



SSMU LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PUBLIC MINUTES

March 26, 2020

The regular bi-weekly Legislative Council Meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) will be held by teleconference on Thursday, March 26, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order: **18:30**

The Speaker calls the Legislative Council is called to order at 18:30.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Speaker reads out the land acknowledgement.

3. Attendance

Absent: Councillors Gurvey, Eisner, Duckett, Bulhoes, Flaherty, Watson.

Prior to the Approval of the Minutes, the Speaker apologizes for the situation that arose earlier. She notes that it potentially occurred due to the fact that the link to the Zoom was public in order to allow members of the gallery to participate but notes that no one was prepared for the situation that arose. The Speaker apologizes, and notes that she views the safety and comfort of Councillors as the highest priority.

4. Approval of Minutes

- a. Legislative Council Public Minutes 2020-03-12 --**UNANIMOUS APPROVAL**

There are no changes or corrections to the minutes.

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

6. Report of the Steering Committee

The Speaker reads out the report of the Steering Committee.

Question Period:



There are no questions.

7. Guest Speakers

There are no guest speakers.

8. Question Period

a. Submission of Question (1): Medicine Representative Dixon

The Speaker reads out the question submitted by Councillor Dixon, directed towards the VP Internal:

“What communication strategy has SSMU implemented during this COVID-19 crisis regarding:

a) collecting and organizing student concerns to help prioritize those that are brought to administration?

b) helping organize the huge amount of information coming from the university to increase accessibility of this information to our students?”

VP Internal yields her time to VP External and VP University Affairs.

VP External states that there was a meeting held between various union associations of McGill and members of the Administration, such as Professor Christopher Manfredi. At the meeting, they prioritized the form of advocacy, and the degree of consultation with the university community. He notes they were granted multiple a week check-in with the administration. He also notes that they will have weekly meetings with the various associations and the delegates to discuss the response of McGill and the priority grievances.

VP University Affairs states that they are working on a joint response that highlights the opinions of students. More so, she details that there will be a SSMU statement coming out later in the week, detailing current advocacy efforts and services available to students at this time, such as the Montreal Student Program for COVID-19 Relief. They state that they have been told that they cannot have a representation on the McGill Emergency Response Team. They are also working on a database where individuals can upload the information regarding COVID-19 changes (such as the S/U option) indicated by various faculty deans.

VP External asks the Inter-Residence Representative on an update of the status of students still in residence.

Councillor Fried states that Residence Life and administration have told students to go home if they can go home. However, he notes that they have not evicted anyone, and after conversations with



members of the administration and Floor Fellows, he notes that individuals still in Upper Residence will be moved to Lower Residences, namely New Residence, as they are not as nearly as communal as dorms. He notes that most individuals have gone home if they can.

9. Recess, Consent Items

The Speaker explains the process of consent voting.

[Recess begins at 18:52.]

[Recess ends at 18:57.]

The Speaker notes that neither motion up for consent approval received unanimous approval, and as such, both motions will be subject to both question period and debate.

10. Announcements

VP External makes an announcement concerning the statement put out by the Medical Students' Society in regard to the statement made by the ad-hoc committee concerning blood drives on campus. The letter outlines the harmful approach of issuing contradictory messaging within the original statement. VP External states that blood drives should be allowed to happen on campus but notes that there should be steps taken to highlight the transphobic and homophobic nature of such blood drives, providing McGill issuing a statement as an example. Furthermore, he notes that he would like to consult with key stakeholders on campus before openly promoting blood drives on campus. As well, he notes that he understands the importance that blood drives have but notes that it does not grant those organizations with carte blanche in how they practice their collections. He notes that a new statement will be drafted, in order to ensure no harm will be placed on the student body at large.

Senator Lametti states that in regard to what occurred earlier in the meeting, he believes that it is not up to the Dais to apologize. He states that it is the fault of the person who committed the incident. He notes that he understands the decision to not allow members of the gallery to participate, but notes that it is sad that democratic rights are being curtailed because of some actions.

The President states that the referendum period is ongoing and will continue until Friday at 5 PM. He reminds Councillors to vote if they have not done so already, and more so, reminds Councillors to remind their constituents.

VP University Affairs states that a group of students have put together a survey on the university assessment policy, being used to inform the university on such assessments. As well, she encourages everyone to sign the open letter regarding requests to McGill due to COVID-19.



Councillor Das states that FYC is campaigning to keep the fee at \$0.50 and encourages everyone to vote for it. She notes that a vote in favour would allow for the inclusion of first year students at McGill.

VP External notes that PC energy is continuing to construct a national pipeline during the national shutdown, and notes that McGill has invested in Coastal Gas Link. VP External states that they should stand in solidarity with those who are opposed to the pipeline. SSMU is beginning its general hiring and encourages everyone interested in various positions to apply.

11. Business Arising

- a. Motion Regarding the Adoption of an Events Policy 2020-02-27 -- **APPROVED**

Question Period:

Senator Lametti states that at the last Council meeting, he asked a question regarding the number of first aid responders at various events and asks for an update.

Councillor Fakhri states that within the policy, there is a section that states all requests by groups for guest speakers must both notify and be approved by the Executive Committee. He asks what the current plan in place is.

VP External states that with regards to Councillor Fakhri's question, he states that there is currently not a standardized process currently. Generally, within a given department that an operation is carried out, often within the Operations Department of the VP External department, without community consultation.

With regards to first aid responders, he notes that the standard practice adopted by McGill is one responder per fifty people, and notes that no further discussion has been held on the matter.

Debate:

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

Senator Lametti moves to amend the number of first aid responders (not less than two), regardless of the number of participants, and the discretion of the buildings Director and Operations Manager, if event-related risks to participants are deemed low; seconded by Councillor Chase.

Senator Lametti motivates. He states that events such as guest lecturers would not require the amount of first aid responders they would otherwise be granted, and that the amendment is to address the unnecessary provision of first aid responders where they are not needed.



Voting on the amendment – PASSES.

In favour: 27

Opposed: 0

Abstaining: 0

Debate on the main motion:

Councillor Mackie states that in section 4, there is mention of location and floor plans. She wonders if decisions made have to be made with accessibility in mind.

VP External moves the amendments submitted; Councillor Kaye seconds.

VP External motivates the amendment. VP External states that amendments came after increased consultation. He states that perhaps the largest change is that volunteers can no longer be seen as running the events, as well as supporting internal services for events, rather than external organizations.

[Recess begins at 20:17.]

[Recess ends at 20:27.]

Debate on the amendment:

There is no debate.

Voting on the amendment – PASSES.

In favour: 27

Opposed: 0

Abstaining: 1

Councillor Chase moves an amendment, seconded by Councillor Abu Yousef.

Councillor Chase motivates. Councillor Chase states that the amendment is to change the wording, highlighting that it is able to convey the message in the same way, but remaining respectful.

Debate:

VP External notes that the wording desiring to be changed is not his own, and rather, is located within the policy concerning VIP culture. He states that changing the wording would be disrespectful, given that multiple members of the HR Committee were not at SSMU when such actions occurred.



Councillor Chase states that the policies are on the SSMU website, and notes that while he understands the importance of proper institutional memory, he believes that they should be more respectful in their official policies.

VP External states that the policy has been up for two years. He states that the original wording would provide the HR Committee much-needed historical context.

VP Internal states the wording was so specific for the policy concerning VIP Culture as it was directly against the actions of the VP Internal portfolio and SSPN. She states that if they are wishing to make a motion that addresses all events held by SSMU, it should be more general.

Councillor Chase states that the previous wording does not include any mention of sexual violence or abuse, but instead corruption. He once again reaffirms that his motion is more respectful.

VP External states that drinking culture and sexual violence is linked and notes the specific culture of the events aspect of the VP Internal as a whole.

Voting Period:

Voting on the Amendment – PASSES.

In favour: 7

Opposed: 6

Abstaining: 15

Councillor Chase moves to amend, stating that Executives should not be intoxicated at SSMU events of which they are present, unless the Executive Committee gives a special dispensation to such Executive.

Councillor Chase states that the Executives are representatives of SSMU, and them being intoxicated could both tarnish individuals' views of the Society, as well as create new issues. As well, he notes that they could provide a set of sober eyes and ears.

Councillor Mackie states that although she likes the sentiment, she states that it is not precise enough. She states that Executives could be attending events, but not in their capacity as Executives.

VP External echoes the sentiments of Councillor Mackie. He highlights the heavy workload of executives, and states that they wish to have a break at points.

Voting Period:

Voting on the amendment – FAILS.



In favour: 1

Opposed: 22

Abstain: 5

Debate on the main motion:

VP External moves to reconsider the first amendment brought forward by Councillor Chase, given the high number of extensions.

The Speaker notes that VP External would be unable to make such a motion, given that VP External voted against the amendment in the first place.

Senator Lametti moves to reconsider, seconded by VP External – UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Debate:

VP External encourages individuals to not abstain.

Voting Period:

Voting on the amendment – PASSES.

In favour: 19

Opposed: 6

Abstaining: 3

Debate on the main motion:

There is no further debate.

Voting Period:

Voting on the Motion Regarding the Adoption of an Events Policy 2020-02-27 – APPROVED.

In favour: 19

Opposed: 5

Abstaining: 3

VP University Affairs moves to suspend the rules to amend the agenda to move the Notice of Motion Regarding Amendment to Indigenous Solidarity Policy 2020-0326, given that the Associate Indigenous Affairs Commissioner is present, seconded by VP Internal – UNANIMOUS APPROVAL.



b. Motion Regarding the Creation of SSEC 2020-03-12 -- **NOT APPROVED**

Question Period:

VP External asks why the determination was made to have four (4) people on the committee, as opposed to SSPN, which has fourteen (14).

VP Internal notes that she got the number from the original formation of SSPN, which had the VP Internal, the ILC, a Councillor, and a member-at-large. She notes that as the number of events increased, the numbers of individuals grew. She states that they can go back and expand it if necessary, and more so, notes that this is not banning more people taking part in the committee as staffers.

Senator Garneau states that he likes the idea, and notes they have a similar group in EUS for this purpose. However, he notes that it is one of the least active committees by a lot, due to the fact that they ultimately failed to reach out to the groups who may be interested in non-drinking activities, as they are people who are typically less involved in the society. He asks if the SSEC has any plans in order to reach out to such groups who would be most interested.

VP Internal states that SSMU has a far larger reach, and notes that that is why she's pushing for a division of the two committees. She states that they require different types of people. She notes that due to the fact that they can reach out to more than one faculty, as well as the possibility of collaboration with other faculties, limits the possibilities of poor attendance/reception. As well, she notes that SSMU has larger institutional support behind it for these events.

Councillor Fakh likes the idea but asks about the naming of the committee. He notes that the names do not properly reflect what the committees do, and states that having clearer names could potentially help to garner public interest in the committees, as well as increasing participation and transparency.

VP Internal motions for as seven (7)-minute extension, seconded by Councillor Fakh – UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

VP Internal cannot provide insight on why SSPN is called what it is. However, she notes that the naming of SSEC is largely due to her interest in puns, as SSEC means dry in French.

Councillor Dixon asks if there has been any investigation towards making SSEC a sub-committee, rather than a full separate committee. He notes that while he believes the cause is important, he does not understand why it cannot work within an adjusted SSPN structure.



VP Internal states that all fourteen people on SSPN are needed for events such as Fac-O. She states that if SSPN was expanded, it would still function as a separate committee, as they would be meeting separately, and does not see the point of them working together. More so, she states that for selection, it would be easier to have interviews specialized towards SSPN or SSEC.

Senator Garneau asks if the main goal of SSEC is to hold non-drinking events or increase collaboration with faculties.

VP Internal states that recent big non-drinking events have been hugely successful, providing the movie night as an example. She highlights that the only reason that the only reason the event was not held this year was due to financial reasons. She notes that last year, Virgin Radio gave them rights to the movie, as well as a giant screen for free. However, she notes that this year, they were going to be charged thousands of dollars. She notes that SSPN already has deep collaboration, noting examples such as their partnership with Winter Carnival. She states that SSEC would offer smaller groups on campus SSMU backing.

Debate:

VP University Affairs supports the expansion of non-drinking events at SSMU, and believes it is important. However, she notes that she will not be in support of the motion, as it removes the planning of all non-drinking events from the SSPN. She states that the motion would remove responsibility for such events away from SSPN and the VP Internal, which she states is dangerous, as the smaller SSEC would have less institutional support. She states that it demonstrates a pushing aside of responsibilities. She states that the motion would further entrench SSPN as a drinking-event committee. However, she draws attention to the fact that SSPN is a programming network. Instead, she looks favorably on a total overhaul of SSPN, deeming it required. She encourages individuals who are interested in planning non-drinking events to also apply to SSPN, and states that making SSPN more inclusive is the better way to move forward.

VP External echoes the sentiments. He states that the previous policy is largely in response to months of work attempting to capture harm reduction principle because of the serious problems that exist in the SSPN. Furthermore, he states that if SSPN spent less time on insurance, they can focus more on actual event planning. He also notes his concern for the language expressed in the background rationale. He states that SSPNs flagship events does not allow planning for other events, which may further the VIP culture, and would create an unhealthy environment.

Councillor Fakh indicates that he initially did not want a separate committee. However, he states that it would not be feasible, given that people joining SSPN normally want to do the same events over and over again. He states that as someone who does not drink, he wishes to attend events organized by people who know what non-drinking individuals desire.



Councillor Chase also states that he is a non-drinker. He states that he should not force primarily-drinking event groups to change, by making them also plan non-drinking events. Instead, he believes the task should be delegated to groups who want to plan such events, doing it with their own mindset. Similarly, he states that the inequality that exists between prioritization of drinking and non-drinking events should not continue to exist.

VP External states that if there are individuals wishing to do the same events over and over, that is due to a choice of selection, and states that it is partly due to a dangerous culture that has been perpetuated. He also finds issue with composition, noting the fact that two of the four people on SSEC would also be on SSPN (VP Internal and the ILC), meaning that they'd also be in charge of planning drinking events.

Councillor Fakh moves to amend, stating that responsibilities of the SSEC should be to help staff the General Assemblies alongside members of the Students' Society Programming Network, Plan and hold the SSMU Awards in collaboration with the SSPN, changing one Councillor to two, and one member at large to nine to eleven.

Councillor Fakh motivates.

He states that although this is not the best option, he believes it is the most feasible option, given the culture of drinking involved. He states that the size would be the same size as the SSPN, and states that he does not wish for this committee to be pushed to the sidelines. As well, he states that he does not desire all of the logistical events to be pushed only on the SSEC.

Debate:

VP University Affairs states that this is an improvement. However, she states her disappointment at the idea of making amendments to motions individuals do not want to see passed, stating that it is not how governance should work.

VP Internal agrees with the amendments concerning staffing/planning the GAs and the SSMU Awards. However, she notes that coordinating such a large committee is difficult, and states that the only reason SSPN is as large as it is due to the scale of the events that they began to take on. She states while she is open to more than one, she does not believe it should be as high as nine.

VP Internal asks if Councillor Fakh would be amenable to changing the number to four members at large. Councillor Fakh indicates that he is not. He believes that the large size of the committee allows more voices and views to the table.

Senator Garneau echoes sentiments of VP University Affairs. Notes that he does like the increased collaboration between SSPN and SSEC.



VP External states that the response of the VP Internal highlights the priorities of the portfolio. As well, he was not previously aware that they alone were supposed to staff the General Assemblies, and as such, is in favour of the motion in that capacity, as he states that the situation otherwise would allow SSPN to shed responsibilities.

Councillor Fakih states that relying on future years to change the status quo is dangerous. He states that while they can't overhaul SSPN as a whole currently, he notes that this is a step in the right direction.

VP External states that the other motion, currently laid on the table, would establish SSPN as a volunteer committee, giving them more time to plan events. He encourages Councillor Fakih to read the motion. He reiterates his opposition towards the motion.

Voting Period:

Voting on the amendment:

In favour: 25

Opposed: 1

Abstaining: 1

The amendment is approved.

Debate on the main motion:

VP Internal states that she is aware of the Events Policy. She states that SSPN is not only an experience for attendees, but for the committee members as well. She notes that SSPN does not handle insurance. She notes that SSPN does not have a fund and relies exclusively on ticket sales. As such, she states that it is easier to sell out 900 tickets for a Halloween party than something on a smaller scale. She states that SSPN brings in about \$100,000 in ticket revenues, and that SSPN provides committee members experience in handling such large sums of money. She states that the point of having a new committee is to make the non-drinking events more appealing.

Councillor Chase motions for a thirty second extension, seconded by Councillor Abu Yousef – UNANIMOUS APPROVAL.

VP Internal states that they need a separate committee due to the amount of work needed.

Councillor Mackie agrees with the main sentiment that the motion is trying to address. However, she notes that SSMU would be making a clear values statement with the committee, partly laying blame to the fact that it was originally much smaller. She thinks that it would be better to have a bigger SSPN with a sub-committee. Get on SSPN with a general application, and then after they are accepted, can



be allocated based on their preferences. She states that SSPN is not currently diverse in the types of people it attracts and having the two separate committees is not right.

Councillor Chase looks at AUS and their own VP Social portfolio. He states that unless they cut down on the alcoholic events, they won't get real change from SSPN. He states that the only way to maintain the presence of alcoholic events, while also building up on non-alcoholic events, is to create another committee.

Senator Garneau states that there is a larger problem with the role that drinking events play in the role of the VP Internal portfolio and SSPN.

Councillor Wu states that, speaking as the Councillor who sits on SSPN, the logistics and time required for the events is significant. She states that although there was discussion on the hosting of a non-drinking event, they ultimately did not have enough manpower in order to hold it. She states that similar plans to the creation of the SSEC have been conducted successfully within SUS.

Councillor Chan states that building up non-alcoholic events is mutually exclusive. He states that drinking events are popular, but extremely labor-intensive. As such, he notes that there is often a shortage of labour to provide for non-drinking events and believes that the best way to combat this is through the creation of a separate committee.

VP External states that it is not SSMU's job to give students valuable experience in terms of experience with insurance, and so on, if it takes away from inclusive events. He looks favorably on the further integration of the full-time events planning staff that SSMU has, and states that SSPN does not need to be doing the types of work that it is doing, and vice versa. He states that the VP Internal should have a priority for selecting SSPN members who understand inclusivity.

Councillor Daryanani inquires about the exclusivity of such a committee. He states that it would remove the mandate that SSPN should have a respect of inclusivity, and states that the two are not mutually exclusive.

Councillor Wu states that in a perfect world, Operations could take over. However, she notes that if Operations took over Fac-O, it would no longer be Fac-O. She states that regardless of Operations' involvement, SSPN would continue to be in charge of the implementation and execution of the events.

VP Internal states that SSPN members are responsible for reaching out to venues and suppliers, and highlights the planning and programming is still a lot of work. As well, she notes the work towards inclusivity that SSPN has done already, namely having non-alcoholic drink options at venues.

Councillor Chase states that it is harder to trust groups of people who specialize in drinking events to plan non-drinking events. A committee focused on non-drinking events will be more creative, as they



will be focused on their own work. For funding, SSMU should consider providing the committee extra funds, as they may not be able to raise funds as easily as SSPN.

Senator Garneau states that non-drinking alternatives are not a good option and sends the wrong message.

VP External states that he believes if this passes, events with alcohol will become less safe at the SSMU.

VP Finance notes that non-drinking individuals will be alienated from SSPN. He believes in adding more members or making a sub-committee as opposed to creating a new committee in its entirety. Making a separate committee would signal that non-drinking individuals cannot join SSPN.

Voting Period:

Voting on Motion Regarding the Creation of SSEC 2020-03-12 – NOT APPROVED.

In favour: 8

Opposed: 17

Abstaining: 2

Senator Lametti motions to take 11.a) from the table, seconded by VP External – UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

12. New Business

a. Notice of Motion Regarding Amendment to Indigenous Solidarity Policy 2020-03-26

The Indigenous Affairs Commissioner, Jocelyne Couture, third-year Law student, presents the notice of motion. She states that she is a Metis member from the Great Lakes region in Ontario.

Couture states that she has been working on various initiatives, including the Indigenous Solidarity Policy. She states that it was introduced in 2016, and at the time, was largely overdue. She notes that it initially arrived after numerous consultations. She notes that it provided a significant step forward for Indigenous students at McGill. Couture states that they now have a better understanding of barriers that Indigenous students face, and highlights that there is currently more to be done. She states that although they have come a long way, they are still behind. She notes that, together with IAC, Tomas Jirousek went through the policy.

Councillor Daryanani motions for a three minute extension, seconded by Councillor Wu – PASSES.



Couture states that the goal was to lay out the next steps for implementation. They state that they now prioritize consultation with Indigenous students, in order to ensure a multitude of voices being respected, as well as ensuring that no Indigenous student goes unheard. She states that she hopes the policy will also serve as a road-map for future Indigenous Affairs Commissioner.

Couture highlights changes that have been made. She states that the background section has been added, which provides clear background context and promotes further efforts for SSMU's work towards promotion of social justice. She states that there is a new mandate section, providing a clear mandate to the IAC to coordinate actions with the SSMU in five respective areas.

Couture states that consultation is promoted.

Couture also states that more active wording has been added, changing vague language from prior.

Lastly, the enforcement policy has been added in order to ensure cooperation between SSMU in order to follow out commitments laid out by the policy.

b. Notice of Motion Regarding Amendments to the Internal Regulations of Committee
Terms of Reference 2020-04-02

[Permanent departure of Councillor Kaye at 21:19.]

VP External motivates.

VP External states that they are mandated with reviewing and possibly amending the Terms of References that apply to their respective portfolios. VP External states that the motion addresses changes of the Terms of Reference of the Equity Committee.

c. Notice of Motion Regarding Amendments to the Equity Policy 2020-04-02

VP External motivates.

VP External states that in conversation with the Equity Commissioner, equity complaints do not belong in Legislative Council, even confidential sessions. He notes that the proposal is to have the Equity Policy be overseen by the Board of Directors, rather than the Legislative Council.

d. Notice of Motion Regarding a Student Engagement Plan 2020-04-02

VP External motivates.

VP External states that it discusses the creation of a student engagement strategy. He states that the plan requires a large time commitment and requires heavy consultation.



- e. Notice of Motion Regarding Amendments to the Committee Terms of Reference
2020-04-02

VP External motivates.

VP External states that these amendments largely discuss the ill-suited nature of supervisors present on the Francophone Affairs and Environment Committees. The proposal would put Francophone Affairs within the VP Internal portfolio, and the Environment Committee under the portfolio of the President.

- f. Notice of Motion Regarding Amendments to the Committee Terms of Reference
2020-04-02

VP External motivates.

He states that they are changes to committees within his portfolio. He states that heading the committee of an Affordable Student Housing Plan would be given to a student-staff, and not an executive. He also notes that the Community Engagement Commissioners would no longer be head of the relevant committee.

- g. Notice of Motion Regarding Amendments to the Internal Regulations of Governance
2020-04-02

VP External motivates.

VP External states that it is a proposal to separate the Policy and Plan Book to separate the policies, plans, and positions of the Society.

- h. Notice of Motion Regarding SSMU Policy on Accessible Education and Academics
2020-04-02

VP University Affairs motivates.

VP University Affairs states that SSMU previously had a policy on Accessible Education, which expired earlier in the year. She also notes that it was very short. She states that she has consulted key stakeholders, including the Equity Commissioners, Indigenous Affairs, UGE, Black Students' Network, and so on. She states that it would replace and rename the previous policy on Accessible Education.

VP Finance moves to suspend the rules in order to move up the report of Vice-President (Finance), seconded by Councillor Mackie – PASSES.



i. Report - Vice-President (Finance)

VP Finance states that the budget should be complete at the end of next week, and the only part left to do is on 3501 Peel, due to the delay in building values.

For bank transitions, they state that they are attempting to make as many reimbursements as possible electronically. He states that the 3501 Peel construction has stopped as of Monday.

As well, he states that the investment portfolio has taken a beating, but it is performing better than the TSX. VP Finance states that the winter audit has been delayed by two weeks. He notes that clubs that had to cancel events can apply for reimbursement funding.

For Health and Dental, he states that Keep.me SAFE is currently at referendum. He notes that he, along with Studentcare, President and McGill Student Services to add a form a telemedicine aspect to the plan.

Question Period:

Councillor Chase asks what the status of the investment portfolio was like prior to COVID-19.

VP Finance states that the investment portfolio has consistently outperformed the TSX.

Permanent departure of VP Finance at 21:22.

j. Notice of Motion Regarding Amendments to the Human Resources Committee Terms of Reference 2020-04-02

The President motivates.

The President states that this amends the Human Resources committee. He states that the amendments would add the Governance Manager as a non-voting member for the committee, and generally clarifies the role of the HR Committee in processing complaints by SSMU students.

Question Period:

k. Notice of Motion Regarding Student Concerns about the OSD 2020-04-02

Councillor Mackie motivates.

Councillor Mackie states that there is growing momentum of student discontent with the OSD, and thus far, has been no SSMU response. She states that they looked at the McGill Reddit for research,



and then organized a survey, which she notes got many responses. Through this, they were able to find the main issues associated with the OSD.

She states that the motion mandates the creation and publication of a SSMU statement. As well, it mandates the VP University Affairs of next year to hire an OSD Researcher.

13. Reports by Committees

a. Executive Committee

The President presents the report.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

b. Library Improvement Fund Committee

VP University Affairs presents the report.

VP University Affairs states that the Commissioner, Brianna Cheng, has done an amazing job in advocating for students, and holding the library in check.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

c. Comité des affaires francophones

VP External presents the report.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

d. Student Society Programming Network

VP Internal presents the report.

VP Internal states that the report details what they did for the Halloween event and Fac-O, and what they plan on doing for Grad Frosh.

Question Period:

VP External asks what the committee has done in addressing inclusivity concerns this year.



VP Internal states that at every major event, they had inclusivity coordinators, which were responsible for overseeing all aspects of sustainability. She notes that they did heavy consultation with the McGill Office of Sustainability. She notes that they got Fac-O gold sustainably awarded. She notes that in events with pitchers, they offered alternatives such as chocolate milk, or cranberry juice.

e. Accountability Committee

The Speaker presents the report.

The Speaker states that the report comes after the tabulation of results coming from the 2020-01-30 Accountability Survey conducted at Legislative Council. She states that due to the transition from the previous Speaker to her, as well as the inability of the Accountability Committee to meet as a whole, that it came with significant delays. She notes that a full version of the report was presented at the Board of Directors 2020-03-19 session. She states that the report this evening is a condensed report.

She notes a number of changes to dimensions. She states that due to misunderstandings by some Councillors regarding the scoring system, some feedback was removed in order to reduce the possibility of skewing the results.

As well, she notes that feedback for Councillors who have been removed/resigned are also not included.

For learning improvement, she highlights a significant number.

VP External motions to extend indefinitely, seconded by Councillor Mackie – UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Move towards the survey being split up in two subsequent Legislative Council meetings, in order to allow individuals more time to accurately and fairly complete the survey, as well as mitigate the possibility of Councillors feeling rushed.

The Speaker states that in prior years, the survey has been conducted twice per year. However, since that was not practiced this year, nor does it provide any reasonable benefit, due to the fact that the results of the second survey often come too late in the second semester for them to have any considerable impact or effect. As such, the Accountability Committee recommends moving forward with a survey being conducted once a year.

As well, the Speaker highlights the recommendation of the Accountability Committee to include a dimension concerning Councillors' adherence to the Standing Rules, another dictating codes of Parliamentary Procedure, especially given the recent rise of late motions.

Further, the Accountability Committee would recommend consulting further forms of quantitative information for feedback, such as directly including the results of the number of unexplained absences or absent/late reports.



Lastly, she notes that there has been considerable discussion in Accountability Committees past, as well as within the Board of Directors regarding the abolition of the survey in its entirety, given the perceived lack of usefulness of the survey, as well as the fact that that the survey is not truly within the purview and mandate of the Committee. She states that this was a recommendation of last year's Accountability Committee but notes that the previous Speaker chose to complete one regardless. She states that as both her and the Parliamentarian will be returning to their roles next year, they will bring the recommendations to the next Accountability Committee.

For the results, she notes that they are averages.

The scores are as follows:

Availability/Approachability in Office Hours: B+
Responsiveness to Questions/Requests: B
Fulfillment of Mandates/Platform: B
Constructiveness During Legislative Council: C+
Conduct in/Respect for Elected Office: B-
Effort to Speak French During Meetings: C

For Councillors, the scores are as follows:

Participation during meetings of the Legislative Council: B
Constructiveness of contributions during meetings of the Legislative Council: B+
Conduct during meetings of the Legislative Council: A

She states that individuals wishing to see their individual score can contact the Speaker directly at her speaker@ssmu.ca email address.

Question Period:

VP External inquires about the recommendation to carry forward the discussion concerning the abolition of the accountability survey, as it seems that the current Speaker only went through the report due to the fact that the previous Speaker conducted the survey.

The Speaker states that it is a mandate that she was required to fulfill. She states that the concerns will be discussed and stressed with the next Accountability Committee. She states that the report provides the Accountability Committee further evidence of the success or failure of the survey. She also notes that bringing it to discussion after a recent survey has been conducted allows for more democratic legitimacy.

Councillor Chase asks if in previous years, they published the scores for the individual executives, and if so, why was it discontinued this year.

The Speaker indicates that they did not, after heavy consultation with past years' forms of reports. However, she states that in past years, they did choose to conduct a qualitative assessment of Executives, which were then made public. However, she notes that a qualitative assessment did not



occur this year.

VP External states that it is standard procedure for investigative bodies to issue statistics concerning complaints for the given year and inquires about them for this year.

The Speaker notes that five complaints were processed, and notes that it was a considerable increase from last year.

f. Clubs Committee --**APPROVED with exceptions**

The President presents the report.

Question Period:

VP University Affairs indicates that she has a problem with the consideration of HeForShe, seconded by The President – UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Councillor Fakih asks why it is being postponed until the next meeting.

The Speaker states that they should be able to ensure the attendance of at least one of the SSMU Representatives and/or the VP Student Life, where it can be brought forward for debate.

VP University Affairs asks that they would still be voting on the report even if HeForShe was excluded.

The Speaker indicates that she is correct.

Councillor Chase asks if the executives from the club in question will be able to attend in order to debate them, or if it will be a closed meeting. The Speaker indicates that they would prefer intervention in this capacity to remain with the Clubs Councillors.

Councillor Fakih asks if the Speaker knows if the Clubs Committee will be meeting after.

The Speaker states that if HeForShe is removed, it will be recommended that they meet during this time. If they do not meet, HeForShe's status will not be approved.

Councillor Chan states that this was the last meeting of the Clubs Committee before the end of the year, and as such, clubs who are rejected at this time will be unable to amend their applications until the beginning of next year. Councillor Chan asks if there is a history of a provision of feedback to Clubs on status applications.

VP External states that Clubs are evaluated on a standard rubric. However, he states that some organizations' goals may run counter to the positions of the Society.

Councillor Chan asks if clubs have been given a grace-period to re-apply, and with that in mind, has it been granted to clubs to re-apply prior to the last meeting.



VP University Affairs speaks on the motion to suspend the rules to remove HeForShe from consideration. VP University Affairs states that it is due to the fact that part of the organization runs counter to the positions of the Society, and that there have been multiple instances of non-compliance with certain aspects of the Society's governance.

The suspension of the rules is unanimously approved.

Voting Period –Clubs Committee as amended – APPROVED.

[Recess begins at 22:22.]

[Recess ends at 22:33.]

14. Reports by Councillors

a. Councillor Eisner (Management)

The Speaker states that neither Councillor Eisner nor Gurvey are present. She further notes that the report has been postponed already, and that it would be improper governance to simply proceed with another move to postpone. As such, she moves that if Council is willing, to postpone through a suspension of the rules.

Councillor Fried moves to suspend the rules to postpone the report, seconded by VP Internal.

This receives opposition from Senator Lametti.

Councillor Fried asks Senator Lametti's rationale behind objecting.

Senator Lametti does not believe it is acceptable that they have gone through two Legislative Councils without any representatives from Management. Furthermore, he does not believe it is up to the Legislative Council to bend over backwards to assist the Councillors as necessary.

Councillor Fried asks what the alternative is.

The Speaker states that the Management Representative will not present, and a possible suspension will occur.

Voting Period:

Vote on the Motion to Suspend the Rules – FAILS.

In favour: 3

Opposed: 20

Abstaining: 3



b. Councillor Rhamey (Environment)

Councillor Rhamey presents the report.

Councillor Rhamey details that MESS focused on community engagement this year through social events, including a Wine and Cheese. He states that there has also been an increase in more cause-specific events, workshops, and initiatives, including a Climate Grief Workshop. He states that all upcoming events and clothing orders have been cancelled.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

c. Councillor Chase (Arts)

Councillor Chase presents the report.

Councillor Chase states that the new executive has been selected. He states that due to COVID-19, Arts Legislative Council has been suspended until the next academic year. He states that all events are cancelled. As well, he states that Arts department elections are in the process of being held. He states that he is continuing to fulfill committee work.

Question Period:

VP External states that Councillor Chase ran on the promise to clean up SSMU. VP External asks the Councillor if he believes he has done so.

Councillor Chase states that he has, as evident in cleaning the dishes following Legislative Council.

The Speaker backs the sentiment.

d. Councillor Fakih (Engineering)

Councillor Fakih presents the report.

Councillor Fakih states that two EUS Councils have occurred. He explains that an inclusivity committee will be formed to steer EUS in the right direction.

Additionally, he notes that the Faculty of Engineering is looking into creating a joint- Engineering program with a university. He states that Council reform is continuing to take place, being reduced to



40 seats. He states that all executive elections have occurred, and departmental elections are occurring right now.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

e. Councillor Morgan (PT/OT)

Councillor Morgan presents the report.

Councillor Morgan states that elections are currently in progress. She notes that there is a circulating petition to change grading criteria to have the option of making classes S/U for this term. She states that the Frosh Director has been elected, and Coordinators and Leaders' elections are in progress.

As for fundraising, she states that all events have been cancelled, as well as POTUS Council.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

f. Councillor Das (FYC)

Councillor Das presents the report.

Councillor Das encourages everyone to vote in favour of the FYC fee. She states that COVID-19 cancelled numerous events, including the STEMi Formal and the roundtable. She states that there has been a push this year to actively engage all of FYC in Legislative Council, stating that they read over and vote on each motion, in which the VP External then votes based on what the majority of FYC voted.

Councillor Das thanks everyone for the opportunity.

Question Period:

Councillor Mackie states in the report, that the last two meetings were in October 2019, and asks if that was an error.

Councillor Das indicates that it is.

g. Councillor Kersh (Athletics)



Councillor Kersh presents the report.

Councillor states that numerous events, such as the Gala, have been cancelled due to COVID-19. He states that elections for Executives next year are on-going. He states that the recent meeting concerning the Re-naming of the Men's Varsity Team got quite heated. He encourages everyone to follow McGill varsity on Instagram. He indicates that swimming won the RCEQ National. He states that other national competitions were cancelled due to COVID-19. He states that there is a new lounge in the Currie building, and encourages everyone to visit.

Councillor Kersh thanks everyone for the opportunity.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

15. Executive Reports

a. President

The President presents the report.

The President notes that CAMSR meeting occurred on Tuesday. He states that he also attended the Building and Property Committee meeting, which he notes was uneventful. He states that all construction with SSMU buildings have been halted.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

b. Vice-President (University Affairs)

VP University Affairs presents the report.

VP University Affairs states that she has been working with groups of student and student/staff organizations on collective response. She states that she has been working on a form on questions or concerns on Academic Accommodations concerning COVID-19. She also reminds Councillors to sign the open letter to McGill Administration regarding their response to COVID-19. She notes that there is a SSMU statement coming soon.

In regards to the Dean of Students Selections Committee, she notes that the SSMU Senate Caucus and SSMU Executive are writing a joint letter to the Selection Committee regarding ideal qualities and goals of the future Dean of Students.



She states that Senate Caucus has moved to Google Hangouts.

VP University Affairs will be selecting a Francophone Affairs Researcher soon.

VP University Affairs encourages everyone to vote in the referendum.

She states that she worked together with Councillors Mackie, Fried, and Senator Garneau on OSD advocacy.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

c. Vice-President (Internal)

VP Internal presents the report.

VP Internal states that there has been work done on increasing integration between Athletics and SSMU.

She states that the first three days of Fac-O went extremely well, but due to COVID-19, the rest of the week activities have been cancelled. She notes that participants have been issued partial refunds. She notes that they worked on ways to combine Ultimate Pre and Closing Ceremonies but notes that it was called off in its entirety after there were rumours that COVID-19 was on campus. She states that everything was cancelled. She states that Grad Frosh and SSMU Awards have been cancelled.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

d. Vice-President (Student Life)

VP External presents in VP Student Life's absence. He notes VP Student Life is working on the campaign for the Keep.meSAFE referendum question. He notes that they are working together with accounting to deal with any issues following quarantine measures for clubs. As well, the VP Student Life is campaigning for the club fund increase.

For Services, most services have ceased operations, and they are currently dealing with Sherbrooke 680 building closures and logistics of access.



For mental health, VP Student Life met with the Advocacy Committee, and is currently working on work with the Outreach committee.

For Family Care, he states that the SSMU Daycare audit is coming up.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

e. Vice-President (External)

VP External presents the report.

VP External states that much of the portfolio has been derailed, due to COVID-19. He states that there have been meetings with the Milton-Parc community concerning the possible need of volunteers as a result of COVID. He states that he has an upcoming meeting regarding efforts of the provincial lobbying group in terms of government relations. He states that he has been working with the VP Student Life on the daycare.

Question Period:

Councillor Fried asks if, in any of the meetings he has had with administration, there has been discussion of the sentiment of McGill suspending acceptance of international students, which he states has been shared in an email.

VP External states that international students will not be allowed back on campus for the summer term and potentially the fall term, he indicates that there is a strong recommendation from the Provost that online courses would be offered.

Councillor Fried clarifies, speaking on new students.

VP External states that new international students would be included.

16. Confidential Session

There is no confidential session.

17. Adjournment: **23:12**

VP External motions to adjourn, seconded by Senator Lametti – PASSES.



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Buraga

Bryan Buraga, President

APPROVED