



SSMU LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PUBLIC MINUTES

October 22, 2020

The regular bi-weekly Legislative Council Meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) will be held by teleconference, October 22, 2020 at 18:00.

1. Call to Order: **18:09**

The Speaker calls the meeting to order at 18:09.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Speaker presents the Land Acknowledgement.

3. Attendance

Theology, Social Work, PT/OT, and Law Councillors are absent.

Rohan Bhutkar, VP Finance for the Science Undergraduate Society is serving as proxy for Science Councillor Fernandez.

VP External is also absent.

4. Adoption of the Agenda

VP Finance motions to add two items on the agenda: a generative discussion on the SSMU's practices and policies on levying student fees, and the Report of the Funding Committee.

Senator Daryanani notes that he has submitted two (2) questions to be submitted onto the agenda. These are added to the agenda.

Councillor Smith motions to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Councillor Collins — APPROVED.

5. Report of the Steering Committee

The Speaker presents the Report of the Steering Committee.



Questions on the Report of the Steering Committee:

There are no questions.

6. Guest Speakers

a. McGill Office of Sustainability

Shona Watt, representative from the McGill Office for Sustainability presents.

Shona Watt notes that every year, they present the annual report for the fiscal year to all student societies, including SSMU, MCSS, and PGSS.

Watt states that the SPF builds a culture of sustainability across McGill campuses, through the development and seed funding of interdisciplinary projects. They note that the project began in 2010. For funding, she notes that there is a million dollars available in funding. Watt states that they address all pillars of sustainability, including environmental, social, and economic.

For this year, Watt further explains that they have over 250 projects approved. There are three streams: one stream under \$300, a middle stream, consisting of projects under \$5000, and a high stream consisting of projects of over \$100,000. Any student can apply. The project is funded half by students, and half by administration. Watt notes that they allocate as much money as they receive. This year, they have received 49 applications, and have approved almost 70% of the projects. They have funded 15 tiny projects (\$300), 7 middle stream projects, and 9 large projects. They note that they have funded a Solin Hall study. Watt explains that one can apply to the fund at any point, and will receive help that they need. For examples of projects under \$300, they funded reusable dish ware, plants in McConnell building, SSMU mug reuse project. For under \$5000 projects, are farmer's market equipment. For over \$5000 projects, there is the Mac Regenerative Food Hub.

Watt states that they appreciate that the SPF provides an opportunity to teach others about sustainability and to teach them how to manage a project.

Watt states that there are two SSMU Representatives on their Council, as well as one MCSS and PGSS representative.

This past year, they celebrated their ten year anniversary, and launched the big-wave stream for over \$100,000 projects. They state that they had the plans to expand the spin bike gardens in Brown, and to increase the hydroponic gardens on campus. There was also a free house plant giveaway.

Questions:

There are no questions.

b. UCRU



Mackenzey Metcalf and Kristin Smith present.

Mackenzey Metcalf is the Vice-President of the University Students' Council at Western, and is the Chair of Undergraduates of Canadian Research-Intensive Universities. Kristin Smith is the Vice-President of Advocacy at the University of Manitoba, as well as the Vice-Chair of UCRU.

Mackenzey Metcalf states that UCRU is an informal coalition of student associations whose mandate is to advocate to the Canadian government for affordable, inclusive, and high-calibre university education, with the opportunity for undergraduate research. The coalition began in 2015 to advocate on specific issues. She notes that they collectively represent over 250,000 university students. She notes that they now have 10 members of UCRU, with 5 organizational positions. Mackenzey highlights the schools.

Smith speaks on UCRU's values. Firstly, she notes that they are aspirational, while also pragmatic. As well, she notes that UCRU is evidence-based. Finally, she notes that UCRU is collaborative. She states that they are focused as the only advocate on policies that alter the undergraduate student experience. As well, they are non-partisan. Lastly, they strive to be equitable. She notes that they have an easy in, easy out principle, noting that there is no formal coalition holding the schools together.

Metcalf states that they plan a lobby week, where they organize a lobbying week in Ottawa. As well, they also have a campaign on debt-free degrees coming up, beginning on November 1. She also notes that they maintain relationships with staffers.

Smith notes that the UCRU Board was formed in June. She notes that the yearly prioritizes are set in July, and the budget submission occurs in August. She states that November is when Lobbying Week occurs.

Metcalf speaks on specific policy and advocacy priorities. Firstly, she notes that they highlight the needs of Indigenous students. As well, they also advocate for student financial aid. Furthermore, she notes that they advocate on behalf of international students. She also notes that they ask for funding for youth employment opportunities. She also notes that they focus on undergraduate research.

Smith notes that they are currently working on formalization of efforts, including drafting of bylaws. She notes that they attempt to be a 365 lobbying organization.

Metcalf notes that they work together with each school to ensure each school agrees with the bylaws and the priorities. Metcalf also notes that UCRU has now hired lawyers to aid in the incorporation process. In the new year, she states that the by-laws will be brought to each school council.

Metcalf states that UCRU does not levy a fee, and operates on the goodwill of individuals and schools within UCRU. She notes that eventually, they hope to levy a fee.

Question Period:



Councillor Wan asks if UCRU plans on making a French translation of the website. Metcalf states that moving forward, they will be putting priority on increasing French communications.

Councillor Gwiazda-Amsel asks about the consensus and representative for Quebec concerns. Metcalf notes that UCRU strives to be consensus driven.

Senator Daryanani asks what their advocacy priorities were prior to COVID-19, and what they were following. Metcalf notes that for the last four years, UCRU has had the same general topics as advocacy priorities, being Indigenous students, international students, student financial aid, and work-integrated learning as well as research. She notes that each year they have similar topics but ask for more money and more expansion for students. She notes that for this year, they are focusing on issues such as internet connectivity for undergraduate students. She notes that the benefits of being a smaller organization, as well as a new one is that they're really agile and able to adapt to new circumstances.

Smith states that they also realized that previous advocacy asks actually are all the more important with the impact of COVID-19.

There are no further questions.

7. Generative Discussion on Councillor Remuneration

VP University Affairs states that they have been working on a project aimed at ensuring that student representatives, Councillors and Senators are fairly remunerated for their work. VP University Affairs believes that SSMU would not exist without the contributions of the individuals, yet these contributions go unpaid. They note that the original plan was to levy a student fee, which was deemed as the best option after consulting with faculty associations through the President's Round Table. They also note that there would be a creation of a 'Governance Commissioner' at the SSMU.

Councillor Reed finds the idea extremely interesting. He believes that there needs to be something that works out the working relationship between paying Councillors and faculties. He anticipates that from faculties that aren't paying executives, it would clash with the idea of Councillor remuneration.

Councillor Gundermann asks how much students would have to pay per semester, and if it would be an hourly wage. VP University Affairs states that the original estimate placed it around \$0.90 opt-outable to \$1.25 non-opt-outable. VP University Affairs cannot provide an update on the latter question.

Councillor Wan asks if this pay would be reflected to other unpaid members of the Society as well, such as Board Directors and members-at-large on committees. As well, he asks how unexplained absences will be dealt with. VP University Affairs states that since it would be an hourly wage, it would be expected that Councillors only report the hours that they actually worked. The Accountability Committee would also ensure that they upheld responsibilities for their constituencies.



Councillor Smith motions to extend by 30 seconds, seconded by Councillor Karasick — APPROVED.

VP Student Life states that typically, Board members of non-profits are typically not paid. Furthermore, for Members at Large, they have significantly lower commitment levels than Councillors and Senators.

Councillor Karasick notes that AUS has always paid Arts Representatives, and notes that there were discussions of how pay would be done. However, they note that the reception was generally positive.

Councillor Smith thanks the VP University Affairs. Councillor Smith asks if paying only one member of an Executive only would create a system of inequity.

Senator Daryanani asks about the scope of the fee, and asks if it would address the work of uUniversity-wide representatives.

VP University Affairs states that the initial incarnation of the plan was through a subsidy that faculties could use. However, such an inequity led to members of the President's Round Table suggesting that SSMU deal with remuneration directly.

VP University Affairs has been granted a 90-second extension.

VP University Affairs states that the remuneration is in regards to the work that these individuals do in order to ensure the well-being of the Society. VP University Affairs believes there is a possibility for an extension of such opportunities in the future.

Councillor Gundermann asks if Legislative Councillors are considered 'interns'. VP University Affairs states that Councillors are not considered interns, but notes that the motion was largely in spirit of the motion against unpaid internships.

Proxy for Councillor Fernandez asks how they plan on paying elected officials to the faculties, that would encourage the passage of the fee.

Councillor Reed asks if SSMU Representatives would also be remunerated for their work in their faculties.

Councillor Wan asks if the salaries of Councillors and Senators be made publicly available, and will they be able to unionize. VP University Affairs states that they understand it is a challenge to establish support for the motion. They note that the importance is that they are paying for an existing service.

Councillor Smith motions to extend by one minute, seconded by Councillor Karasick — APPROVED.

For the delineation of tasks, the VP University Affairs states that they do not have a complete answer. However, they believe the remuneration would be limited to their activity in SSMU activities. VP University Affairs states that they would be represented from the SSMU Union.



Councillor Wan motions to extend the Generative Discussion by 10 minutes, seconded by Senator Daryanani.

Councillor Collins makes a friendly amendment to extend by five minutes — APPROVED.

Councillor Wan asks how work-study subsidies applied. As well, they ask if Commissioners would be paid twice.

VP University Affairs states that if Commissioners are mandated to attend, they would be paid per the norm. They state that there are very strong constraints over the work-study subsidies, making it difficult to utilize such subsidies.

VP University Affairs motions to extend by one-minute, seconded by Senator Daryanani.

VP University Affairs states that they are attempting to receive a blended approach - with student aid being provided to those who need it, with others receiving remuneration from the SSMU directly.

There is no further discussion.

8. Generative Discussion on the SSMU's Practices and Policies Surrounding Levying Student Fees

The Finance Commissioner, presides over the discussion.

The Finance Commissioner states that they plan on conducting consultations on this matter until December. By January, they hope to compile the report for presentation to Legislative Council in January.

The Finance Commissioner's speaking time has been extended by five minutes.

The Finance Commissioner notes that there are two large groups of fees; University fees and administrative fees. The Finance Commissioner notes that when they calculate how much they raise in funds, it totals over \$45 million.

The Finance Commissioner is aware that discussions on fees can be contentious. He notes that there are a lot of issues with the absence of policies, such as concerning a lack of accountability, as well as concerning surpluses.

Question Period:

Councillor Wan asks if there are any alternative models regarding fees floating around. The Finance Commissioner states their policies may reveal that less groups will seek funding, but note that they are not looking for ways to exactly cut fees.



Senator Daryanani asks how the central fund would look like. The Finance Commissioner states that it would be governed through a set of central controls. They state that there are two options available for dealing with overpaid fees.

There is no further discussion.

9. Report from The President

The President notes that in accordance with a ruling of the Judicial Board, that the Constitution approved in March of 2020 was not constitutionally-valid, and the JBoard provided SSMU the opportunity to approve a new version through a special referendum before November 1, 2020. However, the special referendum failed to meet quorum, and as such, the SSMU will be reverting back to the 2017 Constitution, including re-structuring the Board of Directors, reverting back to Robert's Rules, removing the seats of MCSS Representative, Equity, Indigenous Affairs, Francophone Affairs, and Theology. As well, Residences and Environment will be added once again, as well as an additional seat from Senate Caucus. Additionally, the Executive Committee will be voting members of Council. There will be no Legislative Council-Board Joint Session. General Assemblies will occur twice a year. The Judicial Board will continue to be known as the Judicial Board.

Question Period:

Councillor Karasick asked what happened to the publication of the special referendum, and what were the plans moving forward.

The President notes that perhaps the advertisements were not as successful in the past.

The Governing Documents Researcher speaks on the second part of the question. She notes that the CGRC will go over proposed changes, as part of the consultation process to determine if it is still the will of Council.

Councillor Smith asks what opportunities were used to get the vote out. The President used different forms of communication. They note that they are running on reduced capacity as well.

Councillor Wan asks what will happen to the CGRC Report, and what will happen to hired staff as a result of the 2020 Constitution.

The Governing Documents Researcher states that the reports will continue to be present and considered.

The President states that no hiring has been conducted, and has been suspended indefinitely.

10. Announcements



VP Student Life announces that Lassman Studios is beginning graduation photos starting in October 2020, and going until April 2021.

Councillor Williamson notes that AUS and SUS will be hosting a joint grad fair on November 4, 2020.

There are no further announcements.

11. Question Period

a. Submission of Question (1) from Senator Daryanani

Senator Daryanani asks that given that due to COVID-19 restrictions, Services, such as M-SERT are not able to function to full capacity, and asks if the funds are being reallocated and how much are the surpluses.

VP Finance notes that any reallocations are going to remain within the department. In this case, M-SERT is 7015 department. Any reallocation will remain within that department. He notes that himself and the VP Student Life are continuing an ongoing discussion in how the money must be spent in accordance with their mandate.

b. Submission of Question (2) from Senator Daryanani

Senator Daryanani inquires what the consultation process looked like and who was involved in consultations when considering the recent statement made in regards to the conflict in the Caucasus. The President notes that the consultation was done between the McGill Armenian Students Society and the Executive Committee team. Furthermore, he states that as a Society that's committed to demonstrating leadership, in matters of human rights, social justice, environmental protection, the committee decided to share a message on behalf of the McGill Armenian Student Association.

Councillor Wan asks if the matter can be addressed via an equity complaint where possible recommendation from the Commissioner can also be brought forward to improve our communications. VP University Affairs states that an Equity Complaint can certainly be filed on this matter. They state that it would then go to the Equity Complaint Committee who would assess essentially whether or not it falls under the Equity Policy.

Councillor Kurkcu asks if there was a reason that the post was never mentioned, and neither the Legislative Council nor the Board of Directors had approved it. The President notes that the post isn't an official statement on behalf of any of the governing bodies, which is why it didn't come to Legislative Council or appear as a motion from the Executive Committee. They note that they have done this in the past with reforms of the PEQ, Statement on Anti-Black Racism and police violence and on the racist attacks against Mi'kmaq fishermen.

Question Period has been extended by five (5) minutes.



Councillor Collins inquires who made the post, as many constituents are asking for clarification on the issue. VP University Affairs explains that the SSMU Executives were approached by the McGill Armenian Students' Association with a statement that they wanted them to share along with some visuals that were sent to the Communications department. Following, the post was shared to the Facebook page by the Communications department.

Proxy for Councillor Fernandez inquires on whose decision it was to mute comments on the post. VP University Affairs states that the decision was made by the Executive Committee on the recommendations of the Communications department, as they felt that they did not have the ability to manage the volume of comments that was being received.

Councillor Wan asks if there is any consideration for a formal retraction of the posts or if there are no further actions envisioned currently. VP University Affairs states that the Executive Committee stands behind their message, and has no plans to retract or issue a formal statement.

Councillor Williamson moves for a five (5) minute extension, seconded by Councillor Smith — APPROVED.

Councillor Reed asks if the Executive Committee anticipated the level of response they would receive. VP University Affairs states that the Executive Committee conducted a straw poll prior as they thought it had the potentiality to be contentious. VP University Affairs states that they did not expect the level of response that they did.

Councillor Kurkcu asks if the J-Board decision of 2016 was consulted when making the post. The President states that a distinction should be made between issuing statements and adopting political platforms. The President believes that the actions fall in line with the ruling.

Senator Daryanani asks if the Communications team or Executive Committee plans to re-open the comments once again. The President indicates that they are not sure if they will, due to the level of concerning messages that were present.

Councillor Wan motions to extend by two (2) minutes, seconded by Councillor Smith — APPROVED.

Councillor Wan asks the Executive if moving forward, should the communications practices of the SSMU change. VP University Affairs states that such a practice is not practical, given that SSMU makes at least one statement a day. As a political organization furthermore, VP University Affairs states that they have to take political stances.

Councillor Reed notes the extreme gravity of the statement, and asks what the SSMU Executive learned from seeking the objective truths of a political conflict.

VP University Affairs motions for a two (2) minute extension, seconded by Councillor Wan.



VP University Affairs notes that in regards to fact-checking, they have received much commentary stressing that. However, they note that they have received any reputable sources that suggest points counter to the point made in the statement.

12. Recess

[Recess begins at 20:06.]

[Recess ends at 20:22.]

13. Old Business

There are no Old Business items on the agenda.

14. New Business

- a. Motion Regarding Nominations to the Society's Board of Directors 2020-10-22 – APPROVED

Councillor Smith defers to the Speaker for motivation.

The Speaker motivates.

The Speaker notes that in line with the reversion back to the 2017 Constitution, the Society requires four (4) Councillors to sit on Board. The Speaker notes that the Board is the highest governing body of the Society, overseeing all operational, legal, Human Resources, and financial matters. For eligibility, the Speaker notes that they must be the age of majority, be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident, be declared mentally fit, and not have declared bankruptcy.

The Speaker notes that Board designations will occur in the same way as Committee Designations. The Speaker notes that individuals wishing to put their names forward will have up to two (2) minutes to motivate.

Councillor El-Zammar withdraws his candidacy.

Councillor Lee states that he possesses a great amount of experience, and hopes to be more involved with SSMU. As well, he is already involved on the Health and Dental Review Committee as well as the Funding Committee. Such experience would allow him to provide a nuanced perspective.

Councillor Karasick states that they have a well-developed knowledge of the Board of Directors, due to his experience at Concordia. As well, Councillor Karasick hopes to ensure that SSMU can run effectively and does the best job it can.



Councillor Wan states that he has experience working with a former member of the Legislative Council who also serves a Director, and works with him often, so is well versed in that capacity. Given the COVID-19 circumstances, Councillor Wan also believes his representation presents a unique opportunity.

Councillor Collins notes that she currently sits on the Board of Directors, and would bring a great deal of institutional knowledge. During her time on Board, she has sat on the Nominating Committee, overseeing the interviewing of Judicial Boards, the Nominating Committee, and the International Representative. If selected, Councillor Collins values responsible leadership, strong financial management, and transparency. If appointed, she will serve with humility and act with the best interests of the Society, as opposed to an individual agenda.

Councillor Smith states that he has served on SSMU for the past two years in various positions, as a member of the Accountability Committee, and the Judicial Board. He looks forward to being a representative that will put aside personal beliefs.

Councillor Awan explains that he is heavily involved in student government, and well-experienced in dealing with clubs and services. He holds transparency to a high regard, and has experience in team organization.

Voting Period:

The Speaker announces that Councillors Collins, Smith, Wan, and Karasick have been selected to serve on Board.

Question Period on the Motion:

Councillor Wan asks about the ramifications for the seats if the 2020 Constitution was put back into place. The Speaker indicates that regardless if their seats were removed going forward, the Councillors would sit for their full term. The President also states that it is also dependent on the MOA with McGill.

Debate:

There is no debate.

Voting Period:

In favour: 19

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 2

The Motion Regarding Nominations to the Society's Board of Directors 2020-10-22 is approved.

15. Reports by Committees



a. Executive Committee

The President presents the Report. They state that they have hired numerous positions, approved minutes, and extended contracts.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

b. Services Committee

Services Representative Merali presents the report.

Councillor Merali states that there has not been a meeting yet. However, they plan on discussing the move into the University Centre, and the relations between services in light of COVID-19.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

c. Funding Committee --**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

VP Finance presents the Report of the Funding Committee, noting that there are three applications.

Senator Daryanani motions to approve the Report of the Funding Committee by unanimous consent, seconded by Councillor Smith — APPROVED.

The report is unanimously approved.

16. Reports by Councillors

a. Councillor Bulhoes (Education)

Senator Daryanani motions to mandate the Councillors to read the report, seconded by Councillor Khodadadi — APPROVED.

b. Councillor Kunze--Roelens (Management)

Councillor Kunze--Roelens presents the Report. She states that online Frosh went well. As well, she states that Clubs and Activities night was online, and that the Involvement Package ends tonight. She notes that Management have elected their U0 and U1 representatives, and are on boarding them on



the Board and Council. She states that most activities have moved online. For Zoom classes, they have generally gone well. Councillor Kunze--Roelens further notes that they have also overhauled their electoral policies, to ensure that there was more non-male involvement on the Board of Directors.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

c. Councillor Sood (Science)

Councillor Sood presents the Report. She notes that there are constitutional amendments coming forward to the SUS Council. She states that the Burnside mural plan is being presented to higher McGill administration. Concerning Frosh, Frosh was seen as a general success. She notes that Science Games has been moved to May. She notes that the MBSU has planned activities for Halloween, as well as MESS and MISA.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

d. Councillor Karasick (Arts)

Councillor Karasick presents the Report. Councillor Karasick states that Council occurred two weeks ago, and on Tuesday. He notes that they discussed remuneration of Councillors. He notes that there has been one CGRC meeting so far, with another one tomorrow. He notes that BOMCOM has not met yet, but will be soon.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

e. Councillor Awan (Clubs)

Councillor Awan presents the Report.

Councillor Awan states that the Clubs committee meets bi-weekly. Councillor Awan notes that they are discussing the scoring rubric of the Clubs statuses. As well, they note that Clubs gave positive feedback to SSMU training this year.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

f. Councillor Mulvaney (Athletics)



Councillor Mulvaney presents the report. Councillor Mulvaney states that they have had bi-weekly Varsity Council. He notes that there was Varsity Bonding last week, which was successful. He notes that the Sports Med clinic also continues to be updated. Councillor Mulvaney states that they are waiting on a final recommendation on the name changes. They state that McGill is hosting online classes.

Question Period:

Senator Daryanani inquires about McGill's refusal to pay for the Athletics fee. Councillor Mulvaney states that they did not add any fees, because the fee was not levied.

g. Councillor Kurkcu (Engineering)

Councillor Kurkcu presents the Report.

Councillor Kurkcu states that the EUS has undergone constitutional changes, including changing the composition and voting rights of the EUS Council. She notes that the Members at Large selection has occurred for the Board of Governors. She notes that the Funding Committee membership selection has occurred. She notes the next EUS Council will occur on October 28, 2020.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

17. Executive Reports

a. President

The President presents the Report.

The President states that he will be planning the General Assembly in the coming weeks. He notes that CAMSR had their first meeting, and notes that it wasn't too productive. He notes that a Sustainability Committee has been formed. He notes that he has had meetings with DPSLL and Principal Fortier, to discuss reforms to the PEQ.

A 45-second extension has been granted.

The President reminds everyone to fill out the hoodie interest form.

The President asks if Legislative Council would be interested in hosting Principal Fortier. Senator Daryanani suspends the rules to this effect. SSMU Legislative Council indicates that they would.

Question Period:

There are no questions.



b. VP University Affairs

VP University Affairs presents the Report. VP University notes that Senate occurred yesterday, and they discussed McGill's Plan on Anti-Black Racism. They also note that they attended the online TLS forum. They note that McGill administration is open to re-naming some buildings on campus. They note that the Nursing Senator has been elected. They note that two names have been primarily selected for naming for BaCoN. They note that the Black Affairs Committee will meet tomorrow.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

c. VP Finance

VP Finance presents the Report. VP Finance notes that Finance Committee met on October 20. VP Finance notes that the auditors are still conducting work. He notes that club banking tokens are almost entirely online now. Currently, budget reviews for services are ongoing. For credit cards, they are in the final stages of implementation. They note that they will be meeting with Studentcare to discuss a two-tier system. For SSPN, he states that SSPN met on Monday, and will be holding one event this year.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

d. VP Student Life

VP Student Life presents the Report. VP Student Life states that they had the Clubs workshops in September, and are organizing a makeup-session to occur on November 8. They are currently working on the development of a Clubs portal. VP Student Life states that the Services Review Committee met today. She notes that Services are continuing move-ins into the University Centre. She also notes that they are working on improving funds to the Daycare.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

e. VP External – **POSTPONED INDEFINITELY**

VP External's report is postponed indefinitely.



18. Confidential Session

There is no confidential business this evening

19. Adjournment: **21:52**

Councillor Wan motions to adjourn, seconded by Councillor Williamson — APPROVED

Legislative Council is adjourned at 21:52.

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

Jemark Earle, President

APPROVED