



# SSMU LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PUBLIC MINUTES

2020-09-24

The regular bi-weekly Legislative Council Meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) will be held by teleconference, on September 24, 2020 at 18:00.

1. Call to Order: **18:07**

The Speaker calls the meeting to order at 18:07.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Speaker presents the Land Acknowledgement.

3. Attendance

Councillor Morgan is absent.

Councillor Gwiazda-Amsel is absent.

VP External is absent.

4. Approval of Minutes

a. Legislative Council Public Minutes 2020-09-08 -- **APPROVED**

Councillor Kunze--Roelens notes that in both the attendance form, and the minutes, their name is spelled incorrect, containing one dash instead of two.

Councillor Karasick motions to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Councillor Smith. --  
APPROVED

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

There are no changes or amendments to the agenda.

Councillor Smith motions to approve the agenda, seconded by Councillor Williamson -- APPROVED.



## 6. Report of the Steering Committee

The Speaker presents the Report of the Steering Committee.

Question Period:

Councillor Daryanani notes numerous errors within the minutes. Councillor Daryanani notes that neither question he asked to the Executives was reflected in the minutes, including the ones he mentioned concerning the tech drive to the President, and the opening of Gert's to VP Finance. The Speaker notes that these changes will be amended to the minutes, and if there are any other changes, these can be sent to the Governance Manager at [governance@ssmu.ca](mailto:governance@ssmu.ca).

The Speaker notes that Councillor Daryanani must motion to suspend the rules in order to return to Approval of the Minutes.

Councillor Daryanani motions to suspend the rules, seconded by VP University Affairs -- APPROVED.

Councillor Smith motions to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Councillor Karasick -- APPROVED.

The Speaker notes that it is not permissible to use the chat to engage in crosstalk during the meeting. However, she notes that it is permissible to use the chat to message the Dais.

Questions on the Report of Steering Committee:

Councillor Smith inquires about the ramifications of an 'Abstain' vote, and asks if such a vote would result in such a motion failing to reach unanimous consent.

The Speaker notes that voting 'Abstain' ultimately has no effect on the unanimous approval.

## 7. Guest Speakers

There are no guest speakers during this meeting.

## 8. Announcements

The Speaker announces that MUSA has elected a new representative, Mitra Khodadadi.

The Speaker announces that Councillor Roy has resigned, and thus, the seat for Social Work Representative is vacant.



VP University Affairs announces that, on behalf of the Enrollment Student Affairs Committee, that for the upcoming December 2020 medical notes from outside of Canada will be accepted, due to the COVID-19 situation.

The President notes that the Office of the Provost will be announcing McGill's plan on anti-Black racism no later than September 30, 2020.

#### 9. Question Period

There are no questions.

#### 10. Recess, Consent Items

The Speaker announces that three motions were passed by Consent Vote: Motion Regarding the Adoption of the Human Resources Policy, Motion to Call a Special Referendum, and the Motion Regarding the Creation of the Black Affairs Committee.

#### 11. SSMU Daycare Board

VP Student Life states that every year, the SSMU Daycare Board needs one Councillor to sit on the Board. VP Student Life notes that the Daycare Board oversees the financial, legal, and operational matters of the SSMU Daycare. Their responsibilities would be attending a monthly board meeting, occurring at the end of the month. They are looking for an interested individual to join.

The Speaker notes that all individuals interested can email the Speaker at [speaker@ssmu.ca](mailto:speaker@ssmu.ca).

Councillor Daryanani asks if there are any requirements to be a Director, such as being a Canadian citizen or permanent resident.

VP Student Life states that she believes a Director must be a Canadian citizen, as well as the fact that they must pass a police check. However, she states that they can still email the Speaker, and that they can check from there.

Councillor Bulhoes inquires about the potential for training or membership prior to joining the Board.

VP Student Life notes that herself, along with the VP University Affairs would be willing to provide orientation training to the relevant individual.

#### 12. Business Arising

- a. Motion Regarding the Adoption of the Human Resources Policy 2020-09-08

**--UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**



b. Motion Regarding Amendments to the Internal Regulations of Elections and Referenda  
2020-09-08 -- **APPROVED**

Question Period:

There are no questions.

Debate:

There is no debate.

Voting Period:

In favour: 18

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

The motion is approved.

13. New Business

a. Motion Regarding Amendments to the Equity Policy to Ensure Equitable  
Communications Practices 2020-09-24 -- **APPROVED**

VP University Affairs motivates.

VP University Affairs states that the motion is arising after a period of years of tone policing and general inaccessibility in student politics. Since 2016, they note that there have been numerous articles in both the McGill Tribune and the McGill Daily from representatives in regards to tone-policing. For the definition of tone policing, VP University Affairs notes that it is a personal attack based on the way the individual presents their arguments, rather than criticizing the argument itself. VP University Affairs notes that in recent years, there has been discussion on decorum and tone-policing, as a way to shut down debate or impassioned speakers, and the fear of tone-policing.

VP University Affairs notes that if passed, the motion would amend the Equity Policy to add a clause surrounding tone policing, protecting individuals ability to express themselves how they wish, assuming that their intervention does not breach the Equity Policy, including, but not limited to hate speech, harassment, or personal attacks. VP University Affairs notes that it does not apply in workplace or professional environments, to abide by HR standards.

Question Period:



There are no questions.

Debate:

Councillor Daryanani indicates their approval of the motion. They believe that student politics has been inaccessible to BIPOC and other marginalized students in the past. It is the Council's responsibility to ensure that they provide a safe place to protect freedom of expression, and would encourage people to vote in favour.

Councillor Karasick also indicates their approval of the motion. It is especially important given the often emotional and delicate material that occurs in Council, ensuring that these individuals are not subject to tone-policing.

Councillor Collins states that she believes the motion is extremely important. Councillor Collins takes concern with Clause 1.5.1, as she believes that there leaves room for interpretation between 1.5.1(a) and 1.5.1(b), as they could potentially contradict each other. Councillor Collins notes that harassment is present at Council, and remembers such comments and actions being placed against the Dais. She hopes to get some clarification on how (a) and (b) can work together, to ensure that profanity can be used while not using it as a form of harassment.

VP University Affairs notes that it is a difficult line to protect freedom of speech. They note that for subsection b, their intent was to limit the content of an intervention, so that it is not an attack upon an individual. They note that using profanity on matters like institutionalized racism would be acceptable, using it in an attack towards the Dais would not. The Speaker notes that the clause and subsection b does as most as it could to ensure that the clause is not over-limiting.

Councillor Reed appreciates the background rationale of the motion, namely, retextualizing profanity used in a SSMU content. They recall that the original background pertained to the use of profanity in communications towards McGill administration. They echo the concerns of Councillor Collins, and suggest that greater precision may be needed, in terms of delineating where profanity is appropriate, or where it can be used to further silence members, such as against the Dais, or where male individuals present profanity to female-identifying individuals.

Councillor Collins agrees with the sentiments of Councillor Reed in contextualizing where profanity is permissible is important, and is something that she would like to see reflected in the motion. Councillor Collins also inquires on the basis of profanity not applying in the workspaces of SSMU, but asks if that includes Legislative Council, as SSMU pays the Dais, and are thus, employees to SSMU, and further inquires about the HR ramifications.

[MUSA Representative arrives at 18:57.]



VP University Affairs states that it is a difficult line to draw, noting that they spent much time with the Steering Committee reviewing the motion. They believe that through subsections a) and c), that was their best way of expressing where profanity would be allowed and prohibited, including in the SSMU offices. They believe that the subsections could be interpreted to allow protection for the Dais, but notes that they welcome amendments.

VP University Affairs states that this is a new frontier of the Equity Policy, and understands that there will still be some interpretation. They also remind them that it is simply an amendment to a policy, and as such, a working document. They state that this is the best that they can get the motion, and believe it ready for approval.

Voting Period:

In favour: 15

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 4

The motion is approved.

- b. Motion to Call a Special Referendum 2020-09-24 -- **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

There is no discussion or debate. This motion is unanimously approved.

- c. Motion Regarding the Creation of the Black Affairs Committee 2020-09-24 -- **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

There is no discussion or debate. This motion is unanimously approved.

#### 14. Reports by Committees

- a. Executive Committee

The President presents.

Councillor Smith motions for a one-minute recess, seconded by Councillor Collins -- APPROVED.

The President presents.

The President notes that SSMU signed on a few open letters, including a CRARR's press release on Anti-Racism, as well as the Solidarity Across Borders' Petition for Status for All. He notes that there were numerous hirings across various services. They note that they approved an MoU between McGill and the Department of Physics. They also note that they signed onto a petition regarding the Trans-Mountain pipeline, and a defund the police coalition.



Question Period:

There are no questions.

#### 15. Reports by Councillors

##### a. Councillor Litvina (Arts & Science)

Councillor Litvina states that the ASUS had a general assembly to bring up a referendum to discuss constitutional amendments, namely ASUS' name change and the introduction of a Equity Commissioner. She notes that they are also working on collecting applications for the position of CEO. As well, she notes that their website will be up in a month, and their first-year council will begin soon, with application deadlines occurring on September 30th.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

##### b. Councillor Morgan (PT/OT) -- **POSTPONED UNTIL NEXT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

Councillor Collins motions to postpone the report of the PT/OT Representative, seconded by Councillor Williamson -- APPROVED.

##### c. Councillor Smith (Arts)

Councillor Smith presents.

Councillor Smith introduces himself, noting that they are from New Brunswick and is a fourth-year Political Science and History student, and have a minor addiction to socks. They note that AUS Council occurs bi-weekly on Tuesdays at 6:00 PM EST via Zoom. Cassia Nasralla is the Speaker, while Ghassia Javid is their recording secretary. Noting there were two presentations during the AUS Council meeting: State of the Society, and Robert's Rules Review. For motions, Councillor Smith notes that there were three: the Motion to Conduct Meetings of Legislative Council via Zoom Teleconference was passed with amendments, while the motions to ratify Executive Committee Decisions and Additional Summer Pay were postponed until the next meeting. There was a departmental orientation on September 21. They are currently renegotiating their MoA with the Administration. The laptop lending program is going to be renewed, amid some revisions. For the locker rental, given that the semester is online, they will not be renting lockers, and will be contacting individuals with rented lockers to inquire what should be done with their belongings. The AUS audit was postponed until the 31st. SNAX is closed for the Fall semester, but notes that it may be open in Winter semester. Additionally, the Grad Fair will be held virtually this year, in November. For FEARC, he notes that the



applications closed this week. Steering Committee met on September 18th, and that BOMCOM has not met yet. Councillor Smith's office hours are on Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 and Fridays, 4:00 - 5:00 EST.

Councillor Mulvaney motions to extend by 45 seconds, seconded by Councillor Wan -- APPROVED.

Question Period:

Councillor Karasick asks Councillor Smith what socks he is wearing today. Councillor Smith states that he is wearing green golf socks.

There are no further questions.

d. Councillor Fernandez Ciruela (Science)

Councillor Fernandez Ciruela presents.

Councillor Fernandez Ciruela notes that last Saturday was departmental orientation. The Burnside renovations will be occurring in Summer 2021, and that the mural painting in Burnside should be completed by Winter 2021. Due to low turnout, they are thinking of turning their office hours to by-appointment only. Science Frosh was successful, but notes that there were fewer individuals that signed up than expected. Additionally, ASUS' name change is official. Councillor Fernandez Ciruela notes that FUSC appointed-positions will be complete by the end of the month. She notes that After Hours will not occur this semester. Councillor Fernandez Ciruela notes that Charity Week may be occurring during the week of November 9. SUS signed on to the open letters to Desautels Faculty of Management, and the #TakeJamesDown.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

e. Councillor Reed (Engineering)

Councillor Reed presents.

Councillor Reed states that he is from the United States and Malaysia. They are a U2 student majoring in Materials Engineering, with a minor in Aerospace. Numerous events will be occurring online, including EUS events. The virtual EUS retreat occurred last Sunday, which included orientation and mock-Council. He notes that there may be an official motion on an EUS parking lot may arise. He notes that the EUS Council Final Motion was passed, which structures the EUS Council significantly, as well as improving its relationship with the Board of Governors. The meetings will occur bi-weekly, with the next meeting occurring on September 30.





## Question Period:

There are no questions.

### 16. Executive Reports

#### a. President

The President presents the report.

The President states that they are working on the timeline for the special referendum. They onboarded the new Governing Documents Researcher. For advocacy and representation, they have attended meetings with UCRU in absence of the VP External, and are working with a campaign to have the government respond to concerns about funding for students. For Senate, they had both orientation and Senate Caucus. He notes that the Board of Governors had their orientation. For sustainability, The President notes that they are working on a workshop series called Organizing Sustainability with Skills 21. For personal projects, the The President notes that he held meetings with various services regarding the 5-year plan, and notes that he is revisiting the Francization plan, namely the translation of governing documents. For Centraide, the McGill campaign will begin on October 12. They attended Life After Your Degree. Lastly, The President states that they attended the all-candidates meeting for SSMU First Year Council candidates.

#### b. VP University Affairs

VP University Affairs presents.

VP University Affairs notes that all scholarships have been approved by the Scholarship Review Subcommittee. They note that the motion to reimplement the Winter 2020 S/U option failed. They note that the questions on Harm Reduction and Athletics Facilities funding went very well. For university advocacy, they note that the finalized policy on Harassment and Discrimination was brought forward. For campaigns, they note that in the campaign to remove Philip Carl Salzman's Emeritus designation, the ASA President has met with the Anthropology Department and Associate Provost. They note that the PHIL 237 open letter was released on August 23, and that SSMU, BSN, and BLSA are planning on meeting with the Provost and Dean of Arts. They also note that the PSA is meeting with the Department of Philosophy. They note that the donation campaign and student aid to support Lebanese students is going well. For the RVH project, they note that consultations have begun. For equity, they note that they are continuing to wait for McGill's Plan on Anti-Black Racism. VP University Affairs notes that they are having ongoing conversations with AMUSE VP Floor Fellow regarding harm reduction on campus. They note that BACoN is meeting bi-weekly. They note that they are working on the Equity triage with VP Student Life, as well as hiring for the Black Affairs Commissioner. They state that there are four researchers currently.



Councillor Smith motions to extend by 90 seconds, seconded by Councillor Collins -- APPROVED.

VP University Affairs notes that their finalized selection deadline for professional survey and data storage platforms will be extended until October 1. For libraries, VP University Affairs states that the OER Master Plan has been finalized. They also note that they are working with the library to develop the usage of study hubs.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

c. VP Finance

VP Finance presents the report.

VP Finance states that they have received student fees from McGill earlier than expected, and they are working to properly allocate those funds prior to October. The first Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for September 29. They note that the audit is going well. For Clubs and Services finances, Clubs are now able to receive funds via e-Transfer. RBC and SSMU are working on the idea of virtual banking tokens that would function as an application on a phone; if implemented, it would greatly expedite the transition process. For token return, VP Finance states it is going well. Clubs Finance workshops held the first two meetings this weekend. Services credit cards are being ordered this week. Budget reviews are being planned to occur the first week of October. The Funding Committee had their first meeting yesterday, and thanks everyone who attended. SSPN applications are open until the 30th. They are working on developing a new casual staff position to go under the Finance portfolio.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

d. VP Student Life

VP Student Life presents.

VP Student Life states that Activities Night occurred on September 9th and 10th, completely online. There were over 3,500 individuals present, with over 270,000 booth impressions. The webinars were extremely successful. VP Student Life notes that Clubs workshops occurred on the 19th and 20th, and that they will continue on September 26th. There will be a Clubs Portal Committee, and hopes to have a finalized portal by Winter semester. SSMU is hiring a Club Website Designer.



The Clubs Committee is currently recruiting both a club executive and a member-at-large. For Services, she notes that they will be helping with the move of groups into the University Centre on the 4th floor. VP Student Life states that she is working with the services Administrative Assistant to start the Services Review Committee. For events, SEC meetings are ongoing. VP Student Life notes that they are seeking alternatives for “high risk” club activities. For mental health, the first roundtable occurred today. As well, VP Student Life notes that they are still hiring an Eating Disorder Campaign Coordinator. For Communications, SSMU is hiring a Communications Manager.

Councillor Smith motions to extend by 90 seconds, seconded by Councillor Bonan.

For Daycare, the first Daycare Board meeting happened this week, and notes that the SSMU Daycare has two open spots right now for kids.

VP Student Life is also taking part in a webinar with Campus Life & Engagement.

e. VP External

The Speaker notes that due to the absence of the VP External, their report will not be presented. However, the President states that he can prepare something for the next Council. The Speaker notes that while it isn't necessary, it would be appreciated.

17. Confidential Session

There is no confidential session.

18. Adjournment: **19:41**

Councillor Gwiazda-Amsel motions to adjourn, seconded by Councillor Bonan -- APPROVED.

Legislative Council adjourns at 19:41.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Earle', is written over a horizontal line.

Jemark Earle, President