



# SSMU LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PUBLIC MINUTES

November 5, 2020

The regular bi-weekly Legislative Council Meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) will be held by teleconference, on November 5, 2020 at 18:00.

1. Call to Order: **18:08**

The Speaker calls the meeting to order at 18:08.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Speaker presents the Land Acknowledgement.

3. Attendance

Councillor Ge is absent.

4. Approval of Minutes

a. Legislative Council Public Minutes 2020-10-08 – **APPROVED**

Senator Daryanani asks to change his title within the minutes from Councillor Daryanani to Senator Daryanani. Senator Daryanani states that it should be a 'motion to divide the question'.

b. Legislative Council Public Minutes 2020-10-22 – **APPROVED**

Senator Daryanani asks 11.a) to reflect the surplus mentioned by VP Finance, of MSERT.

Senator Daryanani states that the spelling of 'Caucuses' is incorrect.

Councillor Smith motions to approve both sets of the minutes as amended, seconded by Councillor Collins - APPROVED.

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

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



## 6. 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.

## 7. Guest Speakers

There are no guest speakers.

## 8. Announcements

The President announces that the referendum period started November 13, and will run until November 13. He states that the voting period will begin November 9, and end November 13. He encourages everyone to vote and share the posts, so that they may hit quorum.

VP University Affairs notes that the library has expanded their study hubs, on Redpath 2 on Monday. They state that there will be an additional 175 seats available. They also state that you can now book study hubs in advance. They note that the Fiat Lux project has kicked off, and they're looking for a student to sit on the advisory panel, and encourages any student interested to reach out to them.

The Speaker notes that this is the first Legislative Council back under the purview of the 2017 Constitution, and notes that, if the Standing Rules are approved, they will be following Robert's Rules of Order once again.

## 9. Question Period

Councillor Smith notes that the Facebook page concerning the referendum has received traction, but notes that students being 'interested' in a vote does not equal votes. He asks a member of the Executive what was learned about the failure of hitting quorum last time, and to advise them that he can help with memes, if necessary. The President responds that they'll reach out for the memes. He states that each of the questions are run by a special campaign committee, who will be getting out the vote, but also welcomes any other opportunities to help.

## 10. Recess, Consent Items

The Speaker explains what the consent vote is.

[Legislative Council resumes at 18:28.]



The Speaker notes that the Motion Regarding Amendments to the Equity Policy and Implementation of an Equity Triage 2020-11-05 has failed to receive consent vote.

Meanwhile, the Speaker notes that the Motion to Amend the Standing Rules of the 2020-2021 Legislative Council has been approved through consent vote. As such, the Speaker notes that all meetings will be governed through Robert's Rules.

#### 11. Generative Discussion on Five-Year Plan

The Speaker explains what a generative discussion is.

The President notes that as part of his platform, he ran on the creation of a long-term plan. The President states that there was an Executive Plan presented by the SSMU President of 2018-2019, Tre Mansdoerfer. This Plan sought SSMU to expand its offerings in all departments. The President notes that this Plan would create a sub-committee of the Legislative Council, including Directors, Councillors, and regular staff, to ensure the plan is carried through.

Councillor Smith motions to extend by ten (10) minutes, seconded by Councillor Williamson - APPROVED.

For staff, The President states that SSMU is drastically under-staffed, in comparison to other student unions across Canada. He hopes to double the amount of SSMU staff in five (5) years time. He hopes to prioritize services, clubs, and operations in all staffing changes.

He states that by 2022, there should be three (3) more staff, including two Services Coordinators, as well as a full-time French Translator. By 2024, there should be 29 staff. The President notes that there will be an Ombudsman person, to deal with complaints, work with policies that have complaint processes, and to help with mediation between constituents. The President also notes that there should be two Accounting Analysts, and two Operations Coordinators. By 2025, he hopes for the SSMU total staff to grow to 36 staff. The President notes that there will be two (2) HR Assistants, two (2) additional Services Coordinators, as well as a Security Coordinator, an Events Coordinator, and hopes for an in-house Legal Counsel.

For Operations, he states that they would work on renovations, and expand offerings in 3501 Peel. He states that he hopes to find a new use for the space currently offered by tenants such as La Prep in the University Centre, such as a parcel delivery service. He also suggests opening up opportunities for accountants to visit, to help students with their accounting and taxes. He notes that they hope to re-brand Gert's, so that it may be used as a cafe during the day.

In three (3) years' time, he notes that they hope to revamp the cafeteria into a student-lounge. He also hopes to renovate the Players' Theatre to accommodate movie screenings.



By 2025, they can launch a partnership with the Daycare for them to utilize the space, and launch a General Store, like what EUS has.

For Clubs, the President states that they are hoping to revamp the Clubs processes, including the introduction of a Clubs software, and re-vamped funding request processes. By 2023, he hopes to introduce standardized Clubs training, and integrate full-time SSMU staff to ensure institutional memory. In five (5) years' time, he hopes for expanded clubs insurance.

For Services, the President states that more consultation is upcoming. For Services, he notes that they should be offering greater support to them, granting them more space and offering them opportunities to grow. By 2021, he is hoping to consolidate the fees on the SSMU base fee, noting that there wouldn't be a need to run fee referendums every five (5) years. As well, there will be an introduction of Services Coordinators.

The President also hopes to put the contact information of various services on the back of McGill student IDs.

By 2025, he notes that Trash2Treasure should be a service by then. The President notes that they hope to find a secure space for the MSA by that time. He also hopes for SSMU to own therapy dogs.

For Finance, he repeats the notion of fee consolidation, to ensure more flexibility, allowing for more long-term planning. By the end of the first year of the Plan, he hopes to have the Services and Clubs funds consolidated. He notes that they should have better online tools for these groups. For 3501, he hopes to be generating revenue within that building.

By 2025, he hopes to get a charity endowment.

For Advocacy, he notes that it is harder to plan year to year. In the Five-Year Plan, they should reassess and reevaluate SSMU's policies. He notes that they should also create a separate space for advocacy groups. He also notes that they hope to increase representation on SSMU's governing bodies.

Councillor Wan asks what the approximate fee increase would be for the five-year plan.

The President states that they already have some fees to operate for the first few years. He states that they don't have the projected fees thus far, as he will be working with the VP Finance and the Accounting Department. He also notes that there should be sources of revenue as well.

Senator Daryanani asks how the President will guarantee the transition from one year to the next, to ensure it reaches its goals in five years time. The President states that there will be an oversight portion, including the General Manager, Executives, and Councillors and Directors, through a committee. As well, he notes that this is a rolling plan. Furthermore, he notes that if approved by the Legislative Council as a formal plan, it does not allow for future Executive Committees to completely discard it.



Councillor Collins asks about the therapy dogs, if it would be a mental health initiative, or a programming initiative. The President states that it would be both. However, he notes that therapy dogs are not directly in the plan.

Councillor Wan asks if the current tenants [within the University Centre] are aware of their removal. The President notes that Liquid Nutrition is aware, and they state that it will be discussed when the contract for La Prep ends.

Senator Daryanani asks how the Executives will be held accountable for the plan, as he notes that there may be opportunities for parts of the plan that may be delayed or not occurring, and asks how it will affect campaigning. The President states that Legislative Council will be a supervising authority over the plan, as it will be a sub-committee of the Legislative Council. He notes that the Committee would be responsible for presenting three times a year, once in first semester, and twice in the second semester. As well, he notes that the SSMU full-time staff would be directly involved. The President states that this plan would not serve to hamper campaigns. He notes that when future Executives are campaigning, they should be thinking long-term, and how their campaign points will currently integrate within the operations of the Society.

## 12. Old Business

There are no Old Business items.

## 13. New Business

- a. Motion Regarding Amendments to the Equity Policy and the Implementation of an Equity Triage 2020-11-05 --**APPROVED**

VP Student Life motivates.

VP Student Life notes that this is a motion that both herself and the VP University Affairs have been working on. VP Student Life notes that the amendment would add an equity triage process to SSMU operations processes, in order to prioritize equity-seeking groups. She notes that this emerged out of a long-standing pattern of equity-seeking groups receiving delays in their operations. She states that if it was passed, she notes that they would engage with the heads of the relevant departments, as well as with the General Manager. She notes that the departments that would be impacted are the Operations Department, the Communications Department, the IT Department, Human Resources, and Accounting. She notes that they have informal processes in Accounting and Communications. She notes that the implementation is gradual, and hopes to have the amendment completely installed by the end of the academic year.

Question Period:

There are no questions.



## Debate:

VP University Affairs notes that they have also spoken to the relevant departments, to ensure that this amendment is possible. They note that they have also received positive feedback, and are excited.

Councillor Wan suggests an amendment, in Section 4.4, to remove equity-seeking, and add it to the end, so that all student groups are aware of services available to equity seeking groups. VP Student Life and the seconder accept the amendment as friendly.

Senator Daryanani thanks the efforts of the VP Student Life and VP University Affairs, as a way to promote further equality.

Councillor Benson notes that this is a great initiative. He asks if there is a current list of equity-seeking groups available, and who is responsible for determining which groups are equity-seeking. VP University Affairs used the definition within the Equity Policy. They note that they don't have a running list, but that it would be most likely up to the individual departments. They note that year to year, the list will change.

Councillor Reed asks if they can comment on whether or not there are still systemic issues when services deal with requests from student groups. VP Student Life states that there are different reasons for each of these departments. VP Student Life states that they hope to increase the accessibility and ease of the services for not only equity-seeking groups, but all student groups, and notes that they are looking for ways to continuously improve.

VP University Affairs states that this amendment is trying to reduce the impact of lack of staffing on equity-seeking groups, but notes that they are working on other ways to improve accessibility and ease in other capacities, such as through the Five Year Plan.

Voting Period -- APPROVED

In favour: 26

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

The Motion Regarding Amendments to the Equity Policy and the Implementation of an Equity Triage 2020-11-05 is approved.

- b. Motion Regarding the Amendment of the Standing Rules for the 2020-2021 Legislative Council 2020-11-05 -- **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

The motion was unanimously approved. There is no debate or discussion.

## 14. Reports by Committees



a. Executive Committee

The President presents. The President states that they approved general contracts for Midnight Kitchen and amendments to SACOMSS wages. The President notes that they made some changes to the Staff manuals. The President notes that they also extended some contracts, and hired a Political Researcher.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

b. Environment Committee

The President presents. The President notes that they met a few times since the beginning of the year. They note that Tech Drive is ongoing. The committee is introducing past projects to new committee members. He notes that they are brainstorming initiatives for the upcoming year. They note that they are helping clubs and services plan sustainable events. They note that they are working on updating the Sustainability website, adding a French version, and adding blog posts, to increase traction. The President notes that they are promoting No-Waste November. They note that they are hoping to remove the current Nutri-towers and donate them, as taking care of them during COVID-19 has been extremely difficult.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

c. Students' Society Programming Network

VP Finance Presents. VP Finance states that the selection process included doing 21 interviews. He notes that candidates were selected due to their experience, team-work skills, organization skills, and situational skills, as well as diversity.

He notes that SSPN has had two meetings so far. VP Finance notes that the first meeting was for introductions and goals for the year, as well as deciding one event for the fall, and three for the winter. At the second meeting, VP Finance notes that they decided to organize a scavenger hunt, virtually. For the third meeting, they finalized the theme, roles, and decided the date, and notes that the hunt will occur from November 20 to 23, 2020.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

d. Clubs Committee – **APPROVED**





VP Student Life presents. VP Student Life the first of two reports. VP Student Life states that at the first meeting, they made some interim status decisions.

At the second meeting, VP Student Life states that they approved various clubs, in interim status and consultation.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

Councillor Smith motions to approve the Clubs Committee Report, seconded by Councillor Bonan - APPROVED.

e. Funding Committee – **APPROVED**

VP Finance presents. VP Finance states that there are numerous funding applications, including Fashion Business Uncovered, Jams for Justice, and the Bio-Engineering Student Society.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

Councillor Williamson moves to approve the Funding Committee Report, seconded by Councillor Smith - APPROVED.

15. Reports by Councillors

a. Councillor Collins (Arts)

Councillor Collins states that AUS met on November 3, 2020, and that they had two late motions. She notes that both of them were constitutional amendments, for ASUS and LAPSA. She notes that both of them were passed. She notes that all other business was tabled until the next meeting, due to the US Election.

Councillor Collins notes that committee allocations are complete. She notes that Grad Fair occurred on November 4, and notes that it was a success. Councillor Collins notes that the Mental Health Outreach Committee met today, as well as last week. She notes that they are planning an Instagram takeover, as well as a website for resources. She notes that she attended the Teaching and Learning Forum.

Question Period:





There are no questions.

b. Councillor Bonan (Law)

Councillor Bonan presents.

Councillor Bonan introduces himself. Councillor Bonan notes that online Frosh was a success. He notes that their outstanding executive position was filled, as well as the five (5) Councillors. He states that coffeehouse occurs every Thursday, online. Councillor Bonan notes that numerous organizations organized a sit-in protest outside the Palais du Justice, and notes that it was successful. Councillor Bonan notes that the Executives meet weekly, and Council meets bi-weekly. He notes that they reached quorum at the GA, so they were able to pass their budget, and notes that constitutional amendments are upcoming.

Question Period:

Senator Daryanani asks if other people can attend Coffeehouse. Councillor Bonan states that they are pretty sure other individuals can come.

c. Councillor Lee (Dentistry)

Councillor Lee presents.

Councillor Lee introduces himself. He states that the DSS is planning the creation of an Equity Committee and a Wellness Committee. As well, he notes that they are updating the constitution of the MSS. He notes that due to COVID-19, their current outreach plans are being re-structured. He notes that he sits on the Funding Committee and Health and Dental Review. He also notes that he serves as the Dentistry Senator, sitting on the University Health and Safety Committee.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

d. Councillor Zhang (Science)

Councillor Zhang presents. Councillor Zhang introduces herself. She notes that she sits on the Affordable Student Housing Committee. Councillor Zhang states that SUS will be undergoing constitutional amendments. She notes that they may be collaborating for virtual study hall. Councillor Zhang notes that Academic Week will be held on January 25 to 29, 2021. She notes that Charity Week is upcoming, and all donations will be going to the Old Brewery Mission.

Question Period:



There are no questions.

## 16. Executive Reports

### a. President

The President presents.

The President notes that McGill Student Services is hiring an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Officer. He notes that he is on the interviewing committee, and notes that they had the first round of interviews, and may have a second round. The President states that feedback is welcome in regards to the Five-Year plan. The President notes that UCRU is gearing up for Lobbying Week. The President notes that Centraide reached their goal this year, and hopes to start a student group for it next year. He notes that they met with Student Care, and discussed the idea of introducing a legal representation fee. As well, he notes that they discussed the idea of a two-tier health and dental plan.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

### b. VP University Affairs

VP University Affairs presents.

VP University Affairs notes that Senate was held on October 21, 2020. VP University Affairs notes that they discussed McGill's Action Plan for Addressing Anti-Black Racism. They note that Senate Steering met on November 3, and approved the first student-initiated questions of the year, including on the Emeritus designation, as well as the naming of the Men's Varsity team. They note that they approved the calendar for the 2021-22 year, including the Fall Reading Week. VP University Affairs states that they are working with the Bishop's SRC VP Academic and the CSU Academic Advocacy Coordinator, over the re-implementation of the extended S/U policy. They note that over 105 universities in Canada and the U.S. have re-implemented such a policy. VP University Affairs notes that Addy Parsons has been selected as the second Senate Caucus Representative. VP University Affairs notes that they are now on CGRC. VP University Affairs notes that the BaCoN submission form is still open, but notes that there are two values. VP University Affairs notes that they are drafting an Equity action plan. VP University Affairs states that the first Equity Committee meeting will be occurring soon. VP University Affairs states that the report on Preferred Name Use and Advocacy is close to completion. VP University Affairs states that the Political Researcher has been selected. They note that the Library Improvement Fund is still accepting applications. As well, they note that beginning in Winter 2021, course packs will begin to be offered digitally, free, via MyCourses.

Question Period:

There are no questions.



c. VP Finance

VP Finance presents.

VP Finance notes that the Finance Committee is currently conducting investigation on student fee policies, such as levying fees. They note that they are currently in the consultation process. For the audit, VP Finance states that the audit is still ongoing, but has indicated that they are in the final stages. VP Finance notes that budget revision has begun, and hopes to finish it by the end of November. VP Finance notes that the Financial team is organizing quarterly-review reports. For semesterly investment review, he notes that Lester Asset Management is preparing a report to be presented at the next Legislative Council. VP Finance states that there will be amendments to the Funding Committee Terms of Reference. For Services, he notes that services review is complete. He states that most credit cards have been distributed to services.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

d. VP Student Life

VP Student Life presents.

VP Student Life states that they are in discussions about Clubs Portal. She notes that Clubs Committee meetings have been occurring. She states that the Clubs Website Designer has been hired and onboarded. She notes that she will be conducting interviews with the sixteen services as part of Services Review. She notes that she attended the Mental Health meeting of November 4. She notes that the Mental Health fee referendum question is no longer needed. She states that they have received concerns that wait times for Keep Me Safe have been long, but it should no longer be an issue. She states that she is chairing the committee for the Daycare referendum question.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

e. VP External

VP External presents.

VP External states that the report covers from June 2020 until now. VP External states that the PEQ was reformed by the CAQ in July. He notes that the Executives attended some of the training camps held by UEQ. For UCRU, he states that he is attending Board meetings and advocacy meetings. As well, he notes that with the University of Toronto, they are engaging in letter-writing to numerous Cabinet ministers. For inter-university meetings, he states that he has met with CSU, CADUEL, FAECUM, and



University of Ottawa. He notes that he has been working with the Milton-Parc Citizens Committee. He states that he has met with both of the Ministers that represent the two ridings surrounding and involving McGill. He states that he was developing a Black Affairs Commissioner. He also notes that he attended McGill administration meetings on anti-Black racism. He states that he will be working on Alumni initiatives.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

#### 17. Confidential Session

There is no confidential session.

#### 18. Adjournment: **20:11**

Councillor Bonan motions to adjourn, seconded by VP External — APPROVED.

Legislative Council comes to adjournment at 20:11.

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

Jemark Earle, President