



SSMU LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PUBLIC MINUTES

November 11, 2021

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

1. Call to Order: **18:05**

The Acting Speaker for this session is SSMU VP Internal Affairs.

The Speaker calls the meeting to order at 18:05.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Speaker presents the Land Acknowledgement.

The SSMU acknowledges that McGill University is situated on the traditional and unceded territory of the Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee nations. The SSMU recognizes and respects these nations as the true and constant custodians of the lands and waters on which we meet today. Further, the SSMU commits to and respects the traditional laws and customs of these territories.

3. Moment of Silence for Remembrance Day

The Speaker notes that today is November 11, which is Remembrance Day in Canada. As such, the Speaker invites Council members and guests to take a moment of silence to reflect on this day.

The moment of silence is observed.

4. Attendance

The Speaker reads out the attendance list.

Councillor Holton's proxy is Kevin Franceschini.

Councillor Djossou's proxy is James Mulvaney.

Councillor Applegate's proxy is Stella DiCicco.



Councillor Khodadadi's proxy is Addy Parsons.

Absent are: Councillor Bellia, Councillor Zhang, Councillor Eiley, Councillor Zveiris, SSMU President and VP Finance.

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

VP University Affairs moves to adopt the Agenda, seconded by Councillor Coussa.

The Agenda is adopted as distributed.

6. Minutes for Approval:

a. Legislative Council Public Minutes 2021-09-30 -- **APPROVED**

Councillor Coussa moves to approve the minutes, seconded by Councillor Saad.

The minutes are approved.

7. Report of the Steering Committee

The Speaker presents the report of the Steering Committee. The changes and dates for the Winter 2022 semester were approved, as such, the Legislative Council will only be meeting once a month in the Winter 2022 semester, with the exception of the two (2) last meetings.

There will be a brief confidential session at the end of this meeting.

There are no questions on the report of the Steering Committee.

a. Email Motion Approval:

i. Motion to extend the referendum polling period until Monday, November 15th, at 5:00PM 2021-11-08 -- **APPROVED on 2021-11-08**

An email motion for approval was sent to the Legislative Council members to extend the polling period of the Fall 2021 Referendum until November 15 at 5:00 PM EST.

The Speaker thanks Councillors for voting on this motion.

8. Announcements

a. Statement from Executives



The Speaker presents a statement from the Executives (*transcribed in verbatim*) in her capacity as VP Internal Affairs:

“Dear Council Members, staff and members of the gallery,

The Executive Committee has prepared a brief statement to address some questions that were raised in the past few days.

First and foremost, I apologize if any communications that I have made have given the impression that SSMU is not a transparent organization. My intentions were only to ensure that any enquiries were directed to the correct parties.

The SSMU Executive Committee believes that transparency is of the utmost importance when representing the student body. That being said, the SSMU is a student union, but it is also an employer to many staff, students, and service members. As such, the SSMU has processes in place to address the media where employees direct any public question or requests to the Executive Committee. This is a policy intended to avoid misrepresentation of the SSMU and to ensure that the parties who address media on behalf of the SSMU are the individuals who are best-equipped to discuss a subject matter. It is also important that responses to media enquiries respect our legal and fiduciary duties.

In regards to the SSMU President’s absence, we are unable to provide further details on this matter, as employee information is confidential. We would like to assure you that the Executive Committee has divided the President’s portfolio accordingly to ensure that we continue to provide support and representation to our membership.

The Executive team is responsible for ensuring that we hold ourselves accountable, and that the Legislative Council holds us accountable. We appreciate and understand the importance of transparency and accountability, and we will continue to work together as a team to provide the best quality of service to our membership, in all various aspects of our work on campus.

Towards the campus media, I want to personally apologize not only for the emails I sent, but for what they implied. I understand that the mandate of the media is to investigate and shed light on important issues on campus, and I apologize for my participation in attempting to stop journalists from doing their work.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I thank you for your time tonight and I look forward to our future interactions.”

[End of statement and verbatim transcript.]



Announcements continue below.

VP University Affairs announces that the VP Finance is on vacation and if there are any questions of financial nature, the Executives in attendance this evening will do their best to answer, or the questions will be postponed until the next meeting. VP University Affairs further announces that there will be a new Free Menstrual Product program on campus and they are looking for individuals interested in supporting a group to set budgeting priorities. For those interested, please contact ua@ssmu.ca.

There are no further announcements.

9. Question Period

a. Question from Councillor Liao

Question:

Councillor Liao submitted a question in advance to the VP Student Life, as follows: “Why are the dance studios still inaccessible whilst the gymnasiums and training rooms are open on campus?” [Clarification: Dance studios in the Currie Gymnasium and constituents have indicated to Councillor Liao that they do not have access to them.]

Answer:

VP Student Life responds that SSMU only has jurisdiction over the University Centre (UC) and 3501 Peel St. building. In regards to booking at other faculties and buildings, SSMU does not have any power or authority to decide what their regulations are and constituents may contact the representatives of the buildings and faculties for more information.

b. Questions from constituents

[The questions from constituents were submitted in advance and are transcribed verbatim below.]

Question from constituents:

“SSMU did not appoint a student representative to serve in the President's place during the October 7 Board of Governors meeting. Why is this? Does the Executive Committee have a plan in place to ensure that a student rep is present at future Board meetings?”

Answer:

VP University Affairs responds that there is a formal process to verify eligibility for members to sit on the Board of Governors. It took some time to appoint another Executive in the interim.



She notes that the Executives have appointed VP University Affairs to sit on the Board of Governors and she looks forward to advocating for students' needs and interests on campus until the end of the President's leave.

Question from constituents:

“Can the Council please explain the exact parameters of stipulation 25 of the SSMU Employees Manual (under the "Internal Policies") section. It reads: "Employees are not permitted to address the media and must direct any public question or requests to the General Manager and the President." Is the Employee manual binding or simply a guideline?”

Answer:

VP Internal Affairs responds that the Employee Manual is binding and signed by all employees.

Question from constituents:

“What was the issue with the referendum questions? Why did I receive multiple emails and why did I have to revote?”

Answer:

VP University Affairs explains that there was an error with a ballot question that needed to be rectified. The Elections SSMU team became aware of the error within hours of the opening of the ballot and then took steps to update and correct the information. She hopes that students will take the time to vote in the updated ballot to ensure that the referendum is conducted properly and fairly.

Question from constituents:

“For Sarah Paulin [VP Internal Affairs]: I am a casual staff and I have experienced toxicity in SSMU. Do you realize that by sending emails to campus media and employees to “stay silent, you reinforced and proved how true and systematic “Silence in SSMU” is? Do you think this is an abuse of your power?”

Answer:

VP Internal Affairs responds that SSMU employees have a duty to maintain confidentiality of information that they receive. The SSMU's response was not meant to silence people, but rather ensure that the individual answering questions to campus media is the best equipped to provide information. The Executive Committee must also ensure that the legality and fiduciary responsibilities are respected in all aspects. The Executive wanted to ensure that the privacy of information is protected and she did not intend to silence anyone. VP Internal Affairs acknowledges that the words she used were not perfect and she has learned from this experience. She hopes to ensure that SSMU has an open and transparent communication between SSMU staff and the media while attempting to respect their fiduciary duties.



Question from constituents:

“To the Speaker, as Chair of the Accountability Committee, you are in charge of ensuring that councillors and executives are meant to be held accountable. How do you explain Daryanani’s absence? Has accountability committee measures been implemented by the committee? How exactly are you “uninvolved and uninterested”? If so, have you considered resignation because one would expect you to be interested in the accountability and affairs of SSMU?”

Answer:

VP Internal Affairs answers on behalf of the Speaker as he is absent from this session. She responds that there has been a lack of participation from the student body, as such the Accountability Committee has not been able to meet because members at large did not apply to the committee. For the second question, VP Internal Affairs notes that the Speaker cannot comment on such matters as he is a SSMU employee and this does not fall under his jurisdiction. She encourages students to apply for members at large roles on the Accountability Committee and those who are interested could contact the Speaker or the Parliamentarian for more information.

For the second part of the question, the SSMU Speaker indicated to VP Internal Affairs that he wished to express that he is not interested in participating in the debate of the SSMU meetings, but rather act as an impartial mediator in meetings, as described in his job description. The Speaker also wished to note that his role is to ensure that debate is respectful and in line with SSMU’s policies.

Question from constituents:

“To the Executives: since you have restricted both the media and employees from talking about this, you have silenced us once again. I have no choice but to ask questions through this anonymous form. My question is what are you trying to cover up? Are you covering a mess that you have created? Are these efforts to protect the President’s privacy, or is it to cover your secrecy?”

Answer:

VP University Affairs explains that SSMU Executives have a fiduciary duty that requires a great deal of confidentiality. As mentioned earlier in the meeting, the SSMU is a workplace and a student union, and they encourage students to engage in the work performed by SSMU Executives. SSMU Executives are employers and supervise staff at the SSMU and have to respect the privacy of all parties.



Question from constituents:

“If you expect “cooperation” to cover up secrecy, we ask for your resignations. What we expect from you is to be transparent and be held accountable for your actions and attitude towards those who pay for your salary and elect you to office. How do you propose to be more transparent and democratic?”

Answer:

VP University Affairs understands the desire for information about elected representatives, including SSMU Executives, but as a workplace SSMU must respect the confidentiality of an employee, legally and ethically. VP University Affairs states that if any more information becomes available to the public, they will share it as soon as they can.

Question from constituents:

“To the Councillors: are you in favour of the Executives treating employees and media outlets in such demeaning and belittling ways? Do you have confidence in the Society’s executives? If not, what actions are you going to take to make them accountable if they are voted of no confidence? Is it the dissolution of the SSMU?”

Answer:

Councillor Saad answers that, on behalf of himself and management, the Councillors are in place to represent their constituents and would like to have confidence in their Executives. He doesn't believe that councillors and executives are against each other, and says they will be holding each other accountable.

The Speaker opens the floor to any questions from Councillors or members of the gallery. They extend the question period by five minutes seeing that questions have already lasted 20 minutes.

Question:

Councillor Coussa notes that the Divest for Human Rights Policy has been adopted by a General Assembly and Legislative Council, and asks what the SSMU Executive Team, specifically the University Affairs and the External Affairs portfolio, have done to advocate for the divestment of human rights, mandated by the McGill Divest for Human Rights Coalition. The Policy will be in place for five years.

Answer:

VP University Affairs states that the Policy [Divest for Human Rights Policy] was ratified in July 2021, so they have had time to work on it. Unfortunately, a great deal of the advocacy work has been surrounding COVID-19 issues that VP University Affairs believed need to be addressed with the most urgent priority. She states that SSMU is devoted to working on the Policy during the Winter semester, as it is an important policy, and will update Members when work is done on the policy.



VP External Affairs states that the divest for human rights policy was stemmed from many student groups and SSMU will work with them to ensure that they support the groups logistically or financially, but they are also looking into other initiatives so that they can move forward to the next step with and hold McGill accountable.

Question:

Councillor Javed notes that if the Office of the VP External Affairs is the one who is responsible for pursuing advocacy against Bill 21, passed in 2019. The VP External Affairs has not acknowledged or responded to invitations from the coalition. Councillor Javed asks why he [VP] has been silent, what he will do to support the coalition and how he will support it moving forward.

Answer:

VP External states that he received the email from the Coalition, and when he tried to respond his email bounced back. He states that he has a meeting with a leader of the coalition the next day to discuss the Bill, and to reiterate SSMU's commitment against Bill 21 and continue the work that has been started by his predecessor. Hopefully when they meet they can find a new method of communication, and move forward and reaffirm SSMU's mobilization for action against Bill 21. To answer the second part, that can take any form, given we live in uncertain times, where events in person and online vary. He believes that in-person mobilization can continue soon enough, and he is looking forward to mobilizing and organizing these events.

Question:

Councillor Tiniacos asks the executives, given that the SSMU and McGill must be held accountable for mobilizing against Bill 21 and the SSMU President has been absent from Council meetings since the beginning of the semester. Is there a certain time after a number of absences where an impeachment initiative should be started, or when a resignation should be demanded from the President?

Answer:

VP External Affairs answers that the concern is very important for SSMU employees and states that the President is on leave and that his privacy should be respected no matter the reason for his leave, and his tasks have been evenly distributed among executives and everything is running smoothly, which means the society is not feeling any negative effects from the president's leave. He continues by saying that moving forward, they should wait to see how things evolve, and while he understands the concerns of the president's absence, it is their responsibility as individuals to respect his privacy and the time he needs and refrain from pressuring him into returning.



Question:

Councillor Tiniacos states that given that the SSMU Executives have been undertaking his [the President] duties for the semester of his absence, he asks if it is in the President's best interest to resign from his role, or if the Legislative Council should continue with an impeachment.

Answer:

VP University Affairs states that no Councillor can speak for the President given that he is on leave, and they cannot make such decisions. She states that they can't give Councillor Tiniacos the correct answer, all they can ask him is to take his responsibility as a representative in seriousness.

Question:

Member of the Gallery Kim asks about her previously-posed question about Article 25 of the SSMU Employee Manual. They state that the second part of the question has been answered, and ask that the first part, regarding the parameters of employees talking to the media. Kim understands that the stipulation is in place so that the right person talks to the media, and they don't want the Society to be misrepresented by someone who is unrepresented, but still feels that there shouldn't be a ban, especially if employees want to hold the Society accountable or speak out about something within their own jurisdiction. Kim asks for clarification of the scope of the stipulation and whether or not it represents a complete ban of SSMU employees speaking with the media.

Answer:

VP External responds that once SSMU permanent and casual staff sign their contract, they sign a contract to fulfill a role and a mandate, they don't represent constituents. As such, it's appropriate that they respect their job responsibilities, which is why the stipulation is set as it is, it's safer for the Society. He speaks personally, and says that some SSMU employees prefer not being named in campus media and not being reached out to. He thinks it's important that the provision exists for the individuals within their roles in the Society.

The Speaker clarifies that answers should remain around the 2-minute length, and while she has not been strict on this she asks that speakers shorten their responses.

Question:

Proxoy Franceschini firstly states that he is quite happy that Gerts bar is open again, and asks this question to any member of the Executive. They continue by saying that by a scroll through



the Gerts Bar Instagram account, one can't help but notice that prices are a lot higher than they were before it closed [in 2018]. He gives examples such as "Sangria Wednesdays", used to be \$12.00 and are now \$17.00; "Tall Boy Tuesdays" used to be two for \$7.00, there were \$10.00 beer vendors and \$2.00 shots. They state that they don't expect very low prices, and understand that there is inflation, but further inquires why the prices are higher than they used to be.

Answer:

VP University Affairs states that she is happy that Gerts is open again as well. She states that there have been changes in the global supply chain in the past two years and that there are specific goods that have gotten much more expensive and there are shortages that they can't predict. She believes that the bar has not been open for three years, and there is a normal rate of inflation that is to be expected. She understands and wishes she didn't have to pay as much for a pitcher of sangria but she believes the prices are fair in terms of the prices of the goods and to ensure the bar runs smoothly. She states that this is just the reality of the world we live in at this time.

Councillor Saad motions to extend the question period by five minutes, and the Speaker asks for a second and opposition. VP University Affairs seconds Councillor Saad's motion and no opposition is presented, as such the Speaker extends the question period by five (5) minutes.

Question:

Councillor Saad states that he has a few questions. His first question is with regards to an article in the McGill Daily, indicating that Management students have inquired about the President's leave. He knows that the Executives have given an answer, so he will word his question differently. If the President portfolio has been divided equally among Executives, is it worth it to keep him as President? Is he expected to return or should a letter of resignation be asked for?

Answer:

VP External Affairs responds that he cannot speak for the President in terms of his return, but not only is the role of the President an important one for the Society, the dividing of his roles was done to respect the president's leave and to ensure smooth functioning, which means that there is added for for each executive, and that means it was a necessity to respect the reasons for the president's leave. He can't speak about the reasons due to privacy and ethics, but it's not SSMU executives' call to ask for a letter of resignation and he doesn't think it's their call to question the reason for his leave, seeing as the Society is running smoothly and his return would only benefit the operational aspect of the Society.



Question:

Councillor Saad asks that, considering that the President's portfolio and duties have been divided, but the Executives have a large workload already with their full-time jobs, and it is not feasible for the Executives to be held accountable for the smooth functioning of the Society. He asks if the Executives would be in favour of a third-party auditing process to ensure that the president's absence isn't detrimental to the Society's functioning and if it is not, why not begin the impeachment process.

Answer:

VP University Affairs responds that if Councillor Saad believes that there are projects that have been 'falling through the cracks', to please communicate with the SSMU Executives. She states that the Executives have all taken on a lot of the workload, and thanks VP Internal Affairs for the large share of workload she's taken on. She reiterates that communication is key to ensuring the smooth functioning of the Society in the President's absence.

VP External Affairs adds that he was in no way trying to perform the role of accountability from the inside, and he respects Councillor Saad's comment. He says that he was trying to say that the work is getting done, and gives the example of VP Internal Affairs being responsible for the Governance of the Society. In regards to accountability and external auditing, it is not his call to make, it is the Council's decision.

Question:

Member of the Gallery Pople thanks the Executives for the statement, as it is reassuring. They are still left with some concerns, as the Executive's first instinct is to restrict the press's access rather than bringing their concerns directly to employees. She states that the concern of employees not being prepared to speak with the press is valid, but none of the employees she has spoken with were aware of the Article in the Manual, and some employees indicated they didn't receive the Employee Manual, and some casual employees didn't mention that employees have the right to request anonymity from journalists. With this in mind, she asks if the SSMU believes that their employees are informed and if the Executive Committee has sufficient knowledge about journalism to be directing employees on these issues.

Answer:

VP External Affairs thanks Member Pople for her question and for clarifying something he's been thinking about, anonymity, considering new information. He continues by stating that SSMU employees are supposed to be informed about the Employee Manual and Article 25, given that they have signed the employment contract. If it's not the case, Executives shall look into it to ensure that the process is respected in the future, especially if there are concerns. In regards to the knowledge of the press, the SSMU is a student union, so they are always learning, given their one-year terms. He assures Pople that in the last week, they [Executive]



have learned a lot and continue to want to learn, and to communicate with campus media to ensure that there is no further miscommunication.

Question:

Councillor Qazi states that, while voting for the SSMU Referendum Fall 2021, version 2.0, they noticed that the McGill Student Union Democratization Policy was added for approval to the Referendum, and inquires how it was added given that it was not approved by the Legislative Council.

Answer:

The Speaker answers that there is another way to add a question to the Referendum, and that is if the question is Student-Initiated. She states that everything that is Councillor-initiated goes through the Legislative Council, but if it is initiated by students there is a certain amount of signatures needed to bring it to referendum, and this question had all the proper signatures to bring it to referendum. It was approved and reviewed by the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), who is responsible for overseeing elections.

Question:

Councillor Tiniacos states that while they are grateful for the Executives taking on the President's duties during his leave, he is concerned that the person responsible for those duties is not present and has been absent since the McGill Daily published the article about "Sexism and Silence within the SSMU." They ask what role the President plays if his duties are being done by someone else and since he has been absent for the entirety of the Fall semester.

Answer:

VP External Affairs reminds everyone to respect the president's privacy, and reminds everyone that all SSMU members and Executives are human beings. That being said, the impeachment process is not their call to speak on nor to initiate, it is the Council's or the constituents' decision. He states that it must not be forgotten that the President was elected by majority, by the constituents of the Society. At this time, it's their role to ensure that the democratic process is respected until further actions can be taken. Regarding the President's absence since the [McGill Daily] article, this is a coincidence and not something he can explain any further, but he understands the confusion regarding the coincidence.

Question:

Member of the Gallery Cable state that they are employed by SSMU as a casual employee and they are confused about the fact that SSMU employees seem to be permitted to speak with the media on a positive note but not on a negative one. There are many examples of casual and



part-time employees talking to the media about positive things done or worked on in their portfolios, so it seems inconsistent to prevent employees from talking about negative aspects. They feel that it's impeding on the transparency of the organization, and wish to speak out if something negative is going on in their portfolio.

Answer:

The Speaker, in her capacity as VP Internal Affairs, responds to say that commissioners are sometimes able to speak to the media if it goes through their portfolio, if the SSMU feels that the employee is better able to speak. She states that the discrepancy has not been noticed, and can't better answer the question.

Question:

Councillor Saad asks if the President's portfolio has been divided among Executives, if they can get a breakdown of who is responsible for which duties and how the structure is formed.

Answer:

The Speaker refers Councillor Saad to the SSMU website, and explains that there are three portfolios. For instance, VP Internal Affairs is responsible for Governance, VP University Affairs is responsible for advocacy and representation, as it was collaborative before the President's leave. Spokesperson duties are taken by the Executive Committee, all matters are approved by the Executives collaboratively. If Councillor Saad seeks more information, he can refer to the SSMU website.

Question:

Member of the gallery Kim, asks if it is true that SSMU employees are not permitted to speak to the press. They ask if employees can speak to campus newspapers about issues that fall outside of their portfolios, if they have personal grievances. They continue and ask if it is true, and how the policy is to be interpreted so that SSMU employees cannot speak to the media at all.

Answer:

VP External answers to the best of his ability that SSMU staff's responsibilities are to fulfill and mandate what is stated in their job descriptions and that is why the policy exists. Fulfilling their mandate is their first priority, and speaking to the media is not their responsibility, rather the responsibility of spokespeople. He asks VP University Affairs to add on and to clarify.

The Speaker adds that the issue of confidentiality is important as well, and considering that the Society is like a corporation, confidentiality must be kept in mind.



Question:

Councillor Wan states that at the previous Legislative Council meeting, a Councillor amended several fee renewal and fee increase motions in an effort to increase transparency. However, on the referendum ballot, five of the six fees that were involved in the amendments did not provide budgets. They ask how this happened, and what SSMU will do to solve this issue.

[The Speaker notes that the Proxy for Councillor Javed, Adin Chan, arrives at 18:56.]

Answer:

VP External responds and thanks Councillor Wan for moving the amendments mentioned in their question. He states that he is not VP Finance but reiterates what VP Finance stated, considering the short amount of time before the referendum, it was not feasible to include the fee changes for the mentioned motions. He states that it is a great motion and will hopefully be included in the Winter Referendum.

Question:

Councillor Saad asks that, considering that SSMU employees are paid tens of thousands of student dollars per year, under an impeachment process, what would happen to the funds used to pay the President's salary, and if there would be a difference in what happens to the money in terms of an impeachment or a resignation.

Answer:

VP External responds and encourages Councillor Saad to refer their question at the next meeting, when VP Finance is present or to send him [VP Finance] an email. He answers that when an Executive position is vacant, the funds, which are public and equal to \$32,000 per Executive, the remaining funds would not be actively paid to the resigned employee. If no one is elected to replace the President, and if their workload must be broken down among other Executives or Councillors, a bonus may be given to those who were appointed to take on the extra work. However, if someone else were to be appointed as president, it would be his belief that that person would receive the salary.

Question:

Member of the gallery Popple asks a question in response to VP External Affairs' answer. They state that, as they understand that institutional memory is difficult to maintain year to year, especially since SSMU has one-year terms, they state that Executives should be informed about the scope of their portfolios, when they run for the position and once they have started



to occupy it. A proper understanding would entail the knowledge that the press is autonomous of the SSMU. They ask if institutional memory is the primary reason for this situation playing out this way, they inquire if SSMU is interested in establishing a policy or infrastructure to inform employees about the relationship between SSMU and the media.

Answer:

VP University Affairs answers that, because the outgoing executive team trains the incoming team, she believes that it is important that they make clear the way to best SSMU staff and how to communicate with the media. It should be a larger part of Incoming Executive training, and states that while the Communications department does a comprehensive training at the beginning of each term, it isn't the same as suddenly being in the semi-public eye as an elected individual. She apologizes if she misinterpreted the question, but believes that this is an important part for the training of future Executives.

The Speaker adds that if the campus medias feel as if they are more qualified to host this training for SSMU Executives, this could be implemented for future training. She continues to state that the question period has elapsed, but supports a motion to extend it as there are many questions and she wishes that everyone gets the time to ask their questions.

Councillor Saad motions for the Question Period to be extended by five (5) minutes, seconded by Councillor Wan. The Question Period is extended.

Question:

Councillor Tiniacos asks if the SSMU President is being paid during his absence.

Answer:

VP University Affairs responds that any information about compensation during a period of leave is confidential and apologizes that she cannot answer.

Question:

Councillor Tiniacos asks, in order for Councillors to hold Executives accountable, they must know what is going on. Since the information is confidential, they ask if the matter be further discussed in a confidential meeting with the Legislative Council, since Councillors don't have any information.

Answer:

VP External Affairs responds that it is his belief that the terms of the President's leave and the scope of his leave is confidential because it pertains to a Human Resources (HR) matter and an



individual's personal knowledge. While he understands Councillor Tiniacos concerns, at this time it is an HR matter so it's not the Executives' place to provide that information.

Question:

Councillor Wan asks, in follow-up to their previous question, seeing as there was a discrepancy between the motion passed at the Legislative Council and at the Board of Directors meetings, regarding the demands for the campaign chairs and what they brought forth to the referendum, were the requests brought forward or communicated to the campaign chairs? He clarifies if the campaigns were made aware that they needed to include a budget for the Referendum questions?

Answer:

VP University Affairs states that the question would be better addressed through an email to either the Parliamentarian, the Speaker or the Governance Manager to ensure that up-to-date information is conveyed, which is typically the responsibility of one of those roles.

Question:

Councillor Saad states that, apparently, there was an "Abolish SSMU" protest in front of the Roddick Gates the previous night. He asks if anyone knows what was going on, and whether it was a student-led protest or what it is in relation to.

Answer:

VP University Affairs states that she has no information about it, but the right to peacefully protest is very important in Canada. She states that if anyone involved in the protest has any information that they would like to convey to SSMU, that they care about it and would like to hear it, so that they can respond. There is no issue with people voicing their opinions regarding the SSMU.

VP External Affairs adds that he thinks that Executives urge whoever was involved to come forward to speak about the content of the protest, why it was organized and maybe executives can put concerns to rest or work with the people involved with the protest to remedy what they believe is wrong with SSMU.

The Speaker states that if there are any more questions, four (4) minutes remain in the Question Period.



Question:

Member of the Gallery Popple asks for a clarification. They were told that SSMU employees are contractually obligated not to speak with the press, but they have spoken to employees who are not sure that that mandate is in their contract. Additionally, they believe that since Executives have not mentioned a specific article since November 2021, rather referred to the Employee Manual, they inquire if there is any way for Executives to confirm that such a clause exists.

Answer:

The Speaker answers that the Employee Manual must be signed by employees, so that is what executives mean when they mention the contractual agreement. The specific clause has been in the Employee Manual for years, so if employees do not know about it, they haven't read their signed contract. All employees must sign the Manual. If this clause was not respected in the past, it was a breach of contract on behalf of the SSMU employees.

The Speaker states that seeing no more questions, they will move out of the question period and into the reports by committees, the next item on the Agenda.

Councillor Tiniacos motions for the Confidential Session to be moved to the present time, before the reports by committees, seconded by Councillor Saad. VP External Affairs opposes the motion.

The Speaker reminds members of the Roberts Rules, that in order to approve a motion, $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Councillors must be in favour of the motion.

Councillor Saad states that since there are Members of the Gallery present, moving the Confidential Session would require them to leave and return for the reports, which would be difficult and complicated.

The Speaker agrees, but states that they could notify the members of the gallery once they return to the Public Session, if the motion passes.

VP University Affairs states that, with the polling feature, it is impossible to differentiate between people who can vote and people who cannot (Councillors vs. Members of the Gallery). She proposes that they use Google Forms instead. She motions for a five-minute recess in order to create the form and decide whether to breach the Robert Rules.

The Speaker asks if Councillor Saad removes his second, to which he answers yes. The Speaker requires another seconder. Councillor Wan seconds the motion to move the Confidential session on the Agenda.



The Speaker asks if they are in favour of a five-minute recess to create the Google Forms, to which VP Student Life seconds. The Speaker states that she requires for someone to move the motion, and VP University Affairs motions it.

[The Speaker starts the five-minute recess, time unknown.]

At the end of the recess, the Speaker asks all Councillors to vote on the Google Form.

The motion to move the Confidential Session fails, with only 67% of people voting in favour of it.

10. Reports by Committees:

a. Executive Committee

The Speaker presents the report, in her capacity as VP Internal Affairs, on behalf of the Executive Committee and states that much of the Executive Committee's role is approving job descriptions and hirings, and that has been what has been going on the past few meetings. They have approved minutes, new job descriptions for new projects, MSERT instructors, they purchased a laptop for a new employee who needed one, new porters and Gerts administrative assistants so that Gerts can remain open later.

There are no questions on the Executive Committee report.

b. Equity Committee -- **POSTPONED**

The Equity Committee Report is postponed.

c. Gender and Sexuality Advocacy Committee -- **POSTPONED**

The Gender and Sexuality Advocacy Committee Report is postponed.

d. Indigenous Affairs Committee -- **POSTPONED**

The Indigenous Affairs Committee Report is postponed.

e. Students' Society Programming Network

The Speaker presents the report in her capacity as VP Internal Affairs. She states that SSPN has met six times, and shows the meeting attendees the members, who were all selected by herself and the Internal Logistics Coordinator. Their goals for this year are to provide cheapest prices possible for students, and ensuring that COVID-19 safety is respected, so that they can bring back all the SSPN traditions. They are trying to do more training, so they did a general training before Halloween, since



SSPN only started meeting in October and thus only had a month to prepare. They are hoping to have more specific training before Fac-O, involving event planning and drinking culture. For Halloween, they hosted a Britney Spears themed bar crawl, which was a success. They felt this would be a safe event to host given that it was in small groups (10 people per group and six (6) locations), and included an after-party at Topsy Cow. They had 150 participants, pre-made teams, and very little interactions between the teams. The event was a success, generating a lot of positive feedback from participants and they are looking forward to the next event, Faculty Olympics, planned for March 8 -12, 2022. They have started planning it and the Hype-Night, and graduation Frosh in May 2022. The sub-committees have been created and they are now trying to figure out a theme and the logistics of the Faculty Olympics.

VP Student Life congratulates the SSPN on the success of the Halloween event.

There are no questions on the report of SSPN.

f. Finance Committee -- **POSTPONED**

The Finance Committee Report is postponed.

g. Community Engagement Committee -- **POSTPONED**

The Community Engagement Committee Report is postponed.

h. Environment Committee

The Speaker states that Councillor Holton was supposed to present the Environment Committee report, but she is unsure if his Proxy wishes to present on his behalf.

Proxy Franceschini presents the report. He states that the report is detailed and the Environment Committee has started with a slow start. They are focusing on recruitment, which he believes is going well as he has seen some emails showing this. Students and members who need assistance with any environmental projects or wish to become part of the committee can be directed to the Arts and Science representative at SSMU.

There are no questions on the report of the Environment Committee.

i. SSAMMOSA Committee -- **POSTPONED**

The SSAMMOSA Committee Report is postponed.

j. Comité des affaires francophones



La vice-présidente (affaires internes) présente le rapport. Le Comité des affaires francophones a terminé le recrutement pour la session d'automne, mais il reste encore des sièges vacants, comme présenté dans la liste de membres. D'un autre côté, la vice-présidente des affaires francophones ainsi que la commissaire aux affaires francophones ont fait des changements aux termes de référence (terms of reference) au Conseil législatif, il y a quelques semaines. Ceci a causé un peu de retard au Comité. La rencontre aura lieu le 13 novembre sur Zoom. Le comité a travaillé sur le recrutement, malgré qu'il a eu un peu de retard avec les applications. Le Comité a très hâte de travailler ensemble et aurait des projets pour la francisation, un projet commencé l'année passée.

k. Black Affairs Committee -- **POSTPONED**

The Black Affairs Committee Report is postponed.

l. Services Review Committee

VP Student Life presents the report. VP Student Life states the members (Services Representative to Council, VP Finance, Services Finance Commissioner, Member-at-Large, Service Administrative Assistant) and they have had two meetings. Their goal is to review the accreditation of services to ensure that all students' needs are met, and that the group is meeting their mandate. They are having performance evaluations, where they go to services and events and experience the event, and fill out a form, a listserv and a report. The report needs to be reviewed when they go to Services and events. There are no new amendments to the Constitution, and it has not been reviewed yet. VP Student Life states that she has been to two (2) events and some of the Councillors have as well. The Committee also uses a grading system to evaluate the services and events.

m. Accessibility Committee -- **POSTPONED**

The Accessibility Committee Report is postponed.

n. Affordable Student Housing Committee -- **POSTPONED**

The Affordable Student Housing Committee Report is postponed.

11. Reports by Councillors:

a. Councillor Yu (Dentistry)

Councillor Yu states that there is an issue that has been brought up, and even though it is not explicitly the SSMU's responsibility to manage the issue, they included it in the report, for completeness's sake. They add that the VP Finance would like to ask if the Dentistry Student Society (DSS) can submit (instead of audited statements), notice to reader statements or review engagement statements. They are aware that these statements may be of lower quality than the audited statements, however it saves them a lot of money. As a relatively small organization, it seems counterintuitive to them to



produce these statements that use almost half their funds. For committee activity, they are still in the process of applying to the Funding Committee, there are kinks to work out schedule-wise, so they are not officially in the Committee, so that is still to be discussed. The Health and Dental Committee has not met yet, and Councillor Yu is part of this committee, and he has not been reached out to yet for a meeting. For the Senator Part, the report was given last week during the Senate meeting. CAPs Advisory Group has reached out to Councillor Yu, and they gave them three (3) dates for meetings. However, two (3) of the meetings are during their class time, so they cannot meet at that time. They are in the process of rescheduling the meeting.

b. Councillor Zhang (Management)

Councillor Zhang is at the same meeting at VP Finance, which is why she is absent this evening. Person Saad will present the report on her behalf. They state that not much has happened since the last meeting/MUS report, but they have been keeping up with student surveys, talking to students about MUS, the SSMU, the referendum and elections, and trying to get students involved with student government. Councillor Saad states that many students dislike the Desautels curve, and people want the return of 4 à 7 at Gerts. The Management representatives are working on adjusting the curve after many student complaints, so they are speaking with their faculty and VP Academic is taking the lead. They are also working on a midterm feedback form, to know where students are at halfway through the semester. They are making sure that they are being sustainable, and their sustainability team is working on many sustainability proposals. Councillor Zhang is working on a financial tutorial with the VP Finance, to let students know what fees they can opt out of. They are doing an Internal Clubs Leadership Workshop, which they believe is happening at that moment. In terms of events, they have Carnival, Hype Week, Cami Lite and one other event almost completed. They have raised over \$30,000 in donations in one hour, which they are happy about. Also, they heard that Noah Centineo donated over \$1,000 the previous night, since he met a few Desautels students at Topsy Cow bar. 4à7 at Gerts is being discussed, but will probably not happen in the near future. CASCO is scheduled for November 13, and if any meeting attendees are interested to let their constituents know, as it will be a great event, and it raises money for the Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation. They are keeping their eyes out for new travel advisories from the government, in terms of competitions that they want to do abroad. In the future, Councillors from different faculties should be scheduled to present reports further apart from each other. They believe it would be a lot more productive and more informative.

There are no questions on the report of Councillor Zhang.

c. Councillor Coussa (Arts)

Councillor Coussa states that the AUS Executive Committee has been meeting on a weekly basis. Exciting news includes they have decided what to add regarding the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) negotiations, and have reached an agreement with the university which would involve some positive changes regarding SNAX. Councillor Coussa states that she does not want to jinx it, but they will announce the changes once they are official. They have met with the Arts Faculty Council and the



Curriculum Committee. During the AUS Legislative Council meeting, Councillor Coussa brought forward a motion against Bill 2, and she would encourage every faculty representative to issue a similar condemnation, and she will be reaching out to them. Further, she is currently working to make naloxone training more accessible on campus, and if anyone is interested she asks that they message her. She has attended SSMU Steering Committee and Francophone Committee meetings, and she is currently focused on Bill 2 advocacy. Finally, she has met individually with the Dean of Student and advocacy groups.

There are no questions on the report of Councillor Coussa.

d. Councillor Liao (Education)

Councillor Liao states that the Education report is quite heavy. They say that the EdUS is currently seeking a second Equity Commissioner to join the already standing one at council. The motion for the second Equity Commissioner is currently being written. They are hosting *SPEAQ on Campus* this year and they are representing McGill, in partnership with Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue. All the positions for after the Fall 2021 elections have been filled, other than the Chief of Wellness, which has been taken over by interim by their VP Internal. Concerning academic affairs, the EduBuddy program, the Education Faculty's mentorship program, is running smoothly, as is the PedTalk event with Alex McComber, about the history and education of Kahnawake. During their short-term as Interim External, Councillor Liao started an initiative for a student-for-a-day, which will serve as a test for upcoming years. They have been part of the Mobilizing for Milton Parc initiative, and have donated a few boxes of socks, which is part of their Socktober initiative. EdUS is raising money for Movember through 150 km of walking and running, an apartment crawl and four members of the faculty growing mustaches. Further, the EdUS is organizing a Fun Run with SATEK the following weekend (November 13). As for VP Finance, they have completed the 2020 audit, which is impressive according to VP Finance. VP Internals planned Frosh, and it went very well, despite COVID-19 restrictions. Second-year Frosh went well too. They have also hosted two online events, one of them being a movie night, which were successful as well. Three Detention Dens (the Education Faculty's bar) have been hosted at Topsy Cow, the first one being only EdUS, the second including EdUS and PTOT, and the third including more McGill students. They will happen every two weeks, so Councillor Liao invites members of the meeting to attend. FYRE Committee began this week and has two events being planned. SAPEK and EdUS are planning a holiday event. Finally, VP Student Wellness is organizing a Student Wellness Bin, and they are planning to give out care packages during the Fall 2021 exam season. They are also planning an online event, which is yet to be determined. Councillor Liao asks that for any questions, they be contacted by email or Facebook, or to go to their office hours on Wednesdays.

e. Councillor Wan (Medicine)

Councillor Wan prefaces his report by saying that he will be also be presenting on behalf of the Outaouais Campus, as he hopes that by the following Monday, Councillor Beaulieu-Shearer will be a member of Legislative Council [after the results of the Fall 2021 Referendum are released]. The



Medicine Student Society (MSS) has their General Assembly on November 30, and they have MedGames coming up, a sporting competition involving all the Medical schools in Canada; it was originally planned for the first weekend of January but was postponed due to COVID-19. In terms of past events, they had Frosh in mid-August, made up of one night of online events and three days of in-person, socially distant events, which was a great success. They also had a General Council meeting on September 14. Motions discussed at the meeting included a motion to fund the class of 2024 banquet. Discussions included one to improve MD and PhD representation on the medical council, social events for the upcoming year, and the induction of the Sustainability Standing Committee. The fall retreat took place on October 2, and there were many great workshops led by fantastic individuals to acquaint council members with each other. They also had their Halloween party on October 30, at Riverside, which was a successful event. The first-year Medicine students have been having their own post-exam events, such as park hangouts or evenings at Topsy Cow. The second-year students have their White-Coat Ceremony a few weeks before the meeting, and Councillor Wan congratulates them. The third-year students have relaxation events such as yoga in the park. The fourth-year students have a program to help each other apply to residency programs. Councillor Wan wishes them good luck with applications. In terms of initiatives, they have elected their Med1 Class Council and VP Global Health Junior. The Sustainability Standing Committee is starting their campaign this year, and it is going well. The Faculty of Medicine also has a record number of clubs this year, 71. In terms of finances, they have been transitioning from audits to notice to reader statements, as they are more feasible and less expensive. They are also transitioning from RBC to Desjardins, because Desjardins does not charge as many fees. In terms of IT, MSS fixed their website after a year of it being down, and they are continuing to advocate for CFMS, FMEQ, GAAC and IFMSA. Campus Outaouais will be presenting a new feature of their campus, hopefully quite soon. The Health and Dental Review Committee has not met yet, as Councillor Yu mentioned previously. Councillor Wan is continuing to serve as Director for the Board of Directors.

There are no questions on the report of Councillor Wan.

f. Councillor Eiley (Nursing) -- **POSTPONED**

Councillor Eiley's Report is postponed.

g. Councillor Desrochers (Law)

Le conseiller Desrochers explique que la Faculté de Droit a organisé leur propre Frosh, avec beaucoup de ressources, car ils ont voulu faire des activités supplémentaires pour les étudiants de deuxième année, qui n'ont pas eu leur propre Frosh l'année passée 2020-2021. Il y a eu aussi la cérémonie de la Journée nationale de la vérité et la réconciliation, mise en place par le AÉUM et le Comité des Droits Autochtones, et après la cérémonie, il y a eu une marche au Centre-Ville. Par la suite, il a eu une conférence en présentiel avec le Juge Jamal de la Cour Suprême, qui s'est bien passé. Il y a aussi eu un événement d'Halloween, un atelier de sculptures de citrouilles, qui a dû être changé dans les jours avant l'événement, dû à certaines malchances. Par contre, l'événement s'est bien déroulé. La Faculté



de Droit essaye de tenir de plus en plus d'activités en présentiel, notamment les Coffee House hebdomadaires. À présent, il n'y a malheureusement pas de chance que l'événement soit mis en présentiel, mais ils cherchent à le tenir en présentiel pour la prochaine session d'hiver. Finalement, l'Association Étudiante de Droit (AÉD) essaye de remettre les Mardi Moka, où les étudiants en droit peuvent discuter avec des cabinets d'avocats, en présentiel, mais les sessions restent à distance pour l'instant.

Il n'y a pas de questions sur le rapport du Conseiller Desrochers.

h. Councillor Awan (Clubs)

Councillor Awan presents himself as one of the two (2) Clubs representatives this year. He states that contact by email is the preferred method of communication. He continues by saying that the Clubs Committee has held three (3) meetings this semester. He states that he was a Clubs Representative last year, and the Committee has extended their meetings to 1.5 hours to be able to review through more applications. While they also have a newer process, the administrator has set up a faster voting process to get through more applications, which is going well considering that the previous year, they could not get through all the applications by the end of the term. Everyone has been brought up to speed about the new process and they moved on to reviewing Clubs statuses and applications. They also started going through constitutional amendments. The applications are going well, most are being approved and those that are not are sent back with feedback, so a given Club can modify their applications. In terms of constituent feedback, they received good feedback about SSMU training. Clubs that were not able to attend SSMU training were sent recordings of the training. The first Activities Night did not go as planned, but Activities Night 2.0 was held. He heard that there were difficulties with the virtual part, but they were resolved after the first day. Overall, he believes that the in-person activities night was much better, as students were able to talk with clubs much easier, however, attendance was lower than in pre-pandemic years, according to SSMU documents. According to him, 3000 people attended Activities Night when it was hosted in the Fieldhouse, and that was not the case this year, they were probably around a few hundred students over the three days. The other Clubs reps will give feedback and consult clubs to get numbers up for the Winter 2022 Activities Night, whether it is through advertising or getting the word out. They hope to have it on campus, and will speak to VP Student Life about the logistics.

Question:

VP External Affairs asks if Councillor Awan had the chance to bring up the concerns included in his report at the Clubs and Services Committee meeting, to the VP Student Life, as that would be a good platform for discussion.

Councillor Awan asks for clarification.



VP External asks for a Point of Personal Privilege, and the SSMU Speaker grants it. He continues that, regarding Councillor Awan's points about attendance and the low rates, he wanted to confirm if he [Councillor Awan] has had the chance to speak with the Clubs Committee or with the VP Student Life.

Answer:

Councillor Awan states that the November 5 meeting was the only meeting that occurred after Activities Night, and that he will mention his concerns at the next meeting. He thinks the other Clubs Representative has been in conversation about advertising for the next Activities Night.

There are no further questions on the report of Councillor Awan.

12. Executive Reports:

a. VP External Affairs

Le VP affaires externes explique ce que le département a fait au cours des dernières semaines. Il dit que la majorité de leur travail concerne le cas de l'hôpital Royal Victoria, car l'équipe présente sa position à l'OCPM le soir de la rencontre du conseil législatif. D'ailleurs, une des conversations particulièrement importantes reste la question du logement étudiant abordable, spécialement avec les partenaires avec qui le département communique constamment. De plus, le VP a travaillé sur la présentation pour la semaine de mobilisation UCRU. L'initiative des Prix des affaires noires a été encouragée par la commissaire pour récompenser la communauté étudiante membres de groupes minoritaires et leur donner une voix sur le campus. Le département des affaires externes, avec l'aide du département de communication, a reçu comme date limite le 20 janvier pour changer son site et augmenter sa présence en ligne afin d'accroître l'accessibilité pour les membres de l'Association. Le département des affaires externes travaille avec UCRU pour agrandir le comité qui s'occupe de leur aspect français. L'équipe a aussi décidé de déplacer la semaine de mobilisation au début janvier et de la faire en ligne, pour des raisons d'accessibilité. Elle a aussi voté sur les trois priorités de mobilisation qui seront discutées, soit le soutien pour la communauté étudiante en situation de handicap, la santé mentale, ainsi que l'aide financière et l'emploi du corps étudiant. Le VP continue en disant qu'étant donné que l'audience avec l'OCPM est le soir même, l'équipe a travaillé sur un mémoire qu'elle va présenter. En ce qui concerne la gouvernance, le VP aimerait accueillir la nouvelle coordinatrice des affaires externes, pendant que le département embauche plus de personnes. Finalement, le VP affaires externes a eu la chance de rencontrer le président des affaires étudiantes de l'Université McMaster, et comme d'habitude, ils ont souligné quelques-uns des comités les plus importants.

b. VP Finance -- **POSTPONED**

VP Finance's Report is postponed.



c. VP Student Life

VP Student Life states that Activities Night 2.0 went well, they had 198 groups presenting in three days, and had 1,612 students who participated, which is incredible considering the circumstances. They started planning the Winter 2022 Activities Night, and they will do it over 3 days in January and will have Activities Night after hours. Services can book 3501 Peel for the first time, which is great news, and services can have spaces to do training, meetings, et cetera. Miscommunications regarding finances and alcohol approval were troubleshot, ensuring everyone is aware what is and is not approved. They increased capacity in the University Centre, where one-meter distancing will be enforced, allowing them to increase bookings for events and meetings. In collaboration with the Events department, they created easier guides for groups to create events and what forms need to be submitted. The Wellness Hub representative is back from vacation, and they are working on the scope campaign for the Wellness Hub. Further, the Mental Health Outreach Commissioner is working on their own project with Greenhound, which is a program to promote health and wellness. The Mental Health Academic Commissioner is working on the teaching awards and the academic wellness proposal, and they are going through many meetings to ensure that everything is ready for February. Amendments to the internal regulations of the Student groups were finished, which they have been working on since June and will now be sent out to the Committee so they can review it. It will be presented at the Legislative Council a few weeks from now. With Clubs representatives, they will rebrand the Student Life website. They had their committee meeting the previous Friday and it was decided that they need to increase visibility of Student Life on campus, and make sure that it is accessible to everyone. Currently their website is very confusing, so they will be working on this in the weeks to come. They now have a rebranded SSMU Student Life site, and everything relating to Student Life will be posted on their Instagram account. Lastly, under miscellaneous, they are partnering with Lobby, which is a platform to have online events, and Bricks, to give students a discount on housing in Montreal.

Councillor Wan asks if, for the new University Centre guidelines, social distancing is reduced from two meters to one meter. VP Student Life answers yes.

Councillor Wan asks who was consulted before the decision was made, as they believed two meters was still the recommended distance.

VP Student Life answers that she was also under the impression that two-meter distancing was appropriate, which is why it took them so long to review capacities. They spoke to McGill, and they are having no distancing in classrooms and the protocol for events is one-meter distancing. They spoke to inspectors from the city of Montreal to get a final opinion, and they said one-meter is appropriate. They also consulted their lawyers to ensure that one-meter is appropriate.

d. VP University Affairs

VP University Affairs states that the mandated University Affairs role is to attend many meetings and to have many little things to do, so the report is different from others'. She has been working on



supporting the Gender and Sexuality Commissioner with the QUIPS Fee Campaign, which was a question on the referendum and remains impartial to meeting attendees' opinions on the issue. She encourages everyone to inform themselves about all the current referendum questions. She continues that they have been assisting students with Fast-Pass sticker information, and they are not using it at SSMU currently, so they need to make sure that students are aware of the sticker and make sure that everyone has correct information. Moving forward, they will be looking to incentivize students to get flu shots, by offering them on campus and reducing barriers to access. However, there won't be any campus clinics this year, but they will be organizing other initiatives to ensure the success of the campaign. She urges everyone to get their flu shot. She attends meetings weekly notably, the University Health and Safety Committee met to discuss a university-level vaccine mandate, endorsing at as a committee, however the statement that was put out was not insisting on a mandate, rather reiterate McGill's policy, which is that a mandate would be put in place if it was operationally and legally justified. They have checked in with the Menstrual Health Team, and they are currently working on a period product pantry pick-up program, where individuals can pick up larger quantities of menstrual products rather than the occasional one on campus. They are excited to be launching that initiative. She had two (2) check-ins with the Dean of students, and was introduced to the Coalition against Bill 21, and is very excited to be a part of it. She checked in with the Indigenous Affairs Commissioner, they have some candidates to interview for a new role within the portfolio. She has had other check-ins with the Menstrual Health Commissioner and the Library Improvement Fund Commissioner, who are continuing to advocate for prayer spaces on campus, unfortunately it is a difficult question to ask due to the lack of space in the library. One of the bigger things this week was working with the coalition against Bill 2, and VP University Affairs thanks Councillor Coussa for her help with that. There are also members from UGE, Queer McGill and Queer McGill Trans Working Group who are working on this project. There was also a meeting of the USAP/PASL working group, which is discussing the timeline for the reception of feedback during a course, and retroactive accommodations, which is the new policy that will be implemented and will dictate how assessment works at the university level, which is very important and it has been through many consultations. They have been interviewing candidates for an additional Menstrual Products Coordinator role, and some other governance issues are in the report. Involvement in advocacy was mentioned earlier, and the SSMU babies trick-or-treated in the SSMU office the previous week, which was a success, and VP University Affairs worked as a barista during the opening of Gerts Café, on the previous Monday. They are looking for a Councillor to join the Menstrual Health Budgeting Committee, to help with finances and logistical goals for the next few years.

Question Period:

Question:

Councillor Wan asks if, when VP University Affairs says that she wishes to incentivize flu shots, seeing as most students do not fall under the Government of Quebec's free vaccination plan,



does the SSMU plan to provide monetary support for students who want to get a flu shot, and if that is how the campus committee usually works.

Answer:

VP University Affairs responds that she cannot speak to how the campus committee has worked in the past, but she says that she was in communication with the Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning) about having an on-campus clinic and was under the impression that he tried very hard, but unfortunately the campus committee has more important priorities this year, which is understandable. The details are still being ironed out, but the goal is to provide Uber gift cards to students who say that transportation and time are barriers to getting vaccinated, much like they did with the COVID-19 vaccination initiative. She wishes that they could provide cash payments, but it is not feasible. She is hopeful that the Uber gift card will reduce the cost, time and energy that goes into getting a flu shot.

There are no further questions on the report of the VP University Affairs.

e. VP Internal Affairs

VP Internal Affairs presents the report. She notes that she has been working on a Gerts social media plan to assist the Bar Manager, as well as planning Gerts week (planned for the following week), as dancing is now allowed in bars in the province. Gerts is planning a bid event that will end in a Burnout Ball. She encourages everyone to participate. She has weekly check-ins with the bar manager, planning for the Gerts Café opening, which was successful. She also did Gerts inventory. For SSPN, the Halloween event took place and was a huge success. They are now planning the Faculty Olympics, which will be held between March 8-12 2022. They have interviewed candidates for additional positions, which she forgot to include in the report. They added three (3) people to the team, since the Faculty Olympics is a big endeavor. She checked in with the Commissioner of Francophone Affairs, and their first meeting is planned for the following day. For Alumni Affairs, MASEC 2021 was the previous Tuesday, and it was successful. Nothing much has happened with communications, but for graduation photos, she encourages all faculties to sign the MoA, so that students can book their seats. For First-Year Affairs, they finally met, and they are planning their first event for November. They also discussed finances with VP Sader, and everything is going well, and are focusing on advocacy this year. The Sustainability Committee has met twice to discuss their plans, and they have 21 members at large, and they did a great job recruiting those members and they are hiring that week. For Governance, she dissolved BOMCOM, as it was not working properly anymore. She amended the Comprehensive Governance Review Committee and made it the Governance Reform Committee, and wrote many reports for the current Legislative Council meeting. They have been brainstorming constitutional reforms, and she asks that if anyone has thoughts for the reformation of the constitution to reach out to her, and she will put them in contact with the Policy Advocacy Coordinator. They finalized the SSAMMOSA Committee, and they will be meeting as soon as possible, and they are planning for the President's Roundtable to discuss COVID responses, so they are planning for their first meeting. Under



miscellaneous, she met with McGill administration, had a Human Resources check-in, and they were introduced to Lobby, she was interviewed by the McGill Tribune for McGill COVID-19 Response and had a check-in with the Building Director about University Centre tenants progress dissolved the Building and Operations Management Committee (BOMCOM).

13. Confidential Session: 20:14

The Legislative Council enters into a Confidential Session at 20:14.

14. Adjournment: 20:17

The Legislative Council returns to Public Session and adjourns the meeting at 20:17.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric S".

Éric Sader, Vice-President (Finance)

APPROVED