interim Provision to suspend the fourteen (14) day deadline for the approval for Referendum questions mentioned in the Internal Regulations of Elections and Referenda, Section 4, Articles 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 until April 1st, 2020

VP External moves to vote by unanimous consent, seconded by Proxy for Senator Garneau – UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

In favour: 19

Opposed: 0

Abstaining 0

VP University Affairs motions to suspend the rules to move up the report of the Indigenous Affairs Committee, seconded by Councillor Kersh – UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

#### 14. Indigenous Affairs Committee

Tomas Jirousek, Indigenous Affairs Commissioner, presents.

Jirousek explains the makeup of the IAC, explaining that it is made up of all the Indigenous groups on campus, including formal faculty groups and members-at-large. He states that the committee organizes events and programming.

He states that a large part of their role this year was to educate Indigenous students on services available to them provided by SSMU. The other aspect of their role was building upon existing



services, such as McGill athletic services and DriveSafe, such as the provision of subsidies. As well, he notes that advocacy is also a large part of their work.

VP External motions to extend speaking time indefinitely, seconded by Councillor Chase – UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

He states that advocacy has been ad-hoc this year. He notes their upcoming conference.

Question Period:

VP External asks if there is anything anyone can do in order to shift off some of the labour from the Indigenous Affairs Commissioner.

Indigenous Affairs Commissioner states that it is not necessary.

Councillor Dixon leaves indefinitely 23:20.

15. Motion to Sign on to AGSEM Open Letter 2020-03-12 – **APPROVED**

VP External motivates.

VP External explains that McGill University has been quite difficult towards negotiations and communications between itself and AGSEM, and states that the letter would be used to signify support for the union.

Question Period:

Councillor Duckett asks if SSMU has any undergraduate students involved in AGSEM.

VP External indicates that there are some. VP External states that the bargaining unit is hard to define.

Debate:

There is no debate.

Voting Period:

Senator Lametti motions to vote by unanimous consent, seconded by VP External – UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

16. Reports by Committees

- a. Executive Committee



The President presents the report of the Executive Committee.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

VP Finance moves to postpone all Reports, except for the Report by Clubs Committee, until next Council meeting, seconded by Councillor Franceschini.

Debate:

VP External highlights that this is bad practice.

Councillor Dandamudi states that she would have to report tonight, given that she was supposed to report at the last Council meeting.

The Speaker indicates that this is correct and would advise against postponing Councillor Dandamudi's report. As such, she notes that VP Finance's amendment would not include postponing Councillor Dandamudi's report either.

Senator Lametti encourages keeping Council short, and would appreciate the shortening of the agenda.

Councillor Chase believes that reports should be looked at tonight.

Councillor Dandamudi motions to vote by unanimous consent – fails.

Vote to postpone:

In favour: VP Finance, VP University Affairs, Councillor Dandamudi, Councillor Franceschini, Councillor Kersh, Duckett, Senator Lametti

No: President, VP External, Councillor Kaye, Councillor Fakih, Councillor Marcoux, Councillor Fried, Councillor Abu Yousef

Abstain: VP Student Life, Councillor Chase, Councillor Mackie, Proxy for Senator Garneau

The Speaker notes that as there is a tie, the motion has failed, and as such, reports will remain on the agenda for tonight's meeting.

b. Mental Health Committee

VP Student Life presents the report.

VP Student Life states that for Mental Health, he has been working on finding the new Commissioner



and Coordinators for next year. As well, he notes that they are currently working on the campaign for the Keepme.SAFE referendum question.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

c. Finance Committee

VP Finance presents the report.

VP Finance is working on the investment portfolio and on the creation of a new financial plan for the Society.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

d. Clubs Committee –**APPROVED**

VP Student Life presents the report.

VP Student Life notes that numerous clubs were approved.

Question Period:

VP External asks if there's any possibility of monitoring recent Club constitutions to fall in line with SSMU practices.

VP Student Life states that Club Constitutions must fall in line with Policies and Plans.

Councillor Kaye notes that the Constitutions of Clubs are constantly checked when they are reviewing club status.

17. Reports by Councillors

a. Councillor Dandamudi (Arts)

Councillor Dandamudi presents the report.

Councillor Dandamudi notes that she has been attending both AUS and SSMU Legislative Council.

As well, she notes that she has attended meetings of the Library Improvement Fund Committee.

Regarding Finance, she is researching the ethics of the investment portfolio. She notes that there is now a full executive council for next year's AUS.



She notes that AUS has cancelled the upcoming climate strike.

Question Period:

The President asks if there was consultation with C-JAM after cancelling the climate strike.

Councillor Dandamudi states she is unsure and refers the the President to the AUS Executive.

b. Councillor Kaye (Clubs)

Councillor Kaye presents.

Councillor Kaye states that there is a Clubs Summit on March 16, from 18:00-19:00.

Question Period:

The President asks if Councillor Kaye anticipates the event will be cancelled, given the recent ruling by the government regarding banning large groups of people.

VP Student Life states that they will cancel it if need be, following further information from the university.

c. Councillor Fried (Residences)

Councillor Fried presents the report.

Councillor Fried notes that IRC has hosted a number of events, namely parties and free food giveaways.

He notes that the upcoming trivia night was cancelled in light of COVID-19 developments.

Councillor Fried states that there is currently an organization of a Constitutional Review Committee, which he is spearheading.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

d. Councillor Rhamey (Environment) – **POSTPONED**

Proxy for Senator Garneau motions to postpone the report until next Legislative Council, seconded by VP External – UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

e. Councillor Lametti (Senate)

Senator Lametti presents the report.





Question Period:

f. Councillor Eisner (Management) – **POSTPONED**

Proxy for Senator Garneau motions to postpone the report until next Legislative Council, seconded by Councillor Chase – UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

18. Executive Reports

a. President

The President presents the report.

The President notes he has had many interactions with the University administration related to student advocacy and on COVID-19.

Question Period:

Councillor Duckett asks if there is a formal working group at the University level regarding COVID-19, and if there is student representation within the group.

The President states that since the beginning of the outbreak, the University established the Emergency Operations Committee, as an upper administration and senior aide committee, which is responsible for the creation of a contingency plan. Furthermore, he notes that there is no student representation, but notes they are keeping The President updated daily.

Councillor Duckett asks if the President is privy to participating in decision-making concerning cancellations and closures.

The President notes that he gets advance notice of decisions and information.

Councillor Fakh states that he has heard that students that are abroad have not been contacted by the University and asks the President to look into these claims.

The President indicates that he has heard the same and notes he will bring it up. Furthermore, he states that the University will spend this weekend planning out what to do.

Councillor Fried motions to extend Question Period by three minutes, seconded by Councillor Abu Yousef – UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Councillor Fried states that Residence tenants are afraid that the University will evict them.



The President states that he is unable to say if McGill will do so, but notes the presence of strict Montreal laws concerning tenancy, and as such, based on that, notes that eviction is unlikely.

b. Vice-President (University Affairs)

VP University Affairs presents the report.

VP University Affairs notes that she submitted questions to Senate regarding COVID-19, and the Athletics Facilities Fee.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

c. Vice-President (Internal)– **POSTPONED**

Proxy for Senator Garneau motions to postpone, seconded by The President – UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

d. Vice-President (Finance)

VP Finance presents the report.

VP Finance notes that he has received communications from clubs regarding event cancellations, and potential reimbursement strategies.

VP Finance notes that the budget is ongoing.

VP Finance notes that consultation with services regarding roll over has concluded.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

e. Vice-President (Student Life)

For Clubs, VP Student Life notes that Google Classrooms have been distributed. Furthermore, he notes that Clubs have been informed that since the University is closed, all forms are closed as well, and are taking no new requests.

VP Student Life notes that for Services, most Services are closing down.



Question Period:

There are no questions.

f. Vice-President (External)

VP External presents the report.

VP External states that he has been working with UTILE for the upcoming fee question.

VP External also notes that there is an upcoming protest against police brutality on Sunday.

Question Period:

Councillor Fakhri notes that there are other groups who hold froshes who are not faculties, and notes that they often do not receive the same attention and asks the VP External to bring this up to CL&E directly.

External states that he is in full support of doing so.

19. Confidential Session: **00:05**

VP External motions to enter confidential session, seconded by Councillor Chase – UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

20. Adjournment: **00:15**

VP External motions to adjourn, seconded by Councillor Mackie – objection from Councillor Marcoux.

Senator Lametti moves to vote by secret ballot.

The Speaker states that she would require a recess in order to prepare a voting form.

Senator Lametti moves to vote by roll call.

Voting on adjournment:

In favour: VP Student Life, VP Finance, VP External, VP University Affairs, Councillor Dandamudi, Councillor Franceschini, Councillor Kersh, Councillor Kaye, Councillor Mackie, Councillor Abu Yousef, Senator Lametti



**Students' Society of McGill University**

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Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories

Opposed: President, Councillor Chase

Abstain: Councillor Fakih, Councillor Marcoux, Councillor Duckett, Councillor Fried, Proxy for Senator Garneau

The motion is approved.

Adjournment at 00:15.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Buraga". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Bryan Buraga, President

APPROVED