



# SSMU LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PUBLIC MINUTES

March 24, 2022

The regular monthly Legislative Council Meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) will be held by teleconference, on March 24, 2022 at 18:00.

1. Call to Order: **18:10**

The Speaker calls the meeting to order at 18:10 on March 24, 2022.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Speaker presents the Land Acknowledgement.

3. Attendance

The Speaker reminds everyone that Councillors that their preferred pronouns can be recorded, and if they would like to change them to contact [governance@ssmu.ca](mailto:governance@ssmu.ca). The Speaker notes that the President will be absent tonight, as he is serving on the Board of Governors.

Present are: Councillors Coussa, Infeld, Javed, Gurung, Holton, Djoussou, Beaulieu-Shearer, Dakdouki, Thomas, Desrochers, Saad, Wan, Khodadadi, Eiley, Liao, D'Amore, Khamis, Qazi, Perez Tiniacos, as well as VP Heisele-Cubilla, VP Paulin, VP Delouvrier, and VP Sader.

Absent are: Councillors Yu, Murakami, Belia, Applegate (Sophie Vagarti is the proxy), Zhang, Zveiris, Claret, as well as VP Downie and President Daryanani.

4. Adoption of the Agenda – **ADOPTED**

Councillor Coussa adds a discussion point regarding the Provost's recent statement.

The Speaker asks if this discussion point can wait until after the question period.

Councillor Coussa asks if they can do a question period at 19:00, and the discussion at 20:00. The Speaker accepts.

Councillor Coussa adds a motion of a joint statement from SPHR McGill and SSMU.



The Speaker asks Councillor Coussa to correctly format the motion and send it to the Steering Committee.

Councillor Coussa states that she does not have a motion ready.

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**Question:**

The Speaker asks if the motion will include a statement and asks for something to be done.

**Answer:**

Councillor Coussa answers yes. She adds that she would like to discuss the legality surrounding the provost's statement. She also requests that political campaigners would like to attend the meeting, and asks if she can send them the link.

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The Parliamentarian asks Councillor Coussa if she has anything to add for point 12.f.

Councillor Coussa clarifies her addition.

The Speaker states that he would not allow it under typical circumstances, but will allow the Political Campaign Coordinators to join the meeting due to the changing circumstances. He asks her to send him their names and email addresses.

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**Question:**

Councillor Gurung asks if the Speaker can clarify whether it is appropriate to discuss legal issues, since the Board of Directors usually deals with those.

**Answer:**

The Speaker answers that they will keep the point, and Councillor Gurung's point can be brought up during discussion.

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Councillor Tiniacos asks, because all of these new points concern the disagreement between SSMU and McGill, and many aspects of the disagreement are confidential, if the Legislative Council can help with this issue.

The Speaker asks Councillor Tiniacos to rephrase the question.

Councillor Tiniacos rephrases the question.



The Speaker answers that the Legislative Council can discuss the issue, but only with the information they are privy to. Any individual who is privy to other information should not be discussing this topic, and the Speaker encourages these people to recuse themselves during these discussions so as to not influence debate. For a motion, he would highly encourage this, but less so for a discussion point.

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**Question:**

VP External Affairs asks if the Dais and Councillor Coussa could rephrase Motion 12.f, considering there is not currently a statement on the issue.

**Answer:**

The Speaker states that the motion will stay highlighted on the agenda until the dais receives the proper format from Councillor Coussa.

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Councillor Coussa states that she has received many emails and messages from constituents concerning the legality of the Provost's statement, and believes it is their [Council] duty to represent them.

The Speaker calls Councillor Coussa out of order.

Councillor Coussa asks to change the wording of the motion when she starts to write it.

The Speaker answers that this name is only a placeholder. He asks that the motion keep the general idea of the placeholder name, so that the agenda can be adopted.

The Speaker asks if there are any further changes to the agenda.

VP Finance motions to adopt the agenda as distributed, seconded by VP External.

Councillor Tiniacos is opposed to the adoption of the agenda.

The Speaker entertains a vote on the adoption of the agenda.

VP External asks if they can highlight what they are voting on.

The Speaker clarifies that they are voting on the adoption of the agenda, and will vote on a better name for the highlighted motion later.



The Speaker states that the vote needs  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority to pass, and asks all Councillors and VPs who have the right to vote to vote using the yes/no buttons on Zoom.

There are 16 votes in favour and 3 votes against.

The Agenda is adopted.

5. Adoption of Minutes:

a. Legislative Council Public Minutes 2022-02-17 – **APPROVED**

The Speaker presents the minutes for approval. He asks if there are any changes to the minutes.

Councillor Djoussou asks to make a change on page 11. He states that the fee he mentioned was put in place in 1984, and has not been an issue since 1984.

There is no opposition to this change. The Speaker notes this change.

Seeing no further changes to the minutes, they are approved as corrected.

6. Report of the Steering Committee

The Speaker states that the Steering Committee met on March 15, 2022, and all were present except Speaker on Call Parsons and Councillor Coussa. There were no guest speakers. The Committee reviewed three (3) motions, which are noted. One motion was rejected as it was unconstitutional, and the movers and seconders were contacted. Two Notices of Motions were reviewed and voted on. With the SSMU Legislative Council reaching its last session, they will be sending a closing form by next week, to be completed by Monday, April 4, 2022 that way the data can be presented at the final meeting. The form will be anonymous. He reminds everyone that reports are important, and consequences by the Internal Regulations and the Standing Rules for absent or late reports. He notes that there is no confidential session tonight.

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**Question:**

Councillor Coussa asks if, after the question period, the Speaker could clarify for the Members of the gallery when they have the right to speak, because she has received a lot of questions about it.

**Answer:**

The Speaker answers that he can remind them when the report is done.

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**Question:**

VP Internal Affairs asks when the Steering Committee is setting the timeline for motions for the next Legislative Council, given that it is 2 weeks away instead of a month.

**Answer:**

The Speaker answers that it was not set, but typically the deadline would be this weekend. If this is not convenient, emails can be sent to the Committee concerning motions that people would like to present.

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The Speaker states that members of the gallery are allowed to speak whenever everyone is allowed to speak, the best way to do so being raising their hand and waiting until the Speaker calls on them. When there is a question period, members should ask questions addressed to someone rather than make statements. When there is a discussion, members will be able to discuss. If there are any points, the two most common ones are: points of parliamentary inquiry, for questions to the Speaker or the Parliamentarian; and if there is something against the rules, they can call a point of order.

He also mentions that the default speaking time is 1 minute, except for reports where it is 3 minutes. This can be changed with a motion.

7. Announcements:

a. Statement by the President

The Speaker states that he will read the President's statement on his behalf. It is transcribed verbatim:

*"Dear Members of the McGill Community,*

*Unfortunately, I am unable to attend this evening's Legislative Council Meeting as I am acting in my official duties as Governor of McGill University. As such, I have requested the SSMU Speaker to read the statement on my behalf.*

*I would like to take this opportunity to address the communication entitled "SSMU referendum outcome" sent by the Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning) this afternoon.*

*On March 21, 2022, in a [referendum](#) that saw overall turnout of 16.5%, the results regarding the SSMU's adoption of the Palestine Solidarity Policy" passed with 71% majority in favour, and 28.9% in opposition.*

*The next morning, on March 22, 2022, the Deputy Provost sent me a Notice of Default in regards to our [Memorandum of Agreement \(MoA\)](#) with McGill University, citing that:*



*“in no way can such a policy be considered to “facilitate communication and interaction between all students from all McGill communities” or to “act in the best interests of [SSMU’s] Members as a whole”. It will also clearly lead to discrimination based on characteristics such a race, national or ethnic origin, and religion.”*

*As a student union, we require a certain degree of autonomy to effectively carry out our roles, and we fear that the statement made by McGill University severely encroaches on this ability. The fact that Deputy Provost’s written communication publicly states his intent to terminate the Memorandum of Agreement is of particular concern.*

*In regards to the referendum results, we would like to remind you that SSMU’s regulations include an [Appeals Process](#) (Section-07, article 4) for decision and conduct regarding elections and referenda, which can be requested by any SSMU Member to the [Judicial Board](#) by submitting a petition. The deadline to submit a Petition regarding the results of the Winter 2022 Referendum is March 26, 2022.*

*At this time, the SSMU leadership will be reviewing the remedies requested by McGill University and any appropriate action that may be taken, will be communicated to the SSMU Membership, when applicable.*

*Best Regards,*

*Darshan Daryanani, President."*

[End of verbatim transcript.]

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**Question:**

Councillor Coussa asks if the Speaker could send a link to the statement, as he read it a bit too fast for her.

**Answer:**

The Speaker apologises, and states that he will be uploading the statement to the shared Legislative Council drive. He put it under reports for now, but will create a different folder after the meeting. He shares the link in the chat.

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The Speaker states that the announcement period is specifically for announcements from councillors to the student body. Any questions can be posed in question period.

Councillor Coussa announces that the Motion [re: Statement] is ready, and she asks one of her peers to second the motion. She reminds everyone that seconding a motion does not mean that they agree with it, but it means that they agree it should be debated upon. She sent the motion via Zoom chat to



the Speaker, and asks him to share it via chat. She will be mindful of discussion, and wants to be sure that everyone's opinion is heard.

The Speaker states that he will pull the Steering Committee into a breakout session to approve the motion and put it into the shared drive. He will wait to do so until the end of the question period.

VP External seconds the motion.

The Speaker states that VP External should send Councillor Coussa a message regarding this matter.

Seeing no further announcements, the Speaker opens a breakout room for the Steering Committee.

#### 8. Question Period:

##### **Question submitted by a constituent:**

*“There’s been a lot of talk against SSMU due to the referendum on the Palestine Solidarity Party, even calls to defund or dissolve SSMU in the media because of said referendum. Other than media pressure, has McGill University (the administration, governance, or the directors) been pressuring you in any way to rescind the vote? What contracts or legal agreements do you have with McGill that could make it so that they force you to rescind it?”*

##### **Answer:**

VP Finance answers that McGill University has been pressuring them to do something about the vote. From a legal perspective, their relationship with McGill is governed by agreements, and outside of that there are laws about the operations of student unions (Loi 32), which gives them power to collect fees. They have an agreement with McGill, and an outside legal agreement about that. He doesn't know if they can force SSMU to rescind the vote, but they are doing everything they can to get answers from the student body.

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The Speaker states that he has received a question through the chat. He reminds everyone that questions can be sent through the chat.

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##### **Question submitted by a constituent (for VP External):**

*« L’université a envoyé un courriel dans lequel elle dénonce que la politique de solidarité avec la Palestine, votée démocratiquement par L’AÉUM, ne divise pas la communauté McGillloise. Croyez-vous que cette intervention de la direction est légitime, et comment réagissez-vous à cette intervention? »*

##### **Réponse:**



VP Externe répond que le VP des finances a répondu à cette question le mieux possible. À cette heure, l'université met l'AEUM en pression pour changer le vote ou le contenu de cette politique. Il ne faut pas oublier que c'est une politique qui a été adoptée avec 71% en faveur par le corps étudiant, alors peu importe les chemins qu'ils suivent, il faut garder ce fait en tête. À l'heure, il leur manque encore une consultation avec leur équipe d'avocats pour connaître leurs options légales envers McGill et leur corps étudiant. Il espère qu'ils et le Comité exécutif pourront répondre à toute les questions très bientôt.

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The Speaker reminds everyone of the 1-minute speaking time.

**Question:**

Councillor Coussa asks the Executive Committee if the University has a say in student politics, and if they regulate what the student body has to say. As VP External Affairs said, the vote passed at 71%, so it is clear that this Policy [Palestine Solidarity Policy] is a policy that students want, so she asks if the University should have a say in the way they advocate.

**Answer:**

VP Finance answers that the University should not have a say in what SSMU does, and the University doesn't have a legal right to do so, or determine what is or is not an acceptable stance to hold. SSMU is not allowed to violate their own Constitution, and the conversation is that the policy needs to be determined in its constitutionality within the Judicial Board. McGill has the ability, through the Memorandum of Agreement, to hold SSMU accountable to their Constitution, which is what they are doing at this time.

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**Question:**

Member of the gallery Hakawati asks if the SSMU or McGill University have the right to hold a political opinion towards students, or in general. On March 23, there was a message regarding the war in Ukraine, which is a political message, and this solidarity referendum is a political and non-religious, contrary to what the provost said. The Member asks what the legislative standing on political opinion, and asks how it impacts the current referendum.

**Answer:**

VP Finance answers that SSMU has a right to make political statements, as defined within the constitution, since their mandate concerns student politics. It can be more or less obvious, and that right is constrained within a few policies, most of which are in the constitution or the MoA. In general, they are restricted by the constitution and the judicial board's internal regulations. So, when a political statement is made, it must exist within the restrictions.

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**Question:**

Councillor Gurung asks if the Judicial Board has the final say on whether this violates the SSMU Constitution, or if McGill's authority supersedes that of the judicial board. In the case that the board rules this to be in line with the constitution, she asks what the repercussions in terms of violating the memorandum.

**Answer:**

VP Finance answers that the Judicial Board has the authority to intercede on these issues. The board has a hearing to listen to both sides, and then makes a decision, which must be ratified by the Board of Directors. If the decision is not ratified by the Board of Directors, the judicial board's decision gets ignored. McGill can claim that a constitutional violation has happened, and in those cases SSMU would be in violation of the MoA. When that happens, SSMU has the choice to change their structures to agree with the administration, or they can test the structures and say they are not in violation. Following that, there is a third-party arbitration, which will determine whether or not they are defaulting the MoA.

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**Question:**

Member of the gallery Geneviève states that she is Jewish, and is appalled at the University's interference and its blatant attempt to undermine student democracy. The Member urges members of SSMU to stand up for the student body and for Palestinian human rights. Geneviève asks the members of SSMU what the plan is to stand with the students, who overwhelmingly voted in favour of this policy, what is SSMU planning on doing to push back against the university's interference, and if a timeline can be given for action around this issue.

**Answer:**

VP Finance answers that it is not his job to represent his own political opinions in any situation, and is not taking a political stance at the meeting. His job is to represent the political views of the membership. The next step will involve talking to legal counsel and figuring out what they can do.

Councillor Coussa answers that although she sits on the Board of Directors, her role as a councillor is to represent the interests of the student body. Since she is in favour of this policy, she believes it is her job to support it and the agency of Palestinian and SPHR McGill students, and students who stand in solidarity with these groups. As such, she put forward her motion regarding the joint statement between SSMU and SPHR McGill.

Councillor Gurung answers that she is also a director, and a Judicial Board ruling would be the next step, and the Board of Directors will decide where to go from there. At this point, it is very ambiguous what the next steps can be because some determinations are unclear. She will try to be as accountable to the students as possible, and try to give them as much information as they are able to.



**Question:**

Member of the gallery Couture states that the Deputy Provost claimed that this motion, which passed democratically through SSMU, was undemocratic because it “would stir divisiveness.” This is not something anyone is surprised to hear, as it is commonly spoken about divisively. However, if they are to assume that anytime Palestine or Israel is brought up, it creates divisiveness, should the SSMU and McGill not hold themselves to that standard too, and they [McGill and SSMU] should divest from Israel and Zionism positions. Or, they ask if should it only be taken as divisive when Palestinian voices are being heard.

**Answer:**

Councillor Gurung answers that the issue within SSMU is whether or not this motion is akin to a BDS motion, which is unconstitutional per the 2017 Judicial Board ruling. Whether or not the Deputy Provost alluded to the divisiveness as the issue, that is not what the issue is in this case. The Judicial Board should to rule on whether this issue is similar to the BDS ruling.

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The Speaker states that they have elapsed the question period, but it may continue if there is a motion to extend it. He reminds everyone that the next point on the agenda is discussion, so they can go back and forth during this time.

Councillor Coussa motions to extend the question period by 1 minute.

Councillor Gurung motions to extend the question period by 7 minutes.

The Speaker asks Councillor Coussa if she is amenable to that.

Councillor Coussa seconds the 7-minute extension.

Seeing no opposition to this motion, the question period is extended by 7 minutes.

The Speaker reminds everyone that he asks if anyone is opposed rather than having a vote on every motion.

**Question:**

Councillor Coussa states that the last Judicial Board ruling stated that BDS was not unconstitutional, so to say that is untrue and ambiguous. She asks VP Finance if they can make this process of figuring out the legality of the provost’s statement as transparent as possible, and if they could share findings and legal counsel. No matter what they believe, this is what students want, so they should be as transparent as possible.

**Answer:**



VP Finance will be as transparent as possible, but confidentiality is not a choice. For example, Councillor Coussa can bring the issue to the public session of the Board of Directors meeting next week. VP Finance has no desire to keep things under wraps when it is not required. It may be required in some cases.

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**Question:**

Councillor Gurung asks if anyone can elaborate as to what makes the BDS ruling [2016] ambiguous.

**Answer:**

VP Finance answers that, from his understanding, SSMU cannot take a specific stance that targets a specific country. For example, they can't ask to divest from a specific country.

SSMU's Political Campaign Coordinator Andreas answers that the Judicial Board ruled that the specific BDS motion [2016], which had been passed at the time at the 2016 General Assembly and then failed to be ratified, was declared unconstitutional because it specifically called for SSMU to campaign against a specific nation. However, in the same motion, the Judicial Board also specified that it was not making a ruling on the BDS ruling in general. This seems confusing, and this is why the Judicial Board issued different rulings that clarify the position. One of the rulings was the reference regarding the applicability of the Society services of the 2016 (BDS ruling) reference, regarding the legality of the original motion. They quote the decision: "*SSMU services are permitted to adopt political positions insofar as doing so does not contravene the Society's governing documents, and furthermore, as this Board clarified in the January 2021 reference regarding interpretation and scope regarding the legality of the BDS motion and similar motions, adopting a position toward the BDS movement is not categorically prohibited by the constitution or the Equity Policy.*"

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**Question:**

Councillor Tiniacos poses their question to the Executives. He states that under the MoA, there is a lease agreement for the University Centre. The Councillor asks if this lease agreement could be found anywhere, and if not, when the agreement is supposed to expire or be renewed.

**Answer:**

VP Student Life answers that it is not a public document, and will expire this May 2022. Per the MoA, the University must renew the lease per request.

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**Question:**

Councillor Gurung asks a question on behalf of Councillor Saad, since he is not present. The question is for VP External and reads: “A recent McGill Daily article cited allegations against a white member of the SSMU Executive, claiming that they had said some very racist things that offended numerous people. While the article does not expressly mention it, rumours have been circulating that these lines are about VP Delouvrier. My question for him is what does he have to say about these rumours and are they indeed about him?”

**Answer:**

The Speaker calls this question out of order in accordance with the Standing Rules 2.8.3, on spreading malicious rumours. It cannot be entertained.

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**Question:**

Member of the gallery Abuali states that VP Finance claimed that it was unconstitutional for McGill University to speak against a particular country. The Member asks what made it constitutional for them to speak about their solidarity with Ukraine.

**Answer:**

VP Finance answers that it is not McGill’s constitution but SSMU’s Constitution that prohibits them from speaking out about certain countries. This is specifically for divestment, as he knows SSMU has taken stances on certain conflicts before. The statement about Ukraine was from McGill, not from the SSMU.

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SSMU’s Political Campaigns Coordinator Andreas adds that the original 2016 Judicial Board Decision explicitly restricted the SSMU from campaigning against a specific nation, so there is ambiguity pertaining to the definition of “nation.” In the 2021 decision regarding the scope of the 2016 decision, it was specified that SSMU is allowed to take a stance against the governments of specific countries. They offer to post some of the rulings in the chat.

The Speaker states that if the Political Campaigns Coordinator sends him the rulings he can post them in the Zoom chat.

The question period has elapsed.

9. Discussion:

a. Regarding Provosts Recent Statements

Councillor Coussa states that her main concern with the recent statement and how SSMU will react to it is that, if SSMU complies with McGill’s demands, this takes away from student agency and from what



they want. They would become dependent on the needs and stances of McGill. It is important for SSMU and the administration to be independent entities, and for SSMU to advocate for the issues it believes in.

The Speaker posts the rulings in the chat.

Member of the gallery Hakawati states that the student body, whether they have voted in the referendum or not, are all waiting for SSMU's statement. He adds that social media is very active with the Deputy Provost's statement, and national and international media are interested in the situation. He recommends that SSMU take a very sensitive approach to the issue.

Member of the gallery Couture states that they are frustrated with the McGill Administration. What the Deputy Provost has done is a breach of power, and an abuse of his power over the student government. If it is indeed unconstitutional, that is up to the Judicial Board to determine. For an administrative executive from McGill to impose on the affairs of student government is reprehensible, and they implore SSMU Executives to call the Deputy Provost on this. The constituents do not want the administration to impede on the students' democratic affairs and on their student life.

Councillor Coussa agrees and endorses the previous statement. It is their duty to represent the needs and desires of students, and what they have tirelessly advocated for, such as this policy. She believes it is shameful that the McGill Administration is trying to censor student voices, and they must speak up about this.

Councillor Tiniacos believes that neither SSMU nor McGill would like to engage in a legal battle, so it is important to consider the legal risk of the situation. A lot of the current services and spaces SSMU provides are under the MoA, which could mean SSMU could lose spaces. Quebec Law requires that universities provide spaces for students.

Member of the gallery Couture wants to remind the members that this is not the first time that the provost has infringed on the Society's affairs. Two (2) years ago, he tried to unfairly influence the vote of the Executive Committee. The fact that the McGill Administration has a disregard for Palestinian students and their rights should not have an impact on the democratic functioning of the student government. This needs to be questioned and called out. The Member is fearful for both democracy and anti-racism on campus, because of the situation.

The Speaker urges everyone to refrain from targeting certain individuals in speeches. Broad language is preferred to avoid breaching the Standing Rules.

Member of the gallery Hakawati adds that the SSMU's legitimacy and credibility vis-a-vis students is at hand if the situation is not taken seriously, and dealt with quickly. He believes that SSMU is there to represent students, and knows that many would aim to not recognize SSMU after the Deputy Provost's



message. Many would want the SSMU terminated if the situation is not democratically representing student needs and wants, which would be of interest to the Legislative Council.

The Speaker states that they have reached the midpoint of the discussion time. Any time they use to continue discussing this topic will be taken from the next point. The time can be extended.

Councillor Coussa states that they should not be making decisions based on threats from the McGill Administration, because they should be representing the students' needs. She notes it is important to keep that in mind, and that they have been elected to represent the students. The Executives are paid with student tuition, so they must remember who they are representing, which are the students who voted in favour of this policy.

Member of the gallery Abuali asks if there have been past cases where the MoA has been threatened in the same way, and if SSMU Executives can speak to the extent of the damage that would be done should the administration terminate the MoA, with regard to student services.

VP Finance answers that he cannot discuss past situations, and it is important to recognize SSMU's dual mandate. They have a requirement to stand by student voices, but this situation is not a democratically concerned situation, it is concerned with the constitutionality of it. If it is unconstitutional, the SSMU cannot move forward with the Policy. The issue here is that McGill took a public stance saying that SSMU is in violation of their constitution and threatened to dissolve the MoA. This infringes on SSMU's rights as a student union and as an organisation.

Member of the gallery Hakawati asks to what extent SSMU will have access to the information concerning how specific rulings are made regarding the constitutionality of this referendum. He also asks if SSMU would be allowed to get a third-party legal counsel to confirm whether this aligns with the MoA and the agreements between SSMU and McGill.

The Speaker reminds everyone that SSMU is bilingual, so speakers can choose whichever language suits them best.

VP Finance answers that they have a law firm on retainer, and will hopefully talk to them as soon as possible. Judicial Board cases are public, and if confidential information is discussed it is done in confidential sessions, but the final ruling is made in the public session. He continues his earlier point that the issue has nothing to do with the policy violating the constitution. If it does, they cannot stand by it. The issue is that McGill is trying to infringe on SSMU's rights as a student union, which is established in Loi 32. If they were in violation of the MoA, the Administration could talk with SSMU about it privately. Public statements are completely unacceptable.

Councillor Coussa motions to extend the discussion time by five (5) minutes, seconded by VP External Affairs.



Seeing no opposition, the discussion period is extended by 5 minutes.

Councillor Coussa states that it is important to reflect on the history of student unions in Quebec. McGill is an anglophone university, but it's important to think about the students who have fought for their right as student unions. Second, she states that they all seem to agree that the statement is a violation of SSMU's agency, so she asks how they would feel about sending a statement pushing back against the MRO.

VP External Affairs echoes VP Finance and Councillor Coussa's points about the autonomy of student unions. He reminds everyone that SSMU and McGill do not want to have a legal battle, and thinks sending a statement could add fuel to the fire, when they should be focusing on the policy and how they can support students. If they did not breach the MoA, McGill has nothing to say about the issue.

VP Finance adds that it does not make sense to release a joint statement from SPHR McGill and SSMU, because this is a constitutional issue that needs to be dealt with through the Judicial Board. They are not in a position to make a statement. The issue right now is the constitutionality of the policy. What they can do right now is reiterate their right as a student union to take stances. We need to be clear that the way McGill told SSMU they were in violation of the MoA is completely inappropriate; it should have been done through a personal correspondence with SSMU's institutions.

Member of the gallery Hakawati answers VPs Finance and External Affairs. He states that they have all mentioned that a statement cannot be published, but stresses that the fact that this is a public statement does not mean that the mechanisms that are usually taken are appropriate in this situation. He agrees with the motion for a shared statement between SPHR McGill and SSMU. He also thinks that students have been integrated into this discussion through a statement, and it must be dealt with publicly in correspondence with students who have signed in favour of the referendum.

Member of the galler Abuali states that they feel as though SSMU and McGill are often viewed as a beast of bureaucracy, and as being very inaccessible to students. This is responsible for the lack of engagement between students and SSMU, because they feel like they cannot make a change. They understand VP Finance's desire to adhere to these mechanisms, but they often create a wall between students and SSMU. It is refreshing to see how ridiculous the Administration is, and they are in favour of a public statement.

The Speaker states that they have reached the end of the extension.

Councillor Coussa motions to extend the discussion period by 10 minutes.

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**Question:**

VP External Affairs asks if they can only extend for half the time of the previous extension.



**Answer:**

The Speaker does not believe this to be the case.

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VP External seconds the motion to extend.

The Speaker states that this is not the case.

Seeing no opposition, the discussion period is extended by 10 minutes.

Councillor Coussa motions to suspend the rules in order to motion to mandate the Executive Team, Councillor Coussa, and the Political Campaign Coordinators to write a statement condemn the provost's statement.

The Speaker states that the motion must be presented in the proper format, and it must be discussed by the Steering Committee before entering the agenda.

Councillor Coussa asks why this is not the case for the Board of Directors.

The Speaker answers that on the Board, they do not use the motion template because the Board is more casual, because it is a smaller group that deals with more day-to-day issues; and the issues that the Board deals with have to be more pinpointed, and they do not need the same specificity as LC motions.

Councillor Coussa asks if the Steering Committee can meet again and review any new motions that may come up, since they usually have a recess.

The Speaker answers that the Steering Committee is already meeting, and if Councillor Coussa would like to send another late motion that is acceptable. Afterwards, the rules can be suspended to add it to the agenda. He notes that there are rules concerning late motions, which will need to be discussed.

Councillor Gurung cautions against a joint SSMU and SPHR McGill statement, especially a motion mandating it. The Board usually deals with legal issues, and this situation has a lot of potentially complicated legal implications. She recommends waiting for the Judicial Board ruling, to allow the Board of Directors to consult with their legal counsel before making a statement that could put SSMU in a precarious situation vis-a-vis the MoA and the relationship with the university.

Member of the gallery Hakawati yields his time to VP External Affairs.

VP External Affairs agrees with Councillor Gurung, since fighting "*fire with fire*" is not the solution at this time. McGill has clearly shown that they are not willing to play by the rules. He agrees that a





statement should be made, he just does not think right now is the wrong time. It is the right time to consult with their legal team and figure out the right approach to interact with McGill. Once they are able to support all their students safely, they can respond with a statement. He does not want students to stoop down to McGill's level. This discussion shows that they will not stoop down to their level as well.

VP Student Life reminds everyone that legal fees are quite expensive, and student money will be spent. She encourages going through the proper channels, and releasing a statement later. McGill made a huge mistake, and SSMU has an ability to sue them. The SSMU can wait, and then release a statement rather than waste student money on a legal conflict with McGill.

Councillor Tiniacos leaves the meeting, time unknown.

Councillor Coussa states that she does not believe that silence is the right thing to do, being silent to the [McGill] Administration's intimidation would imply complicity. Any statement that SSMU might release would be vetted by the legal team, and she does not see a risk of being sued by the administration. She believes that SSMU should condemn what the MRO has said, because SSMU could lose their legitimacy in student eyes. The students are in support of this policy, and they need to support them at this time.

Member of the gallery Hakawati seconds Councillor Coussa's statement. 71% of students is not a number that can be neglected, it is a large number of students. He adds that this is not new, that the [McGill] Administration has constantly contributed to political division through public messages. The joint statement is a good idea, and it is imperative.

VP External Affairs states that he agrees that silence is complicity in this case, he just does not think a public statement is the right thing to do. The Executive Committee and the Board of Directors should respond to McGill. Should those responses be made public, legitimacy would not be lost. McGill has shown it is willing to be erratic, and SSMU must protect the services it provides. It must be responded to quickly, and he believes a statement with McGill SPHR McGill will be powerful, and it should be done once they have received legal input.

Member of the gallery Couture echoes the statements in favour of a SSMU and SPHR McGill statement. It is acknowledged that this message was violent and inappropriate, and leaves a lot of students feeling invisible, particularly Palestinian and other BIPOC people who worked to put this motion forward. The fact that it has not been given fair democracy is very telling to a lot of students. For the sake of the student body and to counter the harmful effects of the memorandum, and immediate response to condemn it is necessary.

Member of the gallery Abuali seconds the previous statement, and asks if it would be more effective for SSMU to send a response and frame it in a way that solely condemns McGill's violation of democracy, and leave SPHR McGill out of it.



Councillor Coussa answers that she wants to present two motions; the SPHR McGill statement motion and a motion where LC would draft a statement in response to the MRO. For them to be democratic, both motions should be voted on, and if they pass they will act accordingly. She reminds everyone that they have lawyers, and they will be sure to consult them on every step, to avoid making mistakes.

The Speaker exhausts the discussion point.

b. Legality of statement

This item is not discussed.

10. Presentation on SSMU's investments (VP Sader)

The Speaker calls for a five (5)-minutes recess.

Councillor Javed asks when the Steering Committee is meeting.

The Speaker answers that they are meeting after Agenda item 11.

VP Finance gives a land acknowledgement before his presentation.

The rules for investment include three; SSMU wants good return on their investment, they can't invest in anything that is socially irresponsible, and they must prioritise eco-friendly, labour-friendly and transparent companies. They also regulate changes. Long-term (risks or any investment longer than three (3) years) investments need Board approval, and short-term, low interest investments are managed by VP Finance. Divestment on specific investments can be ordered by the Legislative Council and the Board of Directors in concrete. He presents the current investments, which are available on the shared drive. They are divested from anything that contravenes any of SSMU's policies, and they try to target green energy companies for investment. Most of SSMU's business relationships are uncontroversial, and the biggest one is RBC, who is in charge of their banking. RBC has significant investments in tar sands, but most banks have these investments. The SSMU needs a bank and the difference between banks is a complicated conversation. It is a large task to switch banks, and it has been done before from Scotiabank to RBC, since Scotiabank was not doing a good job, which caused massive issues. Changing banks can be ordered by the Legislative Council and Board of Directors, but VP Finance does not think it is worth the effort. They do try to find ways to pressure RBC about divestment, but there is no bank that will strive for ethical investment like SSMU. VP Finance states that he cannot really pressure the [McGill] Administration to divest, since it's not specifically his mandate. He has tried, but has seen little success. It is outside his judicial duties. It's much more productive for the University Affairs portfolio to work on this. His main role in relation to divestment is advising the Legislative Council on the financial impact of divestment, and giving advice on potential divestments. He also advises on specific targets. VP Finance stands for questions.



The Speaker entertains a question period.

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**Question:**

Councillor Djoussou demande si tout l'argent collecté par les investissements va dans le coffre de l'AEUM, et aide à payer les salaires des employés.

**Answer:**

VP Finance answers that they have a fund for large-scale expenditures, and because they receive cash at very specific moments of the year. The investments go to this fund, and this money can be used to cover leases and deficits, which is completed during more expensive years. They do it this way because they are a non-profit organisation, so they cannot have a profit. This money is not distributed to faculty organisations, and they are completely separate. Staff are paid from the operational budget, which is separate.

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Councillor Coussa thanks VP Finance for his presentation, and notes that he is the only VP who complied with the motion set up by Councillor Coussa. She appreciates his work on this motion, it shows that he cares about what students want.

The Speaker calls Councillor Coussa out of order for this comment.

Seeing no further questions, the Speaker moves to the next point.

11. Recess, Consent Items

The Speaker explains that consent items can be found in the voting form, and all the motions presented will be voted on. If there is no opposition to the motion, it will not be debated on. If there is any opposition on approving an item by consent, there will be debate on that item. The Speaker notes that the recess may be longer than five minutes, since the Steering Committee will be discussing the late motions, which will not be put in the consent item form. The Speaker ensures that everyone has access to the form.

Councillor Djoussou asks the Speaker to put the form in the Zoom chat.

The Speaker complies.

The Speaker entertains a recess.



The Speaker notes that the Motion Regarding Statement By SSMU and SPHR McGill in Response to MRO was approved by the Steering Committee, and approved the Motion Regarding Statement by SSMU in response to MRO, but this one required a suspension of the rules to be added to the agenda. This took long because the Steering Committee ensures the constitutionality of each motion, and reviews it with the mover and the seconder to ensure that the motions comply with SSMU's laws. Today, the Committee accepted to surpass the Standing Rules to allow additional late motions. This was done because the motions are urgent and because the reason for the motions has come so late. He stands for questions.

Motion Regarding The Nomination of the Auditor for the 2023 Fiscal Year has been approved by consent vote.

Motion Regarding Accessible Libraries has been approved by consent vote.

The Speaker notes that for both motions, they only received 15 votes. He urges councillors to vote, as it is their responsibility.

Councillor Coussa notes that some people are still in the waiting room.

The Speaker answers that the waiting room is empty.

VP External motions to suspend the rules to add the new motions.

Councillor Javed seconds the motion to suspend the rules.

Seeing no opposition, the rules are suspended and the motions are added to the agenda.

The Speaker resumes parliamentary procedure and moves to the next point.

## 12. New Business:

- a. Notice of Motion Regarding Amendments to the Internal Regulations of Finance  
2022-03-24

VP Finance presents the motion. The changes are not significant. The first change is to be able to subsidise food for funding applications, because they are allowed to fund the applications, but there were many restrictions, so they fixed the wording to allow them to do this. The second change is to the Awards of Distinction Fund, to move them from short- to long-term investments, to make more money for the awards. They usually give between \$6,000 and \$8,000, and now they will be giving between \$15,000 and \$20,000. They developed a partnership with the Scarlet Key to hopefully be able to give undergraduate students bursary, and would be made up of the interest and the expenditures. They



would try to use up all the interest they earned over the past few years to support undergraduate students. There is no risk of doing this, and he invites everyone to read the changes made before the next session.

- b. Motion Regarding the Nomination of the Auditor for the 2023 Fiscal Year 2022-03-24 – **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

This motion was unanimously approved by consent vote.

- c. Notice of Motion Regarding the Adoption of a Media and Transparency Plan 2022-03-24

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**Question:**

Councillor Dakdouki asks if they can pose a question relating to the previous motion.

**Answer:**

The Speaker states that under the standing rules, no questions are allowed during this point on the agenda. He advises Councillor Dakdouki to send the mover or the seconder of the motion a message with their question.

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VP Internal states that this has been in the works for three months, and the goal is to implement a plan to grow the communications team. There are usually many things that SSMU does that students don't know about, or messages get out too late, which causes a lack of communication with the student body and the Executives. This plan aims to grow the Social Media team to make communications smoother. It also aims to implement a transparency policy, which would outline the steps of what it means to be accountable and transparent in the eyes of SSMU. It would also standardise the social media guidelines, so that everything is clearer to students. These are important steps to make SSMU better, that need to be put into internal documents, so that SSMU can be held accountable in the future. This would be a three-year plan, which possibilities for extensions each year, should new things arise.

This motion will be voted on at the next meeting.

- d. Motion Regarding Accessible Libraries 2022-03-24 – **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

This motion has been unanimously approved by consent vote.

- e. Notice of Motion Regarding Amendments to the Internal Regulations of Student Groups 2022-03-24



VP Student Life states that this document is used to govern student groups under and affiliated to SSMU. The last time this was amended was in 2019, and much has changed since then. The amendments are to reflect the current operations of student groups. This applies with the constitutions, and some changes were made in terms of terminology, and understandability. She encourages everyone to take a look at the motion. The SSMU did a lot of consultations, and tried to do it in a *bottom-up* manner to understand how student groups are operating and how to best support them. She is open to further amendments.

This motion will be voted on at the next meeting.

- f. Motion Regarding Statement By SSMU and SPHR McGill in Response to MRO – **TABLED INDEFINITELY**

Councillor Coussa states that this motion would mandate SSMU to respond, in collaboration with SPHR McGill, to the last MRO, which was unacceptable. This response would be read by lawyers. She does not have much to say about this motion because the team that has been tasked with the statement will have more to say. The statement would stand in solidarity with SPHR McGill.

The Speaker entertains a question period on this motion.

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**Question:**

Councillor Wan asks if March 28, 2022 is a reasonable timeline to receive a response from the legal team.

**Answer:**

Councillor Coussa answers that she is unsure, but believes it is possible to expect an answer by then. She would be amenable to modify the date to Tuesday, if that would give the legal team the time to respond to the statement.

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VP Finance states that the purpose of the communication is about the responsibilities of student unions to hold political stances, especially to how McGill publicly communicated this issue with them. He asks what is the purpose of the inclusion of SPHR McGill, given that they are not discussing the validity of the policy, but discussing the response of the university.

Councillor Coussa answers that she thinks that this motion is great, but they would benefit more from the second motion (Motion Regarding Statement by SSMU in response to MRO). A joint statement with SPHR McGill should come at a later time, once they have confirmed that the policy is in line with the constitution, or once they have confirmed that it is not. For now, she is more comfortable with the second motion that she has written.



Seeing no further questions, the Speaker entertains a debate period. He notes that VP External Affairs leaves the meeting at 21:08.

Councillor Wan states that within the Medicine Student Society (MSS), about one year ago, the student society passed a motion that prevented anything controversial from being passed without consulting the student body via referendum. As she was not given enough time to discuss this motion with his students, Councillor Wan will have to be voting in opposition on this motion. If he does have the time to discuss it with his students, he will reconsider.

Councillor Coussa thanks Councillor Wan for his comment. She states that the reason this motion came so late was because the MRO came as a surprise, so it was very reactionary. She understands the need to consult with the student body, but points out that in the referendum and the voting period, the Palestine Solidarity Policy was voted on and passed with 71%. The Faculty of Medicine also votes in SSMU referendums, so this indicates how the student body feels about this motion. She thinks that it would be better to hold off this motion for now, until they can confirm the legality of everything.

The Speaker states that the Dais suggests that this motion is tabled indefinitely.

VP Finance motions to table to motion indefinitely.

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**Question:**

Councillor Coussa asks if they table the motion indefinitely, if the motion would be presented at the next Legislative Council.

**Answer:**

The Speaker answers that tabling indefinitely is equivalent to cancelling the motion.

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**Question:**

Councillor Coussa asks if there is a way to ensure that this motion remains a discussion point, perhaps by sending it to the Board of Directors to vote.

**Answer:**

The Speaker states that they can table until the next Legislative Council meeting, since they are meeting in two (2) weeks. The other option is to table indefinitely, and Councillor Coussa can bring it to the Board of Directors for approval.

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**Question:**



Councillor Coussa asks if she can bring it up as a public motion.

**Answer:**

The Speaker answers in the affirmative.

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Councillor Coussa seconds the motion to table indefinitely.

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**Question:**

Councillor Wan asks if this motion is allowed to bypass the Legislative Council and be presented to the Board of Directors directly.

**Answer:**

The Speaker answers that the Board is the ultimate authority within SSMU, and he notes that it could be the case.

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Councillor Coussa asks if they can motion to defer to the Board.

The Speaker answers that this motion does not exist. He advises her to table the motion.

Seeing no opposition, the motion is tabled indefinitely.

g. Motion Regarding Statement by SSMU in response to MRO – **APPROVED**

Councillor Coussa states that this statement would be to condemn the MRO [McGill's Media Relations Office Statement of March 24] and the way it is being used to silence the student union. This motion would task the Political Campaign Coordinators, Councillor Coussa, and the Executives to draft a statement with the help of their lawyers to condemn McGill's statement. She thinks this is the right move for the union, because they can all agree that the MRO was unacceptable.

The Speaker entertains a question period.

Seeing no questions, the Speaker entertains a debate period.

Councillor Wan states that because of the MSS's policy, he is unable to take a position on this motion without consulting the student body via a referendum or General Assembly. He will be voting against.

Councillor Coussa encourages everyone to vote in favour of this motion, because the MRO shows that the Deputy Provost does not respect SSMU's agency and independence. It goes against what SSMU





stands for, and they would lose legitimacy to the student body if they did not publicly condemn this. Turning to this alternative is good middle ground and it is the right move for SSMU. Councillor Coussa adds that the student body has commented on how SSMU is disconnected from their needs, and she thinks that students are clearly against this MRO, and it is their responsibility to represent them and their interests, and to fight for their agency. She encourages everyone to vote for this motion.

VP Finance motions to vote by roll-call.

The Speaker states that they will vote using the normal form, and it is not an anonymous vote.

Councillor Coussa insists on voting by roll-call.

The Speaker asks if VP Finance would be amenable to voting by roll-call.

VP Finance would prefer to do a polling vote for the sake of time.

Councillor Wan seconds the motion to vote by the regular form.

Seeing no opposition to voting by the form, the Speaker entertains a vote.

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**Question:**

Councillor Djoussou asks if it is voting form #4.

**Answer:**

The Speaker answers in the affirmative.

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Councillor Dakdouki asks if the motion can be added to the drive.

The Speaker answers that it should be there.

The Parliamentarian adds the motion to the drive.

There are 11 votes in favour, 4 votes against and 2 abstentions.

The motion is approved.

13. Reports by Committees:

Councillor Coussa asks if they can table the reports.



The Speaker asks for a reason.

Councillor Coussa asks if the time is a reasonable reason to table the reports.

The Speaker states that the time limit is 22:00, and if they reach that time everything will be tabled. If everyone agrees, they can table the rest of the meeting.

Councillor Coussa motions to table the rest of the meeting.

The Parliamentarian notes that there are still reports from the last Legislative Council meeting.

Seeing no second, they continue the meeting.

a. Executive Committee

The President is absent, the Speaker asks if VP Internal Affairs would present the report.

VP Internal states that at the past few meetings, the Executive Committee has approved job descriptions, and approved a public position. They approved more contract renewals. There was no meeting on March 14. On March 21, the Committee approved hirings, the budget for McGill and Concordia's After-Hours event, and a few additional contract renewals. She stands for questions.

b. Community Engagement Committee — **POSTPONED**

The Community Engagement Committee report is postponed.

c. Environment Committee

Councillor Holton states that the Committee has been having more meetings, and they have 10 members attending. Executive recruitment has gone well for next year. They have hosted an online workshop, and are planning a clothing swap for the end of the year. There are also plans for a potluck for the committee members to mark the opening of the sustainable garden. They are planning for next year, and they hope to have more initiatives next year.

d. Mental Health Committee

The Speaker notes that Councillor Desrochers leaves the meeting at 21:30.

Councillor Khamis states that the Mental Health Commissioner has been looking into several initiatives, firstly the Wellness World, for services on and off campus. They hope to launch the platform next year. Student Suicide Prevention and Postvention Framework has been meeting to advise on the formalisation of this framework. KeepMeSafe is being promoted, and usage has increased but they are



still promoting the resources. The Student Wellness Hub Advisory Board also met, and they are working on resources. The wait time to see a psychiatrist has been lowered compared to last year. The Mental Health Roundtable continues to meet monthly, but attendance has been lower compared to in-person meetings. The Outreach Committee held a mental health action week in January, and had communications and events that covered a large range of topics, and they worked with the Wellness Hub and other groups to have workshops and talks. They had a fundraiser, and money went to Suicide Action Montreal, and they raised a few hundred dollars through plant and donut sales. They have been working on a merchandise design contest, and have received a few that will be printed on stickers. Proceeds will be donated to Dans la rue and the Native Women's Shelter. The Committee is also planning a second Mental Health Action Week in April. The Advocacy Committee has been working on a Strategic Plan for Academic Wellness, and the group is coordinating with Student Services and the administration. Consultations have been done with the goal of moving it to the Senate. They are compiling resources for easier access, and talking to OSD to find more information on note-taking. They are working on developing a Mental Health Teaching Award for faculty who are consistently supporting student health.

e. Comité des affaires francophones — **POSTPONED**

Le rapport du Comité des affaires francophones est reporté à la prochaine rencontre.

f. Equity Committee — **POSTPONED**

The Equity Committee report is postponed.

g. Funding Committee — **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

VP Finance presents the funding applications actuals, going over the various funds. The Club Fund starting balance is \$337,680.97 and they are closing in at \$289,046.88 since there has been little use due to COVID-19. There are solutions to deal with the surplus. He presents more applications. The Campus Life Fund was well-used, starting at \$172,588.59 and closing at \$116,110.94. This is generally used for events on campus that increase student life. The Ambassador Fund is used for trips that represent SSMU and McGill, and it started at \$175,818.43 and closed at \$157,529.32. The pandemic has also affected this fund. The Community Engagement Fund is for charitable events in the McGill community. It started at \$101,126.60 and closed at \$97,389.89. The Equity Fund, for equity policies, started at \$85,701.84 and closed at \$77,241.99. There was not much spending in the Mental Health Fund. The First Year Fund, the Environment Fund and the Space Fund have not been touched. VP Finance stands for questions.

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**Question:**

The Parliamentarian asks if the Funding Committee and the Finance Committee are two different committees



**Answer:**

VP Finance answers that they are completely different. The Funding Committee deals with funding applications and the Finance Committee deals with budgets.

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The Parliamentarian states that they emailed the Finance Committee and asks if they could respond, since they are unaware that they need to submit a report.

VP Finance answers that they will submit one for the next Legislative Council meeting.

The Speaker entertains a vote on this report.

Councillor Wan motions to approve by unanimous consent.

The report is approved by unanimous consent.

h. Indigenous Affairs Committee — **POSTPONED**

The Indigenous Affairs Committee's Report is postponed.

i. Students' Society Programming Network

VP Internal Affairs states that since their last report, where they spoke about the Halloween bar crawl, they have done an online Valentine's Day event, because it lined up with the reopening of things. They organised an online dating event, and those who came had a good time. They also did a FAKE-O, which included gyro and a power hour at Cafe Campus. It was well attended and a success. They are currently doing some ticket refunds and they will be going over exit reports. The last thing on their list is Grad Frosh, which will be at Riverside St-Henri and will be indoors and outdoors. Numbers, budget and more specifics will be decided on next week. She stands for questions.

j. Finance Committee — **POSTPONED**

The Finance Committee's report is postponed.

k. Health and Dental Review Committee

VP Finance states that the Committee has reviewed their fees for expansion, which were approved at referendum. They also had a legal protection program which has been forwarded to the Board of Directors for discussion, and a Protection Program that brought up some concerns, so it has been forwarded to the Gendered and Sexual Violence Policy (GSVP) Committee for advice. Decisions were made after an hour-long Question & Answer session, and they looked at numbers on usage rates to make some decisions. They are currently in an insurance re-negotiation period, looking at expanding services and increased access for doctors and pharmaceuticals. This won't raise costs too much due to the small population. The SSMU is also looking to expand mental health services, which will be costly,



as students seem to want more medication. They also want to increase subsidies for psychotherapy, which will be expensive as well. They are currently working on improving the mental health services provided to staff and elected officials, which they have been mandated to look into. They are also working on fighting new restrictions on student insurance, and they have managed to secure an insurance program for next year. VP Finance stands for questions.

I. SSAMMOSA Committee — **POSTPONED**

The SSAMMOSA Committee Report is postponed.

14. Reports by Councillors:

The Speaker asks if anyone would like to take a break before these reports.

Seeing no response, the meeting continues.

a. Councillor Pelletier (Engineering) — **POSTPONED**

Councillor's Pelletier's report is postponed.

b. Councillor Dakdouki (Clubs)

Councillor Dakdouki states that clubs are resuming in-person activities, and thanks everyone at SSMU for their help. She has been reviewing their position, and will be spending the next month on trying to improve the position by having a solid exit report, and talking to SSMU to see what their position is meant to do, and come up with goals and projects for next year.

There are no questions on the report.

c. Councillor Thomas (Environment)

Councillor Thomas states that McGill Environment Students' Society (MESS) has been meeting every Monday, and the events last semester were successful. A few people met for the climate march, and they did a thrift crawl in the Plateau, and a Prof Talk session on Zoom as well as a clothing drive. This semester they have done an inner-council showdown with other student societies, there was a Zoom baking event. They also did another Prof Talk session, and an alumni talk on Zoom. They have two events left; a picnic in April and a Gala at Thompson House on April 9, but these events may not happen. They are doing well with their budget, and they should be able to afford the events. They have sold hoodies and crewnecks, and executives were able to conduct interviews with the new professor at the School of Environment, and they have a full team with a new VP Communications and SSMU Representative. They also redecorated the lounge, and started using the space again. They have a committee that will reform the constitution, but that has not been finalised. They will attend the Susan Awards, and their elections are in the works.



There are no questions on the report.

d. Councillor Holton (ASUS)

Councillor Holton states that they have established an Equity Council, and they have equity training set up for next year. They updated their constitutions with new speaking rules to make meetings more casual. Elections closed on March 13, and they have had successful events such as a Hearts & Science crawl, and skate rentals. Some upcoming events include Darwin Day, a semi-formal and a visit to Lula Farms.

There are no questions on the report.

e. Councillor Claret (Services) — **POSTPONED**

Councillor Claret's report is postponed.

f. Councillor Infeld (Arts)

Councillor Infeld states that they have had two AUS LCs since the last SSMU LC, and 7 motions passed at the first one and 5 at the second. They elected a new executive, and their VP Internal and second Arts Senator were elected at LC. The transition work has begun for the new executive. Hirings have been done, and Grad Ball is on April 21. McGill 21 Panel happened that day, and it was successful. Councillor Infeld tabled at Leacock the day before, to tell students what was going on with AUS, SSMU and the Legislative Council. They sold some AUS mugs, and sits on the Steering Committee, who has had some late motions over email. He has not been able to attend the Arts Council recently.

There are no questions on the report.

g. Councillor Zveiris (Residences) — **POSTPONED**

Councillor Zveiris's report is postponed.

h. Councillor Khodadadi (Music)

Councillor Khodadadi states that they had care packages from MUSA, and they gave them to undergraduate students, which went well. They had elections on the previous Monday, and most VP positions are full, but they might have another election since a few positions are still available. Their constitution was re-written during elections. Both motions for MUSA Student Life Fund and the McGill Music Library Fee based. Schulich merchandise is back, since the producer finally got back to them. They are restocking, and will hopefully be able to reprice and sell it. They were going to plan a giveaway for St Patrick's Day, but not many Music students participated. They are currently planning a semi-formal, which will be a MEDUSA and MUSA collaboration, since they have a tight budget. She is on the sub-committee for the semi-formal, and they are having issues finding a venue for the date, and



they had to push the date back to April 22 because of the wave of COVID spreading in the Music Department. Councillor Khodadadi stands for questions.

There are no questions on the report.

i. Councillor Wan (Medicine)

Councillor Wan states that MSS recently held a winter referendum, which approved the motion to support the statement titled concerning immigration and the French language. The Faculty Association is also in the middle of elections. They had a clothing sale, and their fall General Assembly on December 12, where they had 2 motions. They had a general council meeting on February 3, and discussed 4 motions. Their next meeting is this upcoming Tuesday. The first-years are now in-person learning, and the second-years are starting clinical rotations, third-years are in the middle of clinical rotations, and the fourth-years are waiting to hear back from their residence applications. They are continuing to collaborate with the faculty for crisis intervention and postvention. MSS has a formal on April 2, a spring GA in a few weeks, a clothing sale in May and MedGames will be in May as well. This year, MedGames is at the University of Montreal, and many schools from around the country participate. Elections are ongoing, and the notice to readers is complete, they are transitioning from RBC to Desjardins, and they recently renewed their insurance. They are continuing to update their website, and the representatives are continuing to advocate.

There are no questions on the report.

j. Councillor Saad (Management)

The Parliamentarian states that Councillor Saad is not present, but his report is quite self-explanatory. If anyone has questions, they can reach out to him via email or by meeting with him.

The Speaker states that the report will be on the drive.

k. Councillor Bellia (Engineering)

Councillor Bellia's report is not submitted.

l. Councillor Applegate (FYC)

A Proxy for Councillor Applegate states the FYC has been meeting on Wednesdays and sometimes on Fridays. They are currently planning a Mental Health Week, which will be a collaboration with EUS Junior. They are planning to do another Gerts event. There will be an event at Topsy Cow in two weeks for first-years, but will also be open to other students. They got a few people from different faculties involved, so they can start having more events. They are gaining Instagram followers, and there will be a takeover on the SSMU Instagram account close to the Mental Health Week.



Councillor Wan asks to share the Instagram handle.

The Speaker asks that the presenter send him the handle so he can post it in the chat.

There are no questions on the report.

m. Councillor D'Amore (PTOT)

Councillor D'Amore states that the Council had a meeting on the 21st, and continued their bi-weekly newsletter via email, updating PTOT cohorts about what is going on. They were planning on having photos on the 21st, but it didn't happen since scheduling did not work. Co-presidents are revamping the website. Science Games were cancelled, and all activities planned for the end of the fall and beginning of the winter semester were cancelled due to COVID, but they hosted a webinar about rehab in January. They also participated in a Valentine's Day challenge, collecting donations for the Women's Shelter of Montreal. They raised around \$600. They had a clothing sale last semester and this semester. VP Internals planned a sugar shack the week before, which was a success. Councillor D'Amore sits on the Health and Dental Review Committee, and they have bi-weekly meetings. They stand for questions.

There are no questions on the report.

n. Councillor Tiniacos (Science)

The Speaker states that Councillor Tiniacos had to leave.

Councillor Khamis asks to present the report on his behalf. She states that at the SUS General Council, they approved motions relating to the electoral calendar, and a motion that mandates them to vote a certain way at the Legislative Council. The MoA between SUS and McGill was signed last month, and they had a poster showcase, which went well. They are discussing renovating the Burnside basement, and are looking for spaces for the SUS to operate next year. The VP Academic has been correlating with departments to set up a note-taking service. The McGill Biology department has collaborated with the OSD to offer free notes to students who need them, and SUS would like other departments to do the same. VP Communications had a successful Valentine's Day initiative. Elections just finished this week. The Science Internal Committee has been planning events which went well; a tie-dye night, an apartment crawl and there is an upcoming cafe crawl. The makeup for Science Games had to be cancelled, but Grad Ball is still running, and there is a spring gala. Clubs and services applications have been received, and the website has been updated with the new additions. Charity week was last week, and many funds were raised. They had a samosa sale and a plant sale. They also released a mental health video with a professor, which on the SUS mental health page, which was really popular. Social Sustainability had a seminar the previous week, in collaboration with some other committees and groups.





Councillor Javed congratulates Councillor Khamis on winning the SUS VP Academic position for next year.

Councillor Coussa also congratulates Councillor Khamis.

There are no questions on the report.

o. Councillor Gurung (Arts) — **POSTPONED**

Councillor Gurung's report is postponed.

15. Executive Reports:

a. President

VP Finance presents the President's report. Executive elections took place, and VP Finance congratulates all the winners. The referendum polling was not in at the time of the report. There was a Board Student Forum, to organise communications between students and the Board of Governors. There was a closed Board session, with a discussion about McGill as a global university. He presents the Senate documents. The President sits on committees, notably the McGill Advocacy Committee on Sustainability. He has meetings with the Deputy Provost and Student Life Provost. There are student concerns about COVID-19, concerning accommodations, and mask mandates given the spike in cases. VP Finance recommends that questions be sent to the President by email.

There are no questions on the report.

b. VP Finance

VP Finance states that cash flow is looking great, and he is preparing for next year's audit. Credit card reconciliations are almost done, and club credit cards have been received, and emails have been sent. Club audits have been submitted, and the accounting team is going through them. They are working on the 2023 budget, and are taking more time this year to make sure it is accurate. The executive budgets have been reviewed by the Finance Committee, and the draft of the budget will be reviewed by the Finance Committee next week. They are doing deficit strategy, since they have a surplus in the operating budget. They will use the surplus to cover next year's deficit. His prediction is a \$700,000 deficit in the numbers, but will be really much lower, since they are always too conservative with the budget. They have over \$1,000,000 in surplus, so it will be able to cover the deficit, and they will be able to raise the base membership to represent true numbers. They want to rework some budgetary methods, to make them more accurate. The Funding Committee is meeting, and they have been giving more awards of distinctions, and are hoping to get more by the end of the year. The motion concerning a telemedicine program passed. He sits as president of the daycare, and they re-evaluated staff and are working on an agreement with union representatives. He is working on budgetary practices, and is working on budget strategies. He is working on two motions to invest the surplus, and will try to



present it at the next meeting. He is also working on student insurance, and has secured a one-year extension. VP Finance stands for questions.

There are no questions on the report.

c. VP Student Life

VP Finance presents VP Student Life's report. She has been working on consultations, trying to provide archives for governance documents. SSMU is starting to see more extracurricular activities in-person. The Student Life department is hiring an Events coordinator, because they are getting busier. The Clubs Committee has not met in the past few weeks, but they have reviewed some club applications. They are assessing 3501 Peel to see if it will work for the daycare expansion. SSMU Awards are on April 6, and mini-courses have added tax workshops. SSMU Shop's virtual catalogue is going live next week, and hopefully the SSMU portal will be up by the end of the semester. The student life social media is having a lot of interactions. SSMondays have ended, since events have gone back in-person. VP Student Life is also working to amend the PGSS x SSMU MoA. VP Finance stands for questions, but recommends emailing VP Student Life for questions.

d. VP University Affairs — **POSTPONED**

VP University Affairs's report is postponed.

e. VP External Affairs — **POSTPONED**

VP External's report is postponed.

f. VP Internal Affairs

VP Internal Affairs states that Gerts Bar is now open at full capacity, but the Cafe is closed for the next week, due to staff shortages. Gerts had its St Patrick's Day event, which was successful, and are working on a patio project. She has been working on finishing her projects, the Media and Transparency Plan, the Anti-Surveillance master plan, Committee Reformatations, and SSMU Awards on April 6. The Legislative Council will vote on the awards, and then there will be a ceremony. FAKE-O happened, and was a success. She is working on Grad Frosh, and has a few meetings concerning alumni affairs in the coming week. Communications has been busy, because both employees are on vacations, so she has been doing social media and listserv check-ins. She has been working on excomm, and weekly meetings with the Dean of Students, and working on her exit report. VP Internal stands for questions.

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**Question:**



Councillor Javed asks the Speaker, since there was a motion mandating VPs University Affairs and External to present tonight regarding their advocacy for divestment, but they did not, if there are accountability measures.

**Answer:**

The Speaker asks Councillor Javed to send him an email concerning this.

Councillor Wan answers that accountability concerns are dealt with by the Accountability Committee, but he does not think they exist this year.

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The Speaker states that the Accountability Committee just gained enough members, and have met once and will be meeting again. The Speaker must check the Committee's terms of reference to make sure.

Councillor Coussa answers that the Accountability Committee would seek actions.

16. Adjournment: **22:22**

VP Finance motions to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councillor Dakdouki.

Seeing no opposition, the meeting is adjourned at 22:22.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Eric Sader' is written over a horizontal line.

Éric Sader, Vice-President (Finance)