



Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

Students' Society of McGill University

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SSMU LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PUBLIC MINUTES

February 9, 2023

The regular monthly Legislative Council Meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) will be held by teleconference, on Thursday, February 9, 2023 at 18:00.

Content Warning: mention of sexual violence.

1. Call to Order: **18:17**

The Speaker calls the meeting to order at 18:17.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Speaker presents the Land Acknowledgement.

3. Attendance

The Speaker takes attendance.

Present are: Councillors Mickelson, O'Boyle, Voustinas, Rustogi, Sakajiri, Tai, Dakdouki, Nam, Pollard, Reed, Thom, Wan, Dadulla, D'Amore, Adler, Whitcomb, Wang, President Wright, VPs Williams, Koulibaly, Pizarro, Masny, Yang.

Absent are: Councillors Djoussou, Syed, Thomas, Seth, Griffiths, Parish.

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

The agenda is distributed.

Councillor Reed asks to put the motions that concern the referendum at the beginning of the agenda, given its length.

The Parliamentarian states that they have been placed at the top.

The Speaker notes that the Reports are at the top, but they can be moved.



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Councillor Reed asks to enable the captions function.

The functions are enabled.

The Motion Regarding a Referendum Question on the Increase of the Midnight Kitchen Fee 2023 is moved to the beginning of the agenda.

Question:

VP External Affairs Masny states that a Notice of a Motion was sent to the Speaker, and they ask if it was received and will be included.

Answer:

The Speaker states that the Notice was sent at the last minute and was not reviewed. It will be reviewed and added to the agenda.

Question:

VP External Affairs Masny states that there was a Notice for the Grocery Program Policy, and it is not on the agenda to be voted on. They ask why the fee is on the agenda but the policy is not.

Answer:

The Speaker states that there are a lot of motions, and the Dais will add it during the Consent Item break or a recess.

Councillor Wan states that he did not hear any modifications that happened in-person.

The Speaker reminds those attending in-person to speak into a microphone or laptop connected to the Zoom meeting.

Councillor Thom states that the Francophone Affairs Committee submitted a motion, and she states that it is not in the Drive.

Question:

The Speaker asks what the name of the motion is.



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Answer:

Councillor Thom answers that she cannot remember, but it is about the Internal Regulations.

VP External Affairs Masny adds that it was about the terms of reference.

The Speaker states that this motion has not been received. It can be added as a last-minute motion, if approved by a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote. He advises against it, unless it is urgent.

Councillor Thom states that it is not urgent.

VP External Affairs Masny recommends that people come to the Speaker's microphone when speaking, because people on Zoom cannot hear anything.

The Speaker states that people will come speak at the microphone when speeches begin.

The Parliamentarian states that it is not because it had been modified many times.

The Speaker states that the Agenda will be displayed on the screen. During the discussion, students can ask questions and speak during debate period.

Councillor Dakdouki motions to adopt the agenda. Councillor Reed seconds the motion.

Seeing no opposition, the agenda is adopted.

5. Approval of Minutes:

- a. Legislative Council Public Minutes 2023-01-19 – **APPROVED**

The minutes are distributed. Seeing no corrections, they stand as distributed.

6. Presentations:

Content Warning: mention of SV

- a. [HAVEN](#)

Nelson Lee, the founder and CEO of HAVEN, states that the app is a campus safety app. HAVEN is under consideration by the SSMU Executive Committee, and will be voted on later tonight. It was started at



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the University of Toronto with backing from the University and sexual assault prevention groups across Ontario, after noticing that many students on campus were dealing with sexual assault and wanted a safe way to get home. Many current resources are on the reactive side, rather than providing resources for students to pre-emptively get help from security or emergency services, or family and friends. There was an incident at Western University last year during their orientation; if things are not planned correctly, a similar incident could occur at UofT. Universities need to step up their safety services. They looked at many surveys, such as one conducted by the Government of Ontario, which reported that 63% of students have experienced sexual assault or harrasment on campus. Students add their friends and family as Angels on the app, and then connect with campus police. The home screen is simple, and it was built with experts. When there is an emergency, someone clicks the green button and the app enters emergency mode. This mode alerts friends and family of an individual's location and status. Audio is recorded and is saved to the student's phone locally, which can be used as evidence or to bring back memories. In a lot of cases, there is no evidence to support students in court. In Canada, the bar to convict someone of sexual assault is very high, so having audio evidence allows them to report the incident. Students can also call their Angels in the app, which makes it easier and quicker to get help. Many incidents occur in a public setting, and members of the public may see the incident and not step in. In this case, the app plays an alarm to get people to notice or help the situation. The most severe mode is calling 911, and the app provides a script and geotags their location. This reduces the time needed for dispatchers to get to victims by 60%. There is a green button to contact campus police. Mr. Lee stands for questions. They are currently discussing giving McGill students a free trial for the remainder of the school year.

Question:

Councillor Reed asks if the four (4) steps are initiated by pressing the green button once.

Answer:

Lee answers yes.

Question:

Councillor Reed asks if the 911 call supersedes other calls taking place.

Answer:

Lee answers yes; when someone calls an 'Angel' the app calls the closest person. 'Angels' can also call 911 on the victim's behalf.

Question:



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Councillor Wan asks how the HAVEN app complies with data privacy and collection laws in Quebec.

Answer:

Lee answers that they offer the highest standards of data privacy. HAVEN follows the European Union's and California's regulations, which are the most stringent across the world. HAVEN does not sell any data, and cannot look at any identifiable data, because incidents are very personal. They have worked with data experts at UofT to ensure privacy.

Question:

VP External Affairs Masny asks if the app offers any resources other than campus security, police, and relatives. They ask if it has any way of using services that are local.

Answer:

Lee answers yes, they have built an education centre. Counselling support in the Montreal and McGill communities will be added should McGill start using the app. These resources will provide education on consent, relationships, as well as counselling opportunities. Safety is tackled from a two-pronged approach: prevention and education.

Question:

VP External Affairs Masny asks if there are any resources that can be used during an incident other than police. SSMU has a policy to reduce policing; it is often not the solution to sexual assault incidents. They also ask if there is interest to co-design the counselling with McGill students.

Answer:

Lee answers that students can put in another phone number than 911, if they are more comfortable with that. HAVEN has been working with safety experts across Canada to ensure that the app works as intended. If McGill students have feedback or suggestions, their impact would be appreciated. They want to make sure that students are happy with the app, since it is for them.

Question:

Councillor Reed states that the app has been used at Ontario Universities, and asks if statistics about users can be provided.

Answer:



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Lee answers that there are around 6,000 students using HAVEN, who have found the app through their student unions. They are hoping to have more and more students use it, because it is very beneficial.

Question:

Councillor Reed asks if 6,000 students have downloaded the app, or if they use it on a regular basis.

Answer:

Lee answers that 6,000 students have downloaded it. Since they do not track identifiable data, they do not know how many students currently use it. Reports from student unions show that students who use the app are happy with it.

The Speaker reminds everyone to avoid cross talk.

Question:

Councillor Wan asks if this app is available in French.

Answer:

Lee answers yes, they have worked with translation experts at Toronto Metropolitan University to translate the content for Quebecois users.

Question:

Councillor Whitcomb asks what consultations have done with survivors, and what feedback has been received.

Answer:

Lee answers that many consultations have been done, and they have partnered with orientation committees for first-year students to showcase the app. From those discussions, feedback has been positive. Many previous tools are reactionary, and people are happy to see a proactive approach. It empowers them to know that they can be safer on campus and get help a lot quicker.



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Question:

VP Finance Pizarro asks if HAVEN is a non-profit organisation.

Answer:

Lee answers that they are a for-profit organisation.

Question:

VP External Affairs Masny states that Lee mentioned campus security as an option, and they ask if these services are going to be trained to deal with sexual assault.

Answer:

Lee answers that they work with nonprofits to train services. Campus security would receive training from professionals.

The Speaker exhausts this point.

b. Student Federations (VP External Affairs)

VP External Affairs Masny states that part of their mandate is to collaborate with provincial and federal student associations, and there are new developments in this area. A student federation is composed of student unions and represents students at all levels. Federations work together to bring awareness to student issues. SSMU has been represented provincially, and QSU currently represents the Society. SSMU has had a hard time associating themselves with federations. Federally, they have been associated with many organisations but have disaffiliated with some. They also have relations with various federations. UCRU is made up of universities in the U15, who do the most research in Canada. They focus on financial aid and international students, as well as mental health and research opportunities, as well as access to education for Indigenous students. They have been collaborating with UCRU since 2020, and they are not looking to implement a fee. It is time to consider whether or not they want to affiliate themselves with UCRU, about \$0.50 per semester. They wish to consider affiliation, since it connects them to other student associations. A referendum could be proposed. On the provincial side, the body was meant to advocate for student rights by multiple student associations. Some have been working on a Charter to form a new student federation, and their Congress is happening in two weeks in Quebec City, with a fee of \$4.00 per semester. The new federation is not limited to campus student unions; department and faculty student unions can affiliate themselves with the new structure. VP External Affairs Masny recommends advocating for lower fees, and for more votes for campus unions, since they would have the same number of votes as faculty unions but represent more students. Some positions of the new federation are not specifically in favour of SSMU's positions. They can also help faculties and departments who are considering



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affiliating themselves with the new federation learn more about it. The next step is to discuss their positions towards UCRU and the new federation. They will work on influencing the new Charter, to push SSMU's point of view into it, and then consider affiliation. For UCRU, if there is interest, they can work on a referendum to affiliate. VP External Affairs Masny stands for questions, and hopes they can discuss their positions later this evening.

The Speaker entertains a question period.

Question:

Maya asks how many student associations SSMU is connected to through UCRU.

Answer:

VP External Affairs Masny answers that UCRU has a formal membership, and connections include UBC, UOttawa, McMaster, Western, Waterloo, Saskatchewan, Toronto, and Queen's.

Question:

Maya asks if there are any other Quebec universities in UCRU.

Answer:

VP External Affairs Masny answers that there are not.

Question:

Councillor Wan asks if VP External Affairs Masny is aware of the francisation of UCRU. 2 years ago, they were beginning the francisation process, and he asks if they have a full-fledged francophone equivalent for those universities and students.

Answer:

VP External Affairs Masny answers that most meetings are in English, and some universities have bilingual representatives. However, there is a bilingual committee who works towards making any publications available in French and English. McGill and UOttawa are both bilingual universities.

The Speaker exhausts this point.



7. Motion Regarding a Referendum Question on the Increase of the Midnight Kitchen Fee 2023 –
APPROVED

VP Finance Pizarro asks the Midnight Kitchen representative if they want to present the motion.

The Speaker states that they can, but VP Finance Pizarro must yield his time to them.

VP Finance Pizarro yields his time to the Midnight Kitchen representative.

The Midnight Kitchen representative presents the motion. Their fee is an opt-outable fee that was established in winter 2007. It is currently \$3.35 per semester (excluding summer). It is looking to be increased to \$8.00 per student per semester to reflect current food prices and to allow the services to expand post-pandemic. The Kitchen is an organisation that provides meal services to Montreal. They have provided free, balanced, vegan meals to 300 students every day, Monday through Thursday since 2002. They provided emergency food support to student and community groups during the pandemic. There is an increased demand for their services amid the pandemic and growing food insecurity. According to the Montreal Diet Dispensary, the cost of a minimum nutritional diet has grown from 10 to 15% in the last year. Pasta prices have increased by 116%, white flour by 200%, sugar by 25%, et cetera. In comparison to other programs, Midnight Kitchen has half the staffing budget, and 1/5 of the operations budget, which restricts their ability to serve the community. The representative emphasises that this motion aligns with SSMU's mission to provide outstanding services. There have been consultations with VPs Finance, External and Student Life as well as the Governance Manager. Should this fee increase fail, MK will have a budget that is increasingly difficult to manage due to mounting prices and salaries. The increase would allow them to cover a deficit that occurred because of the pandemic, and help them return to higher levels of service of better quality. They could improve and expand their services. The distribution of the fee increase would go to groceries, emergency gift cards for students, solidarity servings for community groups, transportation costs, honorariums for educational speakers. They also have a garden where they share urban agriculture education, and since they have volunteers, it is a great opportunity to connect over food and has created lasting relationships in the McGill community. Midnight Kitchen has existed for 20 years, and they need financial stability to be able to continue their operations.

The Speaker entertains a question period.

Question:

Councillor Fakih asks how emergency gift cards are provided, and what the process is.

Answer:



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The Midnight Kitchen representative answers that the program began during the pandemic, where many students expressed that they lost their jobs and could not afford food. They developed the program based on if students have dependents or not, and a McGill email address is required to receive the gift cards, so they can keep track of who has received a gift card.

Question:

Councillor Dakdouki asks for more detail about the COVID-19 deficit, since regular meals were not happening.

Answer:

The Midnight Kitchen representative answers that food prices have gone up, and providing bulk prepared meals is more cost-efficient than groceries. So, the grocery program is more expensive than simply providing meals. New expenses like transportation costs and delivery fees contributed to the deficit. There was also an unexpected drop in student fees and a delay in communicating this, because everything broke down and everyone worked from home. It was not clear how much money SSMU received. Since it was an emergency, they provided as much support as possible which led to a deficit.

Question:

VP University Affairs Yang asks the Midnight Kitchen representative to elaborate on the labour involved.

Answer:

The Midnight Kitchen representative answers that they have ½ the staff of Peoples Potato (a competitor). They manage the entire program, from picking up groceries to preparing the food and cleaning up. They also do finances and administration, and prepare workshops and consulting students on food insecurity on campus. They are very busy, and with a fee increase they could hire an appropriate amount of people so that the institution can continue. They would also be able to provide more student jobs.

Seeing no further questions, the Speaker entertains a debate period.

Councillor Wan thanks the Midnight Kitchen representative for providing a detailed budget.

Councillor Dakdouki motions to call the question. VP University Affairs Yang seconds the motion.



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Seeing no opposition, the Speaker entertains a vote.

Councillor Wan states that he has to leave, but he will join again in 2 hours.

With 20 votes in favour and 1 abstention, Motion 7 passes.

8. Motion Regarding MSA Service Fee Increase – **APPROVED**

VP Student Life Koulibaly presents this motion along with Councillor Dakdouki and MSA representatives. The Muslim Students' Association (MSA) has their opt-outable service fee that was adopted in 2021, which is used to fund their operations. As they enter their 2nd full year of operations, they have noticed limitations to their ability to provide services. They want to increase their fee from \$0.99 to \$1.55 per student per semester. Their service unites Muslim students on campus and provides necessary services (Islamic prayer resources and educational tools). They are the newest service on campus. The Appendix contains a fee distribution, as well as the proposed allocations and the breakdown of the fee. Consultations were done with the MSA Executives, VPs Koulibaly and Pizarro, and with the Services Finance Coordinator. The approval of this fee would allow them to abide by their service's mandate and expand their services. VP Student Life Koulibaly yields her time to the MSA Executives.

The MSA Executive emphasises the scale of MSA: they have over 4,000 people in their FaceBook group, and 100-200 students attend their Friday prayer session. They also have 5 daily prayers in the prayer space, with at least 20-30 students each. They do a lot of large services that require a large budget, for example Ramadan, which requires \$2,000 for each meal. It is an opportunity to bring together the Muslim and non-Muslim community. It is important for the MSA to get this increase to continue their operations and serve Muslim students on campus better.

The Speaker entertains a question period.

Seeing no questions, the Speaker entertains a debate period.

Councillor O'Boyle motions to call the question. Councillor Sakajiri seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, the Speaker entertains a vote.

With 21 votes in favour and 1 abstention, Motion 8 passes.

9. Motion Regarding Plebiscite Question for Bar Milton-Parc Solidarity Co-operative 2023-02-09 – **APPROVED**



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The Speaker states that this motion begins with a presentation. He gives the floor to the Bar Milton-Parc representative.

a. Presentation

The BMP representative asks how many people know what a solidarity cooperative is. He presents himself and his Board. The name of the bar was previously Bar des Pins, and it closed in 2019. SEIZE, a Concordia Student Union (CSU) group, supports them in getting off the ground. The co-operative will be owned and operated by the community, to be a welcoming space to all. They want to provide many services, such as local food, at affordable prices. In 2021, a survey reported that 3 out of 5 students skip meals because they cannot afford food. They want to support students amid rising food scarcity. They also want to provide a safe space for socialising. BMP wants to ask students if they are interested in investing 5% of their CERF into this project. The question is non-binding, and they want to ask students because they make up a lot of Milton Parc (also known as 'the McGill Ghetto'). Communauté Milton Parc is a collection of affordable housing, 140 buildings that house thousands of people. People who live in these buildings are their own landlords; they own the apartments and help maintain the buildings. In 1968, an urban developer acquired a chunk of land and were going to demolish buildings on the land. Many residents were unhappy with this, and in the early 1970s they formed a group to oppose construction. They had creative ways of disrupting those who were trying to force them out of their homes. Despite protests, 255 buildings were destroyed and La Cité was built. Luckily, the community was able to prevent future expansion through mobilisation. The Communauté changed the layout of the city. After the recession in the 1970s, the City of Montreal bought the land and distributed it to the citizens, who bought it from the city at a very low cost and managed buildings through cooperatives. They created cultural events, businesses, and apartments. They try to improve the lives of those who live in the area. They had to sell the Bar des Pins space, but bought it back in 2019. In 2022, after sorting out the lease, the Bar was relaunched. A cooperative is owned and managed by its members, so there is no owner. By being a member, one has an equal share of the cooperative. It is similar to SSMU's General Assemblies. The cooperative does not allow for any hierarchy. \$20 would make someone a member of the bar, and would then receive a 20% discount on all goods, and can participate in votes and committees, and propose new projects. Surplus profits are equally redistributed amongst members. This project, based on the community's history, has a lot of momentum. This project could unite students and the community. SSMU and BMP are aligned in their values. There are two cooperatives at Concordia that CSU helped initiate. Having a student and community-run space would help ensure that students would benefit from community spaces. The space will provide affordable meals, social events, jobs, and more. This project is a culmination of representation of the wider community.

VP Finance Pizarro presents Motion 9. He has been in contact with the Board, who agreed on a plebiscite question on interest on this investment. It would require student approval; the goal is to



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have the question answered in March and then consultations with relevant committees can be done to see how relevant the project is. Afterwards a business project will be proposed. Many conversations will occur to understand the specifics of the investment. For now, they are voting on putting the question forward at referendum. It does not imply that they need to do anything; it is non-binding.

The Speaker entertains a question period.

Question:

Councillor Dakdouki asks for the two Motion points to be clarified: she asks what member status entails and what counts as privileges for McGill groups.

Answer:

VP Finance Pizarro answers that nothing has been decided for the benefits, but some ideas have been going on. They would need to be negotiated, because they do not have time to go into detail if students are not interested.

Question:

VP Student Life Koulibaly asks what the ideas are around student group benefits.

Answer:

The BMP representative answers that they could use the space, and they are prioritising groups whose mission aligns with fighting food insecurity.

Question:

Councillor Dakdouki asks about the third point on the motion; if this has already been part of the plan, or if it would follow SSMU's support of the co-op.

Answer:

The BMP representative answers that it depends on SSMU's support. Right now, given that they do not have much funding, they cannot provide the meal service everyday. They would need staffing, and this could be done with SSMU's funding.

Question:

Councillor Voustinas asks about the resolution: if 5% of SSMU's investment fund is given to this cause, if all SSMU members would become members of the bar.



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Answer:

The BMP answers that cooperatives have different types of members, SSMU would be a support member. This means that they are part of a larger organisation. On their Board, they have seats for worker, user and support members. By being eligible to be a support member, they would be eligible to be on the Board of BMP.

The Speaker entertains a debate period.

Question:

Councillor Dakdouki asks if this investment has social return, since it has no financial return. She also asks what the fund is usually used for.

Answer:

VP Finance Pizarro answers that SSMU would get financial return from student groups who benefit from this cooperative. He adds that the CERF is used for large investments, such as terrasses for Gerts, spaces or materials that cannot be funded with the operations budget.

The Speaker reminds everyone that speakers have a 1-minute speaking time.

Councillor Dakdouki points out that the current question is not very clear that SSMU is looking for opinions, because the wording makes it seem like the investment will happen. She proposes a disclaimer, because they are more likely to get opinions if they know that they aren't investing right away.

Question:

Councillor Fakih asks what if the space is more of a café or a pub, because those are very separate things. It being a pub only might alienate those who do not drink, and alcohol is not beneficial to students' well-being. Other than this, the project is innovative.

Answer:

The BMP representative answers that this project has been thought up by the community, and it has been clear that they feel the same way. This space is meant to be a safe space for



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everyone, and students have made it clear that they do not want pub crawls occurring every week. There are also many families in the area. This is being taken into consideration.

Question:

Member of the gallery, Maya, points to *Reggie's* and *The Hive* at Concordia, which are going through financial difficulties. Given rising costs of food and housing, they ask why this money should go towards a bar rather than something else.

Answer:

The BMP representative states that there will be a kitchen providing meals at least twice a week, and they want to be open as a cafe during the day. They are working with various groups to address food insecurity, and he believes that this project will address it. As for *Reggie's*, they stopped accepting memberships in 2019 and are no longer operating as a cooperative. This, along with a "boy's club" mentality on the Board, has led to financial issues.

Question:

Member of the gallery, Maya asks if there would be a possibility of collaborating with other similar organisations, or if this would be a separate food source.

Answer:

The BMP representative answers that there is a working group trying to unite meal programs. *Reggie's* is opening up a meal solidarity program in the evenings. There are many people working towards honing these together. Cooperative support cooperatives, and when there are more groups that can lean on one another, they all become stronger. This creates a stronger food network across the city.

Councillor Voustinas suggests amending the question and adding a disclaimer explaining that the question is looking for an opinion.

Councillor O'Boyle seconds this motion.

The Speaker entertains a debate period on the motion to amend.

Question:



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Councillor Reed asks if this would highlight the section.

Answer:

The Speaker answers that this section would be added into the referendum question.

Councillor Dakdouki motions to amend to include a clarification about a dollar amount of the 5% investment. She believes it was around \$200,000.

Question:

The Speaker asks Councillor Voustinas if she is amenable to including this in her amendment.

Answer:

Councillor Voustinas answers yes.

Question:

The Speaker asks VP Finance Pizarro how much 5% of the CERF is.

Answer:

VP Finance Pizarro answers that it is around \$150,000.

The Speaker entertains a vote on the amendment.

Seeing no opposition, the amendment is added to the Motion.

The Speaker entertains a debate period on the Motion.

Councillor Rustogi motions to call the question. Councillor Dakdouki seconds the motion.

Question:

President Wright asks what a support member does.

Answer:



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The BMP representative answers that SEIZE is a support member and has invested \$10,000. At CSU, they are redistributing their foundation, around \$2,000,000, which they want to give to cooperatives.

The Speaker entertains a vote on Motion 10.

With 15 votes in favour, 5 abstentions and 2 votes in opposition, Motion 10 passes.

10. For Discussion:

VP University Affairs Yang motions to move all the reports to the end of the meeting.

Councillor Dakdouki motions to shorten reports to one (1) minute each.

Councillor Voustinas seconds VP University Affairs Yang's motion.

VP Student Life Koulibaly seconds Councillor Dakdouki's motion.

The Parliamentarian suggests doing Executive votes, and then moving the other reports to the end.

The Speaker suggests taking the motions on the floor first.

The Speaker entertains a vote on VP University Affairs Yang's motion.

This motion passes, and all reports are postponed until the end of the meeting.

The Speaker entertains a vote on Councillor Dakdouki's motion.

This motion passes, and the speaking time for each report is reduced to 1 minute.

a. SSMU Membership Fee Increase (VP University Affairs)

VP University Affairs Yang states that the Executives have been talking about increasing the membership fee due to increased costs, such as expansion of services. The last membership fee increase was in Winter 2019, and it has not risen since. Given inflation, it would be a good idea to increase the fee. The Executives want to know how Council feels about this.



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Question:

Councillor Dakdouki asks if there is a timeline for the introduction of this new fee.

Answer:

VP University Affairs Yang answers that the Executives were thinking of presenting the increase this Winter semester.

Question:

Councillor Voustinas asks if the Council needs to approve a Motion to add a referendum question, because she believes that this is the last time that could be done before referendum.

Answer:

VP University Affairs Yang answers that they could do a special meeting or email motion, to discuss it and then present the motion via email.

Question:

Councillor Parish asks how other student associations' fees compare.

Answer:

VP University Affairs Yang answers that SSMU's fee is comparable, and the 2019 fee was under the average. With the increase, it would be a bit higher, but SSMU offers more services than other schools.

Question:

Councillor Fakh asks if the fee increase adjusts yearly for inflation.

Answer:

VP University Affairs Yang yields his time to VP Finance Pizarro.

VP Finance Pizarro answers that he would need to check.

VP Student Life Koulibaly answers that it does not, the amount approved is consistent until renewal.

VP Finance Pizarro states that they want to increase the fee because last year's VP Finance Sader approved a budget with a deficit of \$600,000. It was approved because of a possible fee increase this or next year. This kind of forces them to increase the fee to cover the deficit.



Councillor Fakhri states that past VPs included a clause that would increase the fee to adjust for inflation. The membership fee should have that clause.

The Speaker exhausts this point.

b. Provincial and Federal Affiliation

VP External Affairs Masny states that they want to hear the Council's reflections based on their earlier presentation.

Question:

Councillor Parish would like to hear more about the tangible benefits of affiliation, especially considering such a high fee.

Answer:

VP External Affairs Masny answers that it is hard to give examples for the new provincial federation. On the federal side, every year there is a lobbying event once a year to push for student demands in Ottawa. This results in concrete changes, such as the elimination of interest on student loans, or international students being able to work more than 20 hours a week. On the provincial level, there is hope for something similar, and an example is that students were able to freeze tuition increases through mass mobilisation. Student associations come together to represent many students, and can make gains on their behalf on various government levels.

The Speaker exhausts this point.

11. Announcements

a. President Wright

President Wright announces that the Executive Nomination period has started, and if anyone is interested in becoming an Executive they can reach out to any current Executive. The nomination kit is available on the Elections SSMU website. There are 7 Executive positions available, the 6 current ones and the VP Sustainability and Operations, which is being reintroduced. She is very excited to meet next year's candidates. Questions can be addressed to elections@ssmu.ca. Applications are open until



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February 20. It is a great opportunity to become engaged with the student body, and to learn about running a student organisation and its services.

b. VP External Affairs Masny

VP External Affairs Masny announces that tomorrow at 1:00pm there is a rally to support a Black man murdered in prison. On February 14, there will be a rally for missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and two-spirited people.

c. Councillor Fakh

Councillor Fakh announces that there is a vigil being held tomorrow outside of the SSMU building for victims of the Turkey/Syria earthquake, for which the death toll is now (as of Feb. 9), over 15,000.

12. Question Period:

a. [Questions](#)

Councillor (inaudible) opposes the first question, as its wording is leading. Even if its content is important, the wording implies that the Council is at fault for a motion that has not been reviewed yet.

The Speaker states that this requires a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote, without debate. He entertains such a vote.

Question:

Councillor Fakh asks what it means to vote yes or no in this vote.

Answer:

The Speaker answers that voting yes would entail removing the question; voting no would keep it on the list. This is used in situations where the question is deemed inappropriate or unnecessary.

The motion passes and Question 1 is stricken.

Question 2 is also stricken as it is not a question. The Speaker notes that statements can be sent to the Council email address or can be made during the meeting.



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VP Finance Pizarro asks, on behalf of Councillor Wan, because there is no preliminary budget, if there is a plan for future years for student groups to have financial transparency. He answers that he did not expect this many motions with fee increases at the end of the year, and did not realise it was an issue.

13. Recess, Consent Items

The Speaker entertains a 10-minute recess, with possibility of an extension. He sends the consent items in the chat. If one person votes to debate, the motion will fully be debated.

14. New Business:

VP External Affairs Masny states that the ECOLE Motion was submitted in advance and forgotten; they ask if they can do a vote to see if it is a consent item.

The Speaker answers that since it was not on the agenda it was not included on the consent items. By virtue, he will not entertain a vote since people need to go through it before voting.

- a. Motion Regarding Student Support Fee Referendum Question 2023-02-09 – **NOT APPROVED**

Councillor Dadulla presents this motion. In March 2022, the Student Support Fee was passed for a trial period of 1 year. During this trial, services were provided by Grammarly, Calm and Udemy at \$19.98 annually. For 2023, the Student Support opt-outable fee would be \$22.06 per year, for 5 years, for access to ProWritingAid, Calm and Udemy. The increase is due to interest rates. Complaints about Grammarly's mistakes led to a software change, ProWritingAid is another well-used software. He yields his time to Ajamu.

Ajamu states that ProWritingAid has interesting features: they have abstracts, business, academic, CV features as well. Students really wanted these features, to help them correct their writing and become stronger writers. The original cost was \$720. He requests one amendment: after meeting with Executives, the fee can be lowered to \$10.29 instead of \$11.03 per semester. It is important that this is discussed, because services are being used by 10,000 students (around 50%). There have been a lot of great testimonials for all three (3) services. He thanks SSMU for giving them a chance to serve the students.

The Speaker notes that a progress report is available. He entertains a question period.

Councillor Dakdouki motions to amend the Motion as Ajamu suggested.

Ajamu states that the total fee would be \$20.58.



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Councillor Reed seconds this motion to amend.

Seeing no opposition, the motion is amended.

Question:

Councillor Wan asks if there are any metrics on department- and faculty-specific usage of the services.

Answer:

Ajamu answers that they do not have exact specifics on usage rates.

Question:

VP External Affairs Masny asks if the three services are used equally.

Answer:

Ajamu answers that 5,681 students use Calm, 5,263 use Udemy, and 8,782 use Grammarly.

Question:

Councillor Voustinas asks if Student Support is for-profit or not.

Answer:

Ajamu answers that they are a for-profit, which allows them to reinvest in new and ongoing services. At McGill right now, they are operating at a loss.

Question:

VP Finance Pizarro asks if there is data on whether students use multiple services at one, or if the numbers are individual.

Answer:

Ajamu answers that most students use Grammarly, and 980 only use two of the three services (Calm and Udemy). The rest use a combination of all three.

Question:



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Councillor Sakajiri asks if he is understanding correctly that the fee will go up in the future because Student Support is currently operating in a deficit.

Answer:

Ajamu answers that they will make profit one day.

Question:

Councillor Sakajiri asks if this would be achievable with McGill alone, or if multiple schools are necessary for profits.

Answer:

Ajamu answers that multiple schools are necessary to make profit.

Question:

Councillor Sakajiri asks how the fee could change over time.

Answer:

Ajamu answers that they plan to add additional services at no additional costs, for example Antidote and InstaCart.

Question:

Councillor Dakdouki asks what counts as a registered student, and if there are any metrics about continued use of the services or average use by students.

Answer:

Ajamu answers that 5,000 students per day use Grammarly, some using it a few times a year. There are no daily metrics for Calm, but on Udemy there are around 1,000-1,500 daily users. Students who use the service at least once count as registered.

Question:

Councillor Dakdouki asks if this daily usage rate is an exact number.

Answer:

Ajamu answers that this is the highest average, and the number tends to spike for midterms or large assignments.

Question:

Councillor Dakdouki asks what counts as a registered student.



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Answer:

Ajamu answers that 9,754 students are registered. When they go on their website and ask for access to the services, and then register and start using the services, they count as registered. There may be an extra 500-1,000 that have requested service but have not logged in yet.

Question:

Councillor Sakajiri asks what kind of fee increase can be expected, and what discussion would surround this.

Answer:

Ajamu answers that this decision would come from vendors, and they have not talked about it. Student Support provides a large amount of customers, and the service provides affordable rates.

Question:

VP Finance Pizarro asks how many universities Student Support is working with, and how many have implemented a fee for the services.

Answer:

Ajamu answers that they are working with another school that has implemented a fee, but they also offer a tutoring service and an online fitness program. There are 5 other schools considering the services, as well as another organisation in Mexico and one in the United Kingdom. They are also working with PGSS at McGill.

Question:

VP External Affairs Masny asks how the trial period influenced their ability to gain traction in other campuses.

Answer:

Ajamu answers that this is not a big point, but it has been a bit helpful because it gets the word out.

Question:

Councillor Voustinas asks Councillor Dadulla about the consultations and discussions with VP Finance Pizarro.



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Answer:

Councillor Dadulla answers that this motion was given to him by a member, so he was not part of the consultations.

The Member in question answers that Student Support did a free trial because they wanted to assess how many students would use it. 48% of students who opted into the fee use it. There was some controversy about a previous scholarship search engine created by Ajamu, so to be transparent they spoke with the Executive team about all concerns, and they suggested a trial period.

The Speaker entertains a debate period.

Councillor Whitcomb states that SSMU can access similar services through business subscriptions. The cost of Calm would be comparable for a business plan. She feels that working with a for-profit company is not within reason, and they would prefer that SSMU works with the companies on their own.

The Speaker reminds everyone that he will remind them when they have 15 seconds of speaking time left.

Councillor Thom states that this discussion comes down to three questions. They need to consider whether these services are benefiting students or not, and they seem to be doing so. Second, if they agree that services are valuable, there might be some balancing to do in terms of benefits and controversies. Third, there were some considerations about policy, for example the name of the company, since students were confused about it. SSMU should work on its communication with students. She agrees with Councillor Whitcomb, but this is not illegal, and their insurance is also covered by a for profit company.

Question:

Councillor Voustinas asks VP Finance Pizarro to speak to the consultations done about this question.

Answer:

VP Finance Pizarro answers that Student Support asked him to review the motion, and he did so. He would not vote in favour of this motion, however.



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Member Karim Atassi (student at McGill and volunteer for Student Support) states that it is understood that the services have been widely used, and pulling them out would be problematic since the services are very progressive, for example Udemy. Removing services would cause progress to be lost for Calm and Udemy. They need to think about the original goals and the effects of removing the services. It would be very expensive to provide these services as SSMU, since there would be an extra cost for an academic provider.

Question:

Councillor Whitcomb states that students do rely on these services, and she asks about the breakdown plan if this question is not approved.

Answer:

Ajamu answers that students will have access until August 31, 2023. They have exclusive reselling agreements with vendors, so getting competitive rates is very difficult and takes years to get. He hopes that students will not be left behind while SSMU tries to get competitive rates.

Councillor Wan states that these services are being well-used, and have benefits. However, these are not tailed to medical students because they do not have many written services. He found through consultations with his peers that these services are not often used. He will be voting against this question.

Member Karim Atassi agrees with Councillor Wan, and states that the services are so cheap because they are purchased in bulk by Student Support, who has an exclusive reselling agreement. Even if SSMU wanted to provide these services, it would be impossible for them to provide them at the same rates as Student Support. He suggests an opt-in model, and asks what members think about this.

Member Danielle states that they have been talking about this with first-years to gauge interest, and many have said that it is very beneficial for first-years who have to write academic papers for the first time. They support the opt-in basis, because they understand how it is beneficial for some faculties more than others. Transparency is also important, so that students understand what they are opting in or out of.

Question:



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Member Andres Perez Tiniacos states that MCGSS is involved (Macdonald Campus Graduate Students' Society), but they do not have any power. They ask how negotiations are going with MCGSS, and if MCSS students have access to the services, and if downtown students are paying for their access.

Answer:

Ajamu answers that MCSS has a separate contract with Student Support, and some students have access to the services.

Member Mira Almrstani is a U3 Environment student, and they state that collecting data is time consuming for Environment students, and leaves them with little time to write research papers, and Grammarly has been a great help. Writing services help them write papers and emails, and by providing these services, access to education is increased and more students can access benefits without bearing the costs. They fully support this motion.

The Speaker states that he is happy that students come and participate in student democracy.

Member Karim Atassi states that there are two very important thoughts: those who think the services are beneficial, and those who do not want to support a for-profit company and do not see the benefit in having the services. They all want to help students, and they ask what people think about making the services opt-inable. They should give students the chance to vote on whether they think these services are beneficial or not.

VP External Affairs Masny clarifies that an opt-in fee is not an option, per McGill's financial regulations. Per the accreditation law, they can only have non-opt-outable or opt-outable fees. If the Council wants to choose this option, there would be no fee since students would not have the option.

Councillor Dakdouki states that there are many students using this service, \$20.00 a year is a significant amount of money. Based on the numbers, there are about 5,000 daily users out of 25,000 undergraduates. Most of the students are funding the fee and not using services, which represents a burden on these students.

Councillor Tai states that he is a Medicine representative, so he agrees with Councillor Wan and will be voting against this motion.

Councillor Reed states that someone previously mentioned that a service being supported by most does not mean it is being used by most, and states that most students are not members of MSA or use the Daycare, whose fees are considered essential. They should consider revoking this access to close to 10,000 students. It is quite wild that there are 20 people who can make this decision for the entire



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student body. The Council should work to ensure that the choice to maintain these services is provided, because it is not in line with their duties that they are able to revoke access.

Councillor Dakdouki states that some of the other fees are much less than this fee. She would support an opt-in service, to allow access for those who need it. The problem is that this is not an option, and she asks for other ideas to provide access to students without forcing the rest of the student body to fund the services.

Councillor Reed states that if the concern is about the worthwhileness of services, this decision should not be made by the Council alone. Their peers are better equipped to answer this question than they are.

Councillor Dadulla states that some students who are not very comfortable in English rely very heavily on Grammarly, to ensure that their papers are well-written. International students may suffer if these services are revoked.

Ajamu states that there are some students who use the services everyday, and there are some who use it occasionally. When he was a teenager, he did meditation which helped him overcome challenges. Sometimes, numbers don't show how students benefit from the services. He hopes the Council gives students the chance to decide if they want these services or not.

Member Karim Atassi states that they should set the controversy aside, and the Council should make the decision on the services. Their decision will have a real impact on the students' everyday lives. 48% of students use at least one service, from those who opted into the fee. Almost half the undergraduate students use the services, so it could be deemed unethical to not give them the chance to vote on these services.

Question:

VP External Affairs Masny states that the Motion poses a question about asking about the services on the referendum. The same formulation is used in the Whereas clause. They ask what the question that this Motion wants to bring to referendum.

Answer:

The Speaker answers that only the quote will be included in the referendum question. He adds the modification suggested earlier to the question.



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VP University Affairs Yang states that many Councillors are concerned, and he is concerned about these as well. They should think about the students first and foremost, since that is the principal purpose of the Council. Many of the legal and financial interests are the Board's purview, and they should make this decision based on the students' opinions. Even if there are other issues, they need to prioritise students' demands. He suggests having a one-year extension, and using that time to look into other options.

Councillor Sakajiri agrees that students' well-being should be prioritised. He proposes a change to the wording about the referendum question, to be clear that the Student Support Fee is going to a third-party organisation.

Question:

Member Andres Peres Tiniacos asks which organisations Student Support is working with, since SSMU and MCSS are separate. The agreements were made separately, so in theory only SSMU students, who pay the membership fee, should have access to these services. However, they reached out to Macdonald Campus students, who said that they can access the services without paying.

Answer:

Ajamu answers that they have been working to get single-sign on privileges with McGill, so when a student signs up, they must be paying the fee. They were transparent about this aspect.

Member Karim Atassi states that, as a student and entrepreneur, they rely on Udemy to develop their skills. They think that the real question is about whether or not students should have the right to approve the use of these services next year.

VP Student Life Koulibaly states that one of her main concerns is that the Council should consider whether they put this to the student body or not. There is already very low engagement with referendum questions, so many students are not participating in student democracy. She fears that usage rates are not really reflective of students who are initially interested.

Councillor Dakdouki states that they have not been given access to numbers about how many students use the services regularly. She proposes adding an abstract about Student Support to the beginning of the referendum question.



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Question:

Councillor Sakajiri asks Ajamu if there is anything specific he would like to see in the motion.

Answer:

Ajamu answers that one of the main concerns is that the question is misleading. Last year, the name of the company on the referendum question was Student Support Canada, which may have given an indication of an external company. He would be comfortable with an updated question to make students aware of Student Support.

Question:

VP External Affairs Masny states that the mover and seconder are the only ones who can change the question. They ask if this understanding is correct.

Answer:

The Speaker answers that Ajamu was answering to Councillor Sakajiri's proposition, to talk with the company to figure out what amendment would best fit the question.

VP External Affairs Masny thinks it would be better to consult the mover and seconder of the motion for amendments.

The Speaker states that Ajamu is not proposing any amendments.

Councillor Wan disagrees that this is an ethical dilemma; there are concerns that could impact the student body. As leaders they should vote on what is right for their constituents. Their experience and knowledge make these decisions. He suggests keeping the discussion to the facts.

Councillor Reed states that discussing referendum questions concerns what choices leaders are giving their peers. There are various layers of choice, since the fee is opt-outable. They do not feel comfortable making this decision for the 3,000 students that he represents. They should consider the democratic and ethical implications of this decision, especially since these services are essential to many people.

Councillor Sakajiri motions to amend Motion 14.a. to include information about Student Support in the referendum question.

The Speaker adds this amendment to the Motion. He states that he is very happy to see this debate.



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VP Finance Pizarro motions to call the question. Councillor Dakdouki seconds the amendment to the Motion. She proposes adding the abstract as a preface to the question.

Councillor Sakajiri is amenable to this.

Seeing no opposition, the amendment is added to Motion 14.a.

Councillor Dadulla seconds the motion to call the question.

Member Karim Atassi states that they care about students. A struggling student could rely on Grammarly on a daily basis, or Udemy. About 9,000 students use at least one service. Refusing to give students the ability to vote on their access to these services, that is unethical. 48% of students use these services, which is a lot.

Councillor Dakdouki states that she understands the concerns, but this concern can go for any motion brought to Council. They are part of a democratic process, and they represent their constituents and make decisions on their behalf, because not everything can be brought to referendum. Many councillors' points of view are very important, and she is glad to be hearing from students.

VP External Affairs Masny is concerned that the Council is a space for members and representatives to talk about issues. When they invite outside organisations to speak, they take up a big space to make their arguments heard. If this question is brought to referendum, it will benefit Student Support. They are concerned about their space in this discussion. They are not being patronising, but it is meant to be a student space first and foremost.

The Speaker states that he will accept another amendment but no further speakers. He will then entertain a vote on the motion.

Councillor Wan states that he could not hear the previous discussion.

The Speaker states that there was no official discussion.

Councillor Dakdouki motions to amend Motion 14.a by changing the duration of the fee to 1 year because this would allow them to collect student opinion without committing to such a long time period. It would also give them a chance to see how ProWritingAid is working.

Councillor Sakajiri seconds the motion to amend.

VP Student Life Koulibaly states that the current contract ends in August, so she suggests that the question might have to be amended to this effect.



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The Speaker answers that the question posits that the fee would start in Fall 2023 and end in Winter 2028. The amendment would make the end point Winter 2024.

Question:

VP Student Life Koulibaly asks if the year-long renewal would terminate the contract in August.

Answer:

The Speaker answers that this wording would end at the end of the Winter 2024 semester, however it would need to be contracted between SSMU and Student Support.

Question:

Councillor Reed asks if changing this end date is feasible, or if the 5-year contract is set in stone.

Answer:

Ajamu answers that the fees are made affordable through the length of the contract and the number of students. Student Support can commit to this year-long contract. If there is a possibility of a two-year contract, that would make this easier, because they already asked the vendors to increase the subscription period.

Question:

Councillor Wan asks if it would be possible to add a future contract (up for debate) at the same rate, because he worries that the rates will increase.

Answer:

Ajamu states that this is up to the providers. They can aim for the same pricing, but the contract would be signed after the price is set.

The Speaker clarifies that the referendum question is the question in quotations. If the question is passed, SSMU is charged with accomplishing the question.

Member Karim Atassi states that this is one of the most engaging discussions they have been a part of. They worked hard to come to this point to prevent all concerns. All changes are fair, and they are now in a good position to let students decide if they want to use the services.



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Councillor Dadulla states that the amendment posits that the renewal will end in 2024, but the renewal will not be until 2028. He suggests making these dates the same.

Councillor Dakdouki states that she is amenable to this, but she would rather improve this because it does not need to be in the question.

Question:

Councillor Dadulla is amenable to this. He asks if it is still binding to have the fee renewed if it is not included in the referendum question.

Answer:

Councillor Dakdouki answers that the fee will expire in 2024 and a motion will need to be written whether or not this clause is included in the question.

Councillor Dadulla is amenable to removing the clause in question.

Ajamu states that they could commit to having the fee stay as low as it is right now if a certain number of students opt in, and if Student Support gets more schools on board. He thanks everyone for being open-minded during this discussion.

The Dais call the question on this amendment with no further discussion. The Speaker entertains a vote on the amendment.

The amendment passes and is added to the motion.

The Dais call the question on Motion 14.a. The Speaker entertains a vote.

With 6 votes in favour, 11 opposed, and 2 abstentions, Motion 14.a is not approved.

b. Motion Regarding The SSMU Grocery Program Policy 2023-02-09 – **APPROVED**

The Speaker calls a 10-minute recess before entertaining this point.

After the recess, the Speaker states that there was a discussion about postponing the agenda until February 13. The Council has decided to discuss a few more motions and then call the meeting.



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President Wright presents Motion 14.b. This Motion follows the Notice and presentation from the Pilot program. SSMU would address food security at McGill through this motion. Based on the pilot, a long-term and consistent program would be beneficial. Students with financial need can register for this program, to offer them a voucher every semester for a grocery store of their choice. They hope to give the vouchers, instead of providing groceries or meals. Based on consultations, a structured program with eligibility criteria was created, to ensure that those facing the most need receive programming. They have put forward three categories for students to demonstrate financial need without giving up private information. There is an accessibility clause; if students cannot meet one of the criteria, they can access the program through the Accessibility Coordinator. President Wright stands for questions. This Motion is the result of other student associations across the country, who offer food security support.

The Speaker entertains a question period.

Seeing no questions, the Speaker entertains a debate period.

VP University Affairs Yang motions to call the question.

Councillor Parish seconds the motion to call the question.

Seeing no opposition, the Speaker entertains a vote.

VP External Affairs Masny states that the McGill African Students' Society (MASS) funding application must be voted on today. The Funding Committee needed to bring it to the Council because of the amount requested, but the event in question is tomorrow, so MASS needs to know. They suggest moving it up.

The Speaker moves up the motion.

With 15 votes in favour and 1 opposition, Motion 14.b is approved.

- c. Motion Regarding Approval of the McGill African Student's' Society Funding Application – **APPROVED**

VP External Affairs Masny presents this motion. The Funding Committee received this application from MASS. They had to change their venue at the last minute because of booking conflicts. Now, the event is being held at the Faculty Club which is more expensive. The Funding Committee's decision needs to be ratified by Council. MASS needs around \$18,000, and the Funding Committee recommends that the Council ratify this decision.



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The Speaker entertains a question period.

Question:

Councillor Dadulla asks if the amount is due to the location change, or if the original amount was increased.

Answer:

VP External Affairs Masny answers that this amount is for the second application, which includes the change in venue and an interpreter for the event. The Faculty Club is really expensive to book.

Question:

Councillor Dakdouki asks if this application in addition to funding MASS has already received, which amounts to \$17,000.

Answer:

VP External Affairs Masny answers yes; the first \$17,000 was approved because it did not reach 15% of the Clubs Fund. With this addition, the total amount is over 15% of the Fund so it must be approved by the Council.

Question:

Councillor Dadulla asks if MASS will be receiving an additional \$18,000.

Answer:

VP External Affairs Masny answers yes, if this decision is ratified. This would cover the change in venue.

The Speaker entertains a debate period.

Councillor Voustinas motions to call the question. Councillor Sakajiri seconds the motion to call the question.

Seeing no opposition, the Speaker entertains a vote on Motion 14.c.

With 16 votes in favour and 1 abstention, Motion 14.c passes.



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d. Motion Regarding the SSMU Grocery Program Fee 2023-02-09– **APPROVED**

President Wright presents Motion 14.d, which goes in tandem with Motion 14.a. This fee would provide sustainable funding for the Grocery Program, since they received some temporary funding. The fee would allow distinct funding for the Program. It would be a \$1.00 per semester, opt-outable fee for students. This question will go to students to see if they want to invest in it. The criteria for access to the program is listed on the question. There is a projected budget, and they could serve 1,000 students per year with this fee. If there are a lot of opt-outs, instead of having a Coordinator to support the Program, it would be done by the Accessibility and Sustainability Commissioners. President Wright stands for question. She reads out the potential referendum question.

The Speaker entertains a question period.

Question:

Councillor Wan asks what issues other schools who have implemented similar programs have run into, and if they can take a proactive approach on any of these potential issues during the roll-out of this program.

Answer:

President Wright answers that she was able to speak with other student unions with grocery programs. They have had different issues; some operate their own food banks and some offer voucher programs. SSMU is taking a bit of a different angle. Issues mostly surround distribution, and with their voucher distribution SSMU will have a two-pronged approach, with pickup or online options. Any kinks will be worked out during the roll-out period.

The Speaker entertains a debate period.

Councillor Sakajiri motions to call the question.

VP University Affairs Yang seconds the motion to call the question.

Seeing no opposition, the Speaker entertains a vote on Motion 14.d.

With 15 votes in favour and 2 in opposition, Motion 14.d passes.



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The Speaker states that the Council has decided to continue the meeting until 00:00, at which they will be deciding whether to extend or adjourn the meeting.

Councillor Dakdouki states that if anyone leaves the meeting, the Council will no longer be at quorum. Councillors should announce when they leave, so that motions are not passed without quorum.

The Speaker reiterates; if anyone leaves the meeting they will need to end it.

- e. Motion Regarding Referendum Question on the Renewal of the Arab Student Network Fee-Levy 2023-02-09 – **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

The motion is unanimously approved by the Council.

- f. Motion Regarding the Increase of the Referral Services Fee 2023-02-09 – **APPROVED**

VP Finance Pizarro presents Motion 14.f. He states that the Referral Fee goes to a few services: the Eating Disorder, Resource and Support Centre Nightline, Peer Support, Queer McGill and the Union for Gender Empowerment (UGE). The Eating Disorder Centre and Queer McGill are asking for a fee increase, as they are expanding their services. Queer McGill wants to create a website and merchandise, and collaborate with more groups and increase their political activities. For the EDRSC, they want to increase the fee again (it was increased in Fall 2021) to expand their services and increase the number of users, and secure funding for their annual conference. VP Finance Pizarro stands for questions.

The Speaker entertains a question period.

Question:

Councillor Sakajiri asks if EDRSC is rebranding, because he read that they were online.

Answer:

VP Student Life Koulibaly answers that they had to change their name because their previous name, "Eating Disorder Resource and Support Centre and Safely Connected McGill," was not in line with the MOA.

Councillor Dakdouki motions to amend the Motion to include the EDRSC's new name, EDCSSMU.



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VP Student Life Koulibaly states that their new name has not been approved, the short form “Eating Disorder Centre” is used. If the question passes, it will be clear to the administration that the Centre is not a new group.

The Speaker entertains a debate period.

VP Finance Pizarro motions to call the question. Councillor Sakajiri seconds the motion to call the question.

Seeing no opposition, the Speaker entertains a vote.

Motion 14.f is unanimously approved.

- g. Motion Regarding Plate Club Fee Renewal Referendum Question 2023-02-09 –
APPROVED

VP Finance Pizarro presents this motion. Plate Club is a SSMU Service, and the fee pays for a Coordinator to handle inventory. The fee has been around for many years, and helps student events be more sustainable. There is no fee increase; it is simply a renewal.

The Speaker entertains a question period.

Question:

Councillor Wan asks if a budget will be provided on the ballot.

Answer:

VP Finance Pizarro answers that a budget will be provided.

Question:

VP External Affairs Masny asks if the fee is per semester or per year; this is not specified in the question.

Answer:

VP Finance Pizarro answers that the fee is per semester.

The Speaker makes this modification to the motion.



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Councillor Dakdouki motions to amend the motion and make it clearer. She will send it by email shortly.

Councillor Wan motions to amend the motion to provide a budget on the ballot.

Councillor Sakajiri seconds Councillor Wan's amendment.

Seeing no opposition, the amendment is made.

Councillor Dakdouki proposes 2027 as the end date for the fee, since there was not an end date suggested in the question. A four-year term is pretty standard, but she is amenable to other options.

Councillor Voustinas seconds Councillor Dakdouki's amendment.

Seeing no opposition, the amendment is made.

The Speaker entertains a vote on Motion 14.g.

With 16 votes in favour, Motion 14.g is unanimously approved.

The Speaker states that it is now 00:00.

Councillor Dakdouki motions to extend the meeting by 30 minutes.

Councillor Rustogi seconds this motion to extend.

The Speaker entertains a vote on extending the meeting.

With 7 votes in favour and 10 opposed, the motion to extend fails.

Motions 14.h through 14 v are postponed.

- h. Motion Regarding a Fee Increase For Drivesafe Referendum Question 2023-02-09 – **POSTPONED UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING**
- i. Motion Regarding Referendum Question on the Increase of the Mental Health Fee 2023-02-09 – **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

The motion was unanimously approved by the Council.



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- j. Motion Regarding the Renewal of the Space Fee Referendum Question 2023-02-09 –
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

The motion was unanimously approved by the Council.

- k. Motion Regarding the Renewal of the Environment Fee Referendum Question 2023-02-09 – **POSTPONED UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING**
- l. Motion Regarding Safety Services Fee Increase Referendum Question 2023-02-09 –
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

The motion was unanimously approved by the Council.

- m. Motion Regarding the Black Student's Network's Fee Renewal 2023-02-09 –
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

The motion was unanimously approved by the Council.

- n. Motion Regarding the Referendum Question on the Increase of the DPS Fee - 2023-02-09 – **POSTPONED UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING**
- o. Motion Supporting the Introduction of Haven to the McGill Campus – **POSTPONED UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING**
- p. Motion Regarding the Fee Increase of the TPS 2023-02-09 – **POSTPONED UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING**
- q. Motion Regarding the Implementation of the Legal Essentials Plan Fee 2023-02-09 –
POSTPONED UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING
- r. Motion Regarding Ecole's Fee Renewal Referendum Question 2023-02-09 –
POSTPONED UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING
- s. Motion Regarding the EDI Working Group Terms of Reference 2023-02-09 –
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

The motion was unanimously approved by the Council.

- t. Motion Regarding the Ratification of the Board of Directors 2023-02-09 –
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED



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The motion was unanimously approved by the Council.

- u. Motion Regarding the Nomination of the Auditor for the 2023 Fiscal Year 2023-02-09 –
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

The motion was unanimously approved by the Council.

- v. Notice of Motion Regarding Proposed Amendments to the Internal Regulations of Student Groups

15. Reports by Faculty — **POSTPONED**

- a. ASUS
- b. Education
- c. Dentistry
- d. Medicine
- e. FYC

All faculty reports are postponed.

16. Reports by Committees — **POSTPONED**

- a. Executive Committee
- b. Clubs Committee
- c. Community Engagement Committee
- d. Environment Committee
- e. Mental Health Committee
- f. Services Review Committee
- g. Comité des Affaires Francophones

All reports by Committees are postponed.

17. Executive Reports — **POSTPONED**

- a. President
- b. VP Finance
- c. VP Student Life
- d. VP University Affairs
- e. VP External Affairs
- f. VP Internal Affairs



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All Executive reports are postponed.

18. Confidential Session — **POSTPONED**

The Confidential Session is postponed.

19. Adjournment: **00:05**

The Speaker declares the meeting adjourned. All remaining motions will be reviewed at a later date.

Risann Wright, SSMU President

APPROVED