



# SSMU LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PUBLIC MINUTES

March 11, 2021

The regular bi-weekly Legislative Council Meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) will be held by teleconference, on March 11, 2021 at 18:00.

**Content Warning:** certain sections of the Minutes discuss drug use and misuse, hospitalizations, death, sexual violence. Another warning will be included ahead of each section.

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 Bulhoses, Councillor Rhamey, Councillor Ge, and Councillor Morgan are absent.

VP Student Life is suspended from this Council meeting.

4. Approval of Minutes

- a. Legislative Council Public Minutes 2021-02-25 -- **APPROVED**

The Speaker notes that Councillor Kurkcu's amendment has been approved prior.

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

The minutes are approved.

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

Senator Daryanani motions to approve the agenda, seconded by Councillor Wan -- APPROVED.



The agenda is adopted.

## 6. Report of the Steering Committee

The Speaker presents the Report of the Steering Committee.

Questions on the Report:

There are no questions.

## 7. Guest Speakers

### a. Harm Reduction - Sarah Graham

**Content Warning:** *drug use and misuse, hospitalizations, death, sexual violence.*

AMUSE Vice-President, Sarah Graham, presents.

Graham introduces herself. She states that she recently graduated from McGill's Gender Studies program. Graham is currently the Vice President of AMUSE, which is short for the Association of McGill University Support Employees. Graham states that they represent workers on campus, mostly temporary and casual workers, both students and non-students. Furthermore, they often advocate for local communities both on and off campus, including for items relating to issues that align with their principles, which are shared humanity, respect and fairness, and often tied within our main goals of protecting and improving working conditions and labour rights on campus. They have their roots in it as a union, and in their resistance to harmful drug policies at McGill. Graham notes that they continue to push for more evidence-based drug policies and education on campus.

Graham has worked in residences as a Floor Fellow for three years, and gained experience seeing various environments the residents were in, and witnessed a lot of the detrimental effects that campus had normalized, like binge drinking and party culture had had on first years. Graham notes that she was often the first responder to numerous emergencies and crises, sending students to hospitals. Furthermore, Graham also supported numerous students who are coping with substance misuse, and saw countless young people cope with the aftermath of sexual violence. She states that through that, she learned that there are a lot of lacking and inadequate support systems on campus, for people that are struggling with substance misuse, and on some of the other issues. Graham states that she would like to see a shift on campus towards empowering students to make safer decisions, and to see that as a community of undergraduates and McGill, that they can work together to resist the detrimental



patterns of partying culture which has caused harm to communities. They are not pushing for an abstinence-only policy, noting that that is not what harm-reduction is about, but that Graham would like to see more education.

Graham states that the policy grew out of concerns raised by people like her, who have worked in McGill residence, and specifically in response to alarming policy shifts within McGill residences, such as the Community Code of Living. This is a document all residents must sign, and that in the past year, the document shifted towards pushing for abstinence-only approaches to drug use and to encourage residences' staff to police the amount of alcohol, drugs, and drug paraphernalia that students wish to have in residences. There has been a lot of concern among residents' staff. However, Graham notes that these no-tolerance policies aren't new, and that back in 2008, McGill's Director of Residences also proposed a no-tolerance approach to drugs and alcohol. Over the past decade, the student body has been resisting these changes. In the past year, Graham notes that individuals have become very vocal, calling for the implementation of harm reduction practices.

Graham defines harm-reduction, stating that it is an evidence-based, non-judgmental approach to reducing the harms associated with drug use. Harm reduction policies and principles are really commonplace and daily practices, such as to stay hydrated and eat before partying, or having safe injection sites. As well, harm reduction recognizes that harms are especially experienced by certain social groups who are underserved by communities, namely Black and Indigenous peoples, sex workers women, disabled people, and the working class amongst others. Graham states that harm-reduction isn't new in Canada, noting that Academic and Dalhousie have created similar policies and strategies.

***Content warning below.***

Graham explains why they chose to include Greek life in the policy. As a Floor Fellow, Graham has witnessed a lot of the harm that is caused directly at events that are hosted by fraternities. It has become common knowledge among Floor Fellows that every year, some people coming back from events hosted by fraternities have been drugged. This was a pattern every year, and not something that was one incident. Furthermore, seeing young people be assaulted, and having this kind of harm done to them made it personally important to her to include Greek Life in the policy. It is based on evidence and scholarship.

Question Period:

**Question:**

Councillor Williamson asks if they have looked at reporting Greek life chapters to their Boards, or are they advocating for complete dissociation with these policies.



**Answer:**

Graham states that their approach in this policy is to completely disaffiliate SSMU from Greek Life organizations on campus. The culture on the Greek life Boards would most likely be to protect people within those communities, and would question if there is real accountability there.

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**Question:**

The President believes that disaffiliating with organizations will not stop the harm from happening. He states that SSMU could do a lot of different things instead of keeping the organizations at arms-length, in ways that can actually assist in solving these issues. He asks if there are any other ways of proposing harm reduction strategies with them, and working with them to make their events safer.

**Answer:**

Graham states that they wouldn't be eliminating education to such groups, and that they are still proposing that SSMU support and mandate annual efforts to encourage student groups that are working on harm reduction on campus. Graham states that working in collaboration with organizations that they see as having systemic issues leaves the possibility for legitimizing them in ways that they believe are counter to the intention of the policy. VP University Affairs states that this was an issue that they thought about, and states that there was a lot of consideration if they should continue to associate with them, and use it as leverage to advocate for change, like share-holder activism. However, they state that in the past, it hasn't worked for SSMU.

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**Question:**

Councillor Bonan states that he liked the premise of harm reduction, rather than abstinence-only approaches, but notes his concern with Greek life organizations. Councillor Bonan further asks how the policy will support individuals in these contexts, if SSMU will completely disassociate from where a lot of these events are occurring.

**Answer:**

Graham states that while a lot of efforts in harm reduction are focused on reducing harms related to drug use, she states that it doesn't necessarily mean that they are focused entirely on saying that they want to promote healthier drinking or substance use at these events hosted by Greek letter organizations. There are patterns apparent, that there is an intentional misuse of these substances, that goes much deeper than simply educating people.



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**Question:**

Councillor Collins asks Graham or the VP University Affairs to elaborate on the pre-existing relationship between MSU and Greek letter organizations, because she was under the impression that Greek life at McGill is completely disaffiliated with McGill and SSMU as it is. She questions what the relationship currently is, and what the ultimate goal to disassociate would be.

**Answer:**

VP University Affairs states that there was a inter-Greek Council on campus, formerly active in 2017. They state that it was a forum for Greek letter associations on campus. As well, they state that there have been a string of events that were co-hosted by SSMU and Greek letter organizations, including drinking events, and fundraisers and campaigns. They state that the SSMU does not collaborate with Greek letter organizations in any substantive way. Furthermore, McGill University has little relationship with them. They state that the goal of the policy is to formalize the stance that has been passively adopted over the years anyway.

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There are no further questions.

b. Winter Budget Revisions

VP Finance presents. VP Finance first presents on revenues. He states that most SSMU revenues come from membership fees (up to 90 percent). He states that the remaining 10% comes from other revenue sources. He notes that 38.8% of the total 10% is administration fees.

VP Finance presents the main sources of revenues that have been revised: student membership fees, Gert's sales, building and space rents, donations and sponsorship, administration fees, and admission and registration fees.

Starting with student fees (general), he states that student fees have gone up, based on actual enrollment numbers from fall and winter enrollment numbers. He states that winter enrollment was a bit higher than originally estimated.

VP Finance states Gert's sales have changed, due to the fact that Gert's is not open, however notes that it still has a budget, as they are still hoping to open later in the year.

For building and space rentals, he states that the capacity has been significantly reduced due to COVID.



For donations and sponsorships, there have been less sponsorships and donations due to COVID.

For registration fees, he states they are less, and there are fewer mini-courses being offered this year, due to COVID.

VP Finance states that administration fees are a bit higher, based on enrollment numbers. He states that administration fees include items such as SSMU getting a portion of the Health and Dental Fees, because they do a lot of the administrative work for it.

VP Finance states that the largest portion of the Society's expenses go towards salaries and benefits, followed by 'Other' and professional fees. He states that he wants to focus on salaries and benefits, materials and supplies, professional fees, cleaning services, 3501 Peel, and insurance.

VP Finance states that salaries have gone up a bit, due to some staffing changes and expansion of the Society. He states that the Society is growing ever so slightly each year, as enrollment increases.

For Gert's, he states that expenses are lower because it is openly later.

For materials and supplies, VP Finance states that it is lower due to the building being opened later.

He notes that professional fees have increased significantly, and that they are much higher than usual. He states that everything will balance out at the end of the day.

VP Finance notes that Cleaning Services are much lower, due to less traffic, and less visitors in buildings.

In conclusion, VP Finance states that projected operating revenues are \$2,987,696.29, with total projected operating expenses at \$2,476,279.37. He states that it leaves them with a surplus of \$511,416.92. He states that while the surplus seems large, it is consistent with other years as well, and notes that it is the number that they aim for an organization of this size.

VP Finance states that to summarize, things are going well, and finances are thriving.

Question Period:

**Question:**

Councillor Wan asks when Gert's will re-open.

**Answer:**



VP Finance states that every single month, it is delayed by a month due to government restrictions. He notes potentially an opening in April, but notes that it changes every single day.

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There are no further questions on the report.

#### 8. Announcements

The Speaker reminds Councillors and members of the gallery to refrain from contacting her about SSMU on her personal Messenger.

The President notes that it has been one year since COVID-19 was declared a pandemic and makes a motion to take a minute of silence to respect and honour those who have passed away due to the pandemic, or those members who are dealing with the grief of a lost loved one; seconded by Councillor Smith.

A minute of silence is observed.

VP Finance notes that they have opened applications for the SSMU Awards of Distinction. He states that if they know anyone who deserves an award of distinction, to encourage them to apply. Secondly, VP Finance states that there is a SSPN event coming up, with an escape room. He states that it will be occurring on March 27 at 7:00 PM, and that the event is free.

The President states that the deadline to order a SSMU hoodie is tomorrow evening at 5:00 PM.

#### 9. Question Period

There are no questions.

#### 10. Recess, Consent Items

[Recess begins at 18:49.]

[Recess ends at 18:54.]

The Speaker notes that the item on the agenda was not unanimously approved, and thus, will come to the Legislative Council to be questioned, debated, scrutinized, and voted upon.



## 11. Old Business

### a. Motion Regarding a Policy on Harmful Military Technology 2021-01-28 --**APPROVED**

The Speaker explains why this motion has come back from the Board of Directors. She first notes that the motion will not be re-motivated. She states that there were concerns over the factual validity of some of the claims, as well as the citations included in much of the motion. She states that while it was voted to be rejected by the Board of Directors to return to the Legislative Council, the Board also made a specific provision to first bring this motion back to review by the Steering Committee. She notes that typically, the Steering Committee is not responsible for reviewing citations, but for this one specifically, they were tasked with doing so. The Speaker states that the Steering Committee reviewed the motion, flagging items that they believed either lacked a citation and required one, or to ask for more 'objective' research citations.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

Debate:

Councillor Karasick states that he is glad that there have been some changes, but does not believe that there has been enough changes. He states that it is not worth supporting right now. She states that many of the changes that have been made are small changes, but that a lot of the core issues with the scope still remain. He states that the scope is incredibly unclear. He states that while he is happy to see increased citations, they are not necessarily correct. He states that the motion is incredibly unclear with its purpose, and its relevance can be questioned.

VP Finance states that the Legislative Council has already debated on the scope of the motion, and that it was passed previously. He states that the reason the motion was rejected by the Board of Directors and brought back to Council was to address concerns over faculties in the policy. He states that if the factual accuracies have been addressed in the amendments to the policy, then it should reasonably be passed again.

#### **Question:**

Councillor Wan asks what controls there are for motions such as this one, that are not backed by evidence, or have factual inaccuracies, and furthermore, asks why the concerns were not brought up at the first or second Council readings.

The Speaker notes that while she won't strike those questions out of order, given that it is a Debate, and not Question Period, she cannot guarantee that the questions will be answered.





VP University Affairs echoes the sentiments of the VP Finance. They state that they have debated the scope and intentions of the policy. They ask the Council to consider refraining from re-giniting debates that have already been settled in past meetings of the Legislative Council. VP University Affairs states that it was sent back to Steering to review the factual accuracy and citations of the motion, and given that it has been completed, there is no reason to not pass the policy as it stands.

Councillor Williamson asks about how the impact of the Divest for Human Rights motion, such as divesting from Lockheed Martin, would have on the research suggested within the motion.

The Speaker provides clarification, noting that the Divest for Human Rights policy has not yet been approved, as it has been referred to the Judicial Board regarding constitutionality.

VP External responds to Councillor Karasick. He states that the citations that are included within the policy is to provide more context, or provide sourcing of a definition. However, he notes that it will not necessarily be the case that the definition has been taken from the specific source, but that the source may provide more information or more context on the term that has been defined.

Senator Parsons motion to extend Debate Period by fifteen minutes, seconded by Councillor Wan -- APPROVED.

Councillor Karasick motions to extend VP External's speaking time by one (1) minute, seconded by Councillor Wan -- APPROVED.

VP External continues that definitions can be amended. However, he notes that the policy does not take a stance on nuclear energy, and that that isn't the motion's intention, either implicitly or explicitly. He states that the motion is advocating for increased transparency of research, and notes that it is clear what the policy is for.

VP Finance motions to extend VP External's time by one minute and thirty seconds, seconded by Councillor Smith -- APPROVED.

VP External further explains that the motion covers more than just advocacy on more ethical and transparent military research. He states that they have debated the scope of the motion prior, and that it has remained the same, as it was not considered a concern.

Maya Garfinkel states that the Divest for Human Rights Policy's stance on divestment from Lockheed Martin goes very well in conjunction with this policy. She states that while the Divest for Human Rights Policy was an outward-looking policy, this policy is more internal.



A two minute extension on Maya's time is granted.

Garfinkel states that they are still hoping to focus on maintaining a strong foundation for research, so that students in all faculties can continue to have research opportunities. Garfinkel states that a just transition is important to this policy, and they are more focused on who is controlling the research that students are participating in. Furthermore, the Arts representatives were mandated to support the Divest for Human Rights Policy, and yet they voted against this policy four weeks ago. Garfinkel continues that it would make sense for Arts representatives to support the motion, if they truly want to represent Arts students.

Lia Holla discusses some of Councillor Karasick's concerns. Holla states that other groups have done research on the past concerning the relationship between research at McGill and the outcomes and applications of the research. In 2010 and 2011, Demilitarize McGill, took McGill to court, and after four (4) years, they were able to get thousands of documents, following Access to Information (ATI) requests.

Lia Holla's time is extended by two (2) minutes.

Holla explains that through these ATI requests, they were able to get some information as to the financial relationships and the relations of power over research between different research labs at McGill University and private companies, such as Lockheed Martin and Bombardier, and the financial power over research. It is unfortunate that McGill plays a role in creating weapons that have such a harmful impact internationally. It is step one to spread information and knowledge about this, and having students know about these relationships. On the point concerning uranium mining, Holla states that the policy is by no means an attempt to take a stance on uranium mining, but rather, against the production of harmful military technology, including nuclear weapons.

Holla's time is extended by one (1) minute.

Holla continues that on the concern of nuclear disarmament, she states that multiple Nobel Prize-winning organizations and Nobel Prize-winning laureates and affiliated groups, including International Physicists for the Prevent of Nuclear War, have supported really similar and put forth similar definitions.

Councillor Bonan states that while some Councillors and Executives have spoken about how they shouldn't be reopening debate on the motion itself, he notes that as a point of order, they are allowed to reconsider the question, and states that Councillors are allowed to change their mind. On Councillor Karasick's point, he states that he doesn't think that they were necessarily saying that specific things



are or aren't ethical, but rather, that it seems that the scope and goals of the motion do not necessarily line up with transparency.

Councillor Reed thanked Lia Holla for outlining the place of McGill in the military-industrial complex, as well as its historical place in broader global conflict. They state that it is an unassailable fact, and fully in line with SSMU's mandate that they should address the moral implication of how tuition fees are designed and where they go. On that basis, Councillor Reed notes that it makes perfect sense why the Legislative Council would have voted on this motion, and why they should vote in favour of it now. They state that if the argument is about specificity, and if Councillors' concerns haven't been addressed by Lia, Maya, and VP External, then they would recommend that Councillors should introduce amendments to productively narrow down what the mandate should do, as opposed to bringing forth criticism.

Senator Parsons motions for a five (5) minute extension on Debate, seconded by Councillor Karasick -- APPROVED.

Councillor Karsick states that the issue with the scope underlines the entirety of the motion, and thus, no single or group of amendments could be actually addressed in the issue of the scope. He notes that he brought it up due to the fact that the prior Divest motion was incredibly specific, and that this motion is not. As well, he states that the motion does take a stance on uranium mining.

Senator Parsons motions for a forty-five second extension, seconded by Councillor Smith -- APPROVED.

Councillor Karasick continues that what was said about the motion prior was only about transparency, and states that the scope has clearly changed, but that the wording hasn't.

VP University Affairs explains that they have heard many arguments about concerns over the scope of the policy. They note that personally, they cannot find a single place where advocacy mandated under the policy exceeds what is already set out in the preamble. They state that this is a coherent policy that has been fact checked beyond any other policy that has ever been introduced to Council. They state that the policy is about improving McGill's practices with military technology through transparency, and through advocacy with groups.

Councillor Karasick motions for a one-minute extension, seconded by Councillor Wan -- APPROVED.

VP University Affairs further explains that on paper, it is about SSMU aligning themselves with groups that share the mandate to improve the practice of research at McGill. They state that the policy was approved by the LC once before, and that every issue that has been brought up today has already been



brought up, and has already been debated. They state that it is their responsibility, if they cannot find any new reason to refuse to pass the policy, to approve it.

VP University Affairs motions to call the question, this is seconded.

The Speaker recognizes a clear majority in favour, and states that the question has been called.

Voting Period:

Motion Regarding a Policy on Harmful Military Technology 2021-01-28 -- APPROVED

**In favour:** Councillor Collins, Councillor Litvina, Councillor Awan, Councillor Kurkcu, Councillor Reed, Councillor Page, Councillor Sood, Councillor Zhang, Councillor Merali, Councillor Drew, Councillor Nelson, Senator Daryanani, VP University Affairs, VP External, VP Finance (15)

**Opposed:** Councillor Karasick, Councillor Williamson, Councillor Mulvaney, Councillor Bonan, Councillor Gundermann, Councillor Kunze--Roelens, Councillor Wan (7)

**Abstaining:** Councillor Smith, Councillor Lee, Councillor Khodadadi, Senator Parsons, SSMU President (5)

## 12. New Business

### a. Notice of Motion Regarding the Adoption of the Harm Reduction Policy 2021-03-11

VP University Affairs motivates.

VP University Affairs states that the policy has been a long time coming, and has been the product of collaborative work between the VP Student Life, themselves, and the AMUSE VP Floor Fellow. They state that over the past two (2) months, they have consulted with a number of constituents, including many Executives, AMUSE, Senate Caucus, Equity Commissioners, and others. They state that there has been significant consultation, and that the policy has been refined over the course of multiple months. They state that while SSMU has generally good practices around harm reduction, the practices do not find themselves in any policies or internal procedures. They state that the motion seeks to formalize and enshrine the policy, and empower the SSMU's commitment to harm reduction, both in advocacy and internal events, as well as supporting both student employees and students at the university in their advocacy surrounding harm reduction in McGill residences.

## 13. Reports by Committees

### a. Executive Committee

VP External presents.



VP External states that they had two email approvals, concerning the McGill Farmer's Market and one regarding pre-budget submissions to the federal government. For motions, they approved several motions concerning minutes and Services staff positions, as well as a job description under the Governance department. On the February 26 meeting, they approved the pay grade for the governance department position, and the hiring of a Human Resources Coordinator, approved minutes, contract extensions, and endorsed a statement on equity.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

b. Environment Committee

The President presents.

SSMU President states that there hasn't been much from the Environment Committee. He notes that they are currently working on a course that was built off of a sustainability course at Concordia. He states that it was a free course offered to McGill students that had many different guest speakers. He notes that it has concluded, and that they are getting feedback from the participants on how participants thought the course went. As well, the Committee has also taken part in increased collaboration with the Farmer's Market for a few different projects, including financial support, due to COVID.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

c. Francophone Affairs Committee

VP University Affairs presents.

VP University Affairs states that there hasn't been much activity from the Francophone Affairs Committee. They state that the committee is currently working on an academic report, and states that it has been completed, and pending distribution and publication. They state that advocacy is ongoing in terms of student rights for Francophone students, especially around the right to submit work in English or French.

Question Period:



There are no questions.

d. Health and Dental Review Committee

VP Finance presents.

VP Finance states that the committee has discussed new winter student enrollment, and states that students who enroll in the winter semester are automatically enrolled in the Health and Dental plans. He states that this wasn't a thing prior, and states that there were quite a few concerns brought up by students who didn't realize that they had been dropped into the plan, and that they had missed the opt-out period to not be covered by insurance. He states that they addressed the concern by setting up automatic enrollment, and states that there is now an extended opt-out period for members who did not come to Canada for the school year, which is taking place in July. He states that this is to address the fact that a lot of students were unsure whether or not they would come to Canada during the pandemic.

Lastly, VP Finance speaks on Dialogue, a telemedicine app, a part of the health plan. He states that the usage was mildly underwhelming from students on the health plan, and that they'd like to promote it a bit more. He states that they aren't sure if it's from a lack of advertising or due to lack of interest. He states that for the time being, they will not levy a new fee for it, because the fee levy is quite large, and thus, will be exploring alternate routes to get dialogue for the membership. Lastly, VP Finance notes that they discussed international student insurance. He notes that students aren't eligible for the health plan, as McGill already offers international student coverage. With that, they also compared plans for Blue Cross and Student Care. He states at this point, they are not going to pursue international student coverage, but is something that the committee would like to keep in mind. As well, they also discussed a two-tier plan. VP Finance states that currently, the plan is one-tier, meaning that once they've improved, they can't improve a plan any further. With this, they discussed adding another level with increased coverage, and discussed extended coverage options that they'd like to see implemented, such as tuition reimbursements for individuals who have had to leave for mental health reasons.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

e. Services Committee -- **POSTPONED**

Senator Daryanani motions to suspend the rules to postpone the report until the next Legislative



Council, seconded by Councillor Wan -- APPROVED.

14. Reports by Councillors

a. Councillor Page (FYC)

Councillor Page presents.

Councillor Page states that they have had regularly scheduled meetings, and have been integrating some of their meetings with first year Councillors from other faculties to target a broader audience and get more faculty-specific events going. He states that they have had success with social media and growing an audience this year, and that they've been able to host giveaways. As well, he states that they had a few members attend the town hall that the Principal held on the evictions of first-years in residences who had been involved in COVID-related situations with parties and breakin residence rules. Councillor Page states that they just had an upcoming Kahoot night.

Question Period:

**Question:**

VP External asks what the composition of the FYC is, according to where people are currently.

**Answer:**

Councillor Page indicates that the majority of representatives are Canadian.

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There are no further questions.

b. Councillor Reed (Engineering)

Councillor Reed presents.

Councillor Reed states that EUS elections took place between February 1 and 27. They note that the VP Finance is not elected, and chosen by a selection committee following the election. They state that the VP Student Life, VP Events, and President did not have candidates for their races, and that they are now having a bi-election that is now in the campaigning phase. Councillor Reed states that the EUS General Assembly took place on February 24, which saw the establishment of the EU'S Investment Fund. As well, they note that they passed amendments to the Constitution. As well, they note that they have new guidelines proposed by the Board of Governors and Executives for the publication of political statements.



Question Period:

**Question:**

VP Finance inquires about the selection process for VP Finance, asking who sits on the selection committee, and how they decide who gets the role.

**Answer:**

Councillor Reed states that the logic behind selecting a VP Finance, as opposed to electing one, is that the VP Finance is largely regarded in the EUS as something that relies on competence/. They state that the selection committee consists of a couple of members of the Board of Governors, including the CHair of the Board of Governors, and potentially an executive.

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**Question:**

Councillor Wan inquires about the political statement policy that was passed and asks if the policy covered Councillor positions on SSMU Legislative Council.

**Answer:**

Councillor Reed states that it hasn't passed yet, and that it was presented two EUS Councils ago, but it has yet to be put forward as an actual amendment to the EUS Constitution. Furthermore, they state that they do not believe SSMU Councillors would be covered by this particular amendment to the Constitution, given that the amendment is primarily concerned with EUS statements.

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There are no further questions.

c. Councillor Smith (Arts)

Councillor Smith presents.

Councillor Smith states that Arts valedictorian applications are still open until tomorrow. H states that their VP Internal has been working with the Equity Commissions on a calendar of religious dates and holidays that should be finalized this week. Councillor Smith states that EPIC is partnering with SIC for a St. Patrick's themed pub-crawl, on March 18, from 8:00 - 9:30. For Grad Ball, he states that they are expecting an announcement on the format sometime by April 1. He states that applications to join the Grad Ball committee opened on February 22, and that their VP Social is working with the Secretary General.





Concerning departmental announcements, he states that the Economic Students' Association has launched their new website, and has released their annual journal. As well, he notes that the ESA offers peer tutoring.

For German Studies, he states that there are two conversation events.

He states that for the AUS Legislative Council, there were four motions concerning elections and the IRP Committee. He states that the next meeting occurs on March 23, at 6:00 PM.

Councillor Smith states that the Faculty Council meets on February 16, from 3:00 to 4:00 PM. As well, he notes that no official business was conducted, because quorum was technically not met. As well, he states that they were briefed on some of the plans for hybrid learning. He states that the next meeting will take place on March 30.

Councillor Bonan motions for a one and a half minute extension, seconded by Councillor Wan -- APPROVED.

Councillor SMith states that the AUS Constitutional Bylaws Review Committee met on February 20th, and discussed amendments and changes to the Secretary General portfolio.

Councillor Smith states that he is hoping to finish his exit report by the end of the week, but it will be finished early next week. He states that the last Arts Representative will be elected on March 23.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

d. Councillor Wan (Medicine)

Councillor Wan presents.

Councillor Wan states that the Fall General Assembly took place on December 2, noting that there was about a 40 percent turnout, with 212 out of 720 students attending. He states that there were several motions that were discussed, and that all of them were approved. He states that one concerned the strategic plan, one on the decentralization of health and social services, one allowing the MSS to sign onto the IRP, a policy on General Council positions and press releases, among others. He states that there were many prizes that were offered.



On February 22, Councillor Wan states that they held the referendum. He states that there were four motions regarding MSS constitutional amendments. He states that there have been two Executive meetings since, in which they approved a budget and had a presentation. Furthermore, Councillor Wan states that there have been three General Council meetings within this time period, discussing items such as referendum questions and the Divest for Human Rights policy.

Councillor Smith motions for a two minute extension, seconded by Councillor Williamson -- APPROVED.

He continues that the Class of 2024 has continued to have online exams. For the class of 2023, he states that his class has recently had some online parties to keep morale high. As well he states that the class of 2022 is continuing with their clerkship, and the class of 2021 are currently in interviews.

Councillor Wan speaks about MSS events, and increasing representation to the Outaouais campus. He states that he also sits on the Francophone Affairs Committee, and that they had a meeting back in November to discuss the Commissioner role.

Question Period:

**Question:**

VP External inquires on what the positions concerning the FMEQ were.

**Answer:**

Councillor Wan states that he does not have these offhand, but will get back to VP External through email.

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There are no further questions.

e. Councillor Rhamey (Environment) -- **POSTPONED**

Senator Daryanani motions to postpone the report, seconded by Councillor Smith -- POSTPONED

f. Senator Parsons (Senate Caucus)

Senator Parsons presents.

At the February Senate meeting, Senator Parsons notes that Principal Fortier discussed why convocation is slated to be virtual, but Fall 2021 will be in-person. Principal Fortier said that distribution of vaccines is not scheduled to be widespread enough to allow convocation to happen in



person. She states that the Senate also discussed how they are working to ensure that campus is carbon-neutral by 2040. She also states that the Quebec government has been encouraging McGill to hold in-person activities due to concerns of students, such as mental health. Senator Parsons also notes that McGill is working on bursaries to help students stay in school during financially troubling times. For Fall 2021, Senator Parsons notes that McGill is returning to on-campus activities, but notes that there will continue to be online options. She states that while McGill has been working with the federal government to help international students, as it stands now, students still have to comply with travel restrictions.

Senator Parsons notes that bicentennial events will kick off on March 31.

For Senate Caucus, she notes that they met two nights ago, and had a debrief about the Senate concerning Fall 2021. She states that they have spent most of their time preparing for the open discussion, noting that those take a lot of preparation on the students' behalf, and a lot of consulting with constituents and strategizing.

She states that MUSA is ordering and distributing merchandise right now. As well, she states that MUSA will be hosting a jeopardy night, as well as a graduate symposium.

Councillor Wan motions to extend by three minutes, seconded by Senator Daryanani -- APPROVED.

She states that Schulich Faculty Council will be meeting March 18.

Question Period:

**Question:**

Councillor Williamson asks if the concern of international students, with leases ending May 1st have been considered by the University.

**Answer:**

Senator Parsons indicates that it was not brought up during the Senate, but would be happy to discuss with Fabrice Labeau about it. She encourages Councillor Williamson to email her with her question.

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There are no further questions.

15. Executive Reports
  - a. President

The President presents.



The President states that the Senate Caucus meets every Tuesday. He notes that he recently also met with the Sustainability Commissioners. At BOMCOM, they are currently looking at different tenants for the University Centre. He notes that they are also considering charging stations.

The President notes that he had an interview with a student from the University of Ottawa about McGill's plans to re-open for Fall 2021.

The President also notes that he has had meetings over the past few weeks with prospective SSMU President candidates.

As well, he has attended the TLS for the fall 2021 semester. As well, he has met with the Provost to discuss a variety of topics, including plans for Fall 2021.

Lastly, MASEC had an event before reading week, and noted low turnout.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

b. VP University Affairs

VP University Affairs presents.

VP University Affairs notes that they have completed the first draft of the University student assessment policy. They note that the Executive team attended a TLS forum on 2021 plans, as well as met with the Deputy Provost to discuss Fall 2021 and implementation progress on the Action Plan to Address Anti-Black Racism, which has been lagging.

They note that the Senate met on March 9 to debrief from February Senate, and discuss Fall 2021 plans. They state that they were unable to attend the SCAB meeting today, but note that there will be one more meeting before the revised Internal Regulations are submitted to the Legislative Council for adoption.

For research, the VP University Affairs notes that the SRRAC has completed their first draft of their report of COVID-19 impact.

For BaCoN, VP University Affairs notes that they had a second meeting with the Deputy Provost, as well as meeting with the Vice-Principal University Advancement on March 8th, and notes that they are



planning to tie a scholarship for Indigenous students to the renaming of the University Centre. They state that this involves delaying the formal recognition of the University Centre's name until Winter 2022. They state that the scholarship will be jointly funded by community and alumni donors, as well as the possible introduction of a new student fee. Given this, VP University Affairs states that they are in the process of working on a two-year plan to executive the scholarship and the renaming. Similarly, because they missed the referendum deadline, they plan on hosting a consultative town hall to unveil the proposed names and receive student feedback.

Concerning Equity, they state that they have finished reviewing the entire policy, and that it is up to them to synthesize the revisions into a new revised policy.

As well, VP University Affairs notes that they assisted the Indigenous Affairs Commissioner to finalize a job description for Indigenous Affairs Secretary General.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

c. VP Finance

VP Finance presents.

VP Finance states that they are waiting for the Pay Equity report to be finalized before moving on with the budget. He states that he is currently working on the Internal Regulations of Finance, and making amendments to them, and hosting relevant consultations.

VP Finance notes that the SSMU Finance website is still under construction.

For funding, he states that the Funding Committee continues to meet. He states that they have been working on the process in which groups external to SSMU can receive funding. As well, he reminds everyone that the SSMU Awards of Distinction are still open.

For Clubs and Services, he states that for clubs, the new bank resources are still being distributed. He states that due to the timing of the year, that these matters have been relatively quiet. For 2021-2022 service budgets, he notes that they are asking for them earlier this year, in May, rather than October. As well, he notes that he has been working on the referendum campaigns.

Question Period:



There are no questions.

d. VP Student Life

The President presents.

The President notes that the nClubs Committee has been meeting to approve interim and full status clubs, as well as club constitutions. He notes that the VP Student Life has been meeting with various clubs and services during office hours. As well, he states that the VP Student Life is currently overseeing space agreements. As well, he notes that the Services Review Committee is in the middle of completing their end of year report, and currently assessing all services through direct audits. For mental health, he notes that the mental health round table was again. The President notes that there is nothing for Family Care. For student services, he notes that the Executives have met with the Deputy Provost of Student Life and Learning, and Provost Manfredi, where they discussed the plan to address anti-Black racism, as well as methods of instruction for the Fall semester.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

e. VP External

VP External presents.

VP External states that for federal political affairs, UCRU has met three times in the past two weeks, including approving principles, and sending recommendations for the policy papers on international students' mental health and student financial aid.

VP EXternal states that there is little to report concerning provincial and municipal political affairs. VP External states that he has been working with the External Affairs coordinator on social media and website frameworks, and notes that it has been helpful to have a new staff position to assist him in the work. He also notes that he has been working with the SSMU translators to translate the annual report of the PUSH fund. VP External also remarks that he had an interview with a CKUT radio program, concerning the Position on Institutions of Public Safety. Concerning Finance and HR, he notes that he met with the VP Finance and Community Affairs Commissioner to review the budget, as well as with other commissioners. He notes that he is currently overseeing onboarding of the new Community Affairs Commission and External Affairs Coordinator, and hosting regular check-ins with the campaigns coordinators and political research. Lastly, he states that he has been working with Students for Peace



and Disarmament to review the recommendations from the Steering Committee regarding the Policy on Harmful Military Technologies. As well, he notes that he met with the VP External candidate.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

#### 16. Confidential Session

There is no confidential business this evening.

#### 17. Adjournment: **20:44**

Councillor Smith motions to adjourn, seconded by VP Finance -- APPROVED

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

Jemark Earle, President