



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

November 9, 2023

The regular bi-monthly Legislative Council Meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) will be held in the Lev Bukhman Room of the University Centre and by teleconference, on Thursday, November 9th, 2023 at 18:00.

1. Call to Order: **18:12**

The Speaker calls the meeting to order at 18:12. The acting Speaker for this meeting is the Deputy Speaker, Sierra Fallis.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Speaker presents the Land Acknowledgement.

3. Attendance

The Speaker takes attendance.

Present: Councillors Porter, Rajan, Baybayon, Sakajiri, Renaud, Tai, Yang, Rylo, Wehbe, Duncan, Shannon, Qian, Grall-Johnson, Mabia, Zukerman, Foxman, Fournier, Gertsvolf, Pastrana, President Ashkir, VP Internal Affairs Barlas, VP Student Life Dakdouki, Incoming VP Kudrati-Plummer, VP External Affairs Gaither, VP University Affairs Katchelewa, and General Manager Marcus-Sells.

Absent: Councillors Chemaly, Mezni, McMechan, Nitu, Maselli, VP Sustainability and Operations Koulibaly.

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

The agenda is distributed.

Seeing no changes or additions, the agenda is adopted.

5. Minutes for Approval:



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a. SSMU Legislative Council Public Minutes 2023-10-26 – **APPROVED**

Seeing no changes or corrections, the Minutes stand approved.

6. Reports by Councillors:

a. Arts and Science (ASUS)

Councillor Sakajiri presents his report. By the end of October, all Executive positions were filled. There was a samosa sale today with WUSC for charity. Otherwise, the ASUS is getting organized. They decided not to release a statement regarding Israel-Palestine. There was an Executive Brunch and they are working on filling committees. There will be a Town Hall about Equity and Academia on November 21, and there will be a Trivia Night at Gerts on November 28 in collaboration with other faculty associations. Councillor Sakajiri has received many questions about the tuition hikes, as ASUS is in particular jeopardy. He has been very attentive to the situation, and plans to reach out to faculty advisors and the administration to better understand the tuition hikes. He also wants to know what students are thinking going forward. Councillor Sakajiri stands for questions.

b. Senate Caucus

Councillor Pastrana presents her report. The Senate Caucus has weekly meetings and attendance has been good. They have been discussing food security with Let's Eat McGill and the Concordia Food Coalition, and they have made a survey for students to assess food insecurity. They have submitted questions to the Senate about the unmarked graves at the New Victoria Hospital site, which was deferred because of the ongoing court case, Israel-Palestine and the consultation policy for the mass emails, which will be brought up at the next meeting. There are also anonymity concerns for reporting violence. They asked about tuition hikes and governmental negotiations. The Senate Caucus discussed a University-wide summit to talk about food insecurity and advocating to the administration. Councillor Pastrana asks everyone to fill out the survey, and stands for questions.

c. Environment (MESS) – **POSTPONED**

d. Nursing (NUS)

Councillor Mabia presents her report. The Nursing President has been working on the Career Fair and the elections, as well as updating the MoA, Constitution, and bylaws. The Senator is working on advocacy for divestment and decolonial solidarity with the Mohawk Mothers. There is a crafting event planned for this group soon. They are also working on a student café for nursing students with Let's Eat McGill. The Senator is also supporting the questions from the Senate Caucus about



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Israel-Palestine. VP Internal is working on wellness campaigns and sober events. The NUS retreat was a success, and they are working on social media as well with a focus on takeovers. The Social Committee is working on an event on November 16, and the Graduation Committee is working on fundraising and finding a venue. The Athletics Committee is working on its running club and varsity games. VP Sustainability manages the McGill Nurses for Planetary Health group, and provides sanitary products in the nursing buildings. The Equity Commissioner is working on shared spaces with the OSAN office to establish de-escalation training in the curriculum.

7. Report of the Steering Committee

The Speaker presents the Report of the Steering Committee. She states that they reviewed tonight's motion and postponed a motion by Elections SSMU. She asks everyone to ensure that Councillors submit their reports on time and reminds everyone that there is a short confidential session tonight.

8. Reports by Committees:

a. Equity Committee

Councillor Baybayon presents the Equity Committee Report. He states that the Committee had their onboarding meeting this week, and brainstormed upcoming projects and refresh themselves on past activities. There had been talk about a coffee hour last year, and they talked about social media initiatives as well to create more dialogue-based events. They split among members to work in four areas: resource creation, events, socials, and on-campus equity. Current projects include a Zine, a culture coffeehouse in collaboration with the BSN, a panel and dialogue series, and a disability advocacy campaign. Councillor Baybayon reminds members to reach out to the Committee to communicate which group they want to serve on.

b. Gender and Sexuality Advocacy Committee

The Gender and Sexuality Commissioner states that the Committee meets bi-weekly to review QUIPS applications; \$3,000 is distributed at each meeting. Plans are being made to increase the budget for QUIPS, due to high demand. They are also a resource for queer student groups to assist each other and talk about ongoing events. They have been focused on building resources to respond to anti-trans hate on campus, for example by counter-protesting or communicating with queer student groups and coalitions outside of McGill. They have also been advocating to remove the gender dysphoria diagnosis requirement for StudentCare's Gender Affirming Care policy. They also helped create the Trans Advocacy Plan. The Commissioner reminds everyone that gender-affirming care is available, and that the QUIPS Bursary funds student and community projects. They add that Queer McGill is looking to report instances of deadnaming or misgendering, and that there is a Trans Day of Remembrance



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vigil and march on November 20.

c. Students' Society Programming Network

VP Internal Affairs Barlas presents the SSPN report. They planned crash pads for Froshies, and held a sold-out Barbie themed back to school event. They collaborated with Peel Street Cinema and TVM to screen Friday the 13th, and held a Halloween event at Gerts. They have a Thrift Flip next week, and a charity event on November 30. Faculty Olympics will be held in February. SSPN has held many more events this year than in previous years, and they are planning a charity event for the first time. Consistency and number of events have improved, and they are collaborating with more groups. The SSPN Instagram is being used to promote events on campus. Meeting has been challenging, but they have recruited new members. There are more events to come, and they will advertise them on their Instagram. SSPN is looking for two more Councillors to join.

9. Executive Reports:

a. VP External Affairs

VP External Affairs Gaither presents his report. He held a teach-in about the tuition hikes, and more outreach will be done to attract students to the events. It would be a good idea to consolidate efforts with other groups advocating against the hikes. An affordable student housing event will be planned for the first week of December.

b. VP Sustainability & Operations

In VP Sustainability and Operations Koulibaly's absence, the Dais encourages everyone to read her report and email her if there are any questions.

c. VP Student Life

VP Student Life Dakdouki presents her report. She states that she has been working on logistical issues, making sure clubs are up to date and submitting the right reports. She has been planning things for the Winter semester. The Clubs Committee has suffered a delay in meeting due to lack of members, and students are anxious to get their club applications reviewed. They are looking for Councillors to sit on the Clubs Committee, and they plan to meet this week. She is looking to change the IRs of Clubs and Services, for which consultations start soon. The Services Coordinator is hard at work, and the Mental Health Coordinators have been hired. Faculty advisors are being hired, and an email will be sent out to all faculties about mental health resources. The Mental Health Commissioner can be contacted to provide priority referral to the Wellness Hub. She is planning a family care event



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with PGSS, and the Family Care Policy should be done by next semester. Activities Night and clubs training are being planned, and she sits on the Board, Nominating Committee, Funding Committee. They paused distributing funding due to concerns, and there has been training for the new VP Finance.

d. VP Internal Affairs – **POSTPONED**

VP Internal Affairs Barlas leaves at 18:30, so his report is postponed until his return.

10. Announcements:

a. New VP Finance! (Dais)

The Speaker welcomes the new VP Finance, Amina.

b. Governance Volunteer Positions (Dais)

Parliamentarian Pennel announces that the Governance Team is recruiting volunteers, including Nominating Committee and Board members, Judicial Board members, and the International Student Representative.

c. Clubs Committee (Dais & VP Student Life)

VP Student Life Dakdouki announces that she has received many complaints about club applications that have not been processed, as the Clubs Committee has been unable to process them. The Committee reviews new club applications, makes interim clubs full-status clubs, and reviews constitutions. They need Councillor representation on the Committee.

11. Board of Directors Presentation (TBD) – **POSTPONED UNTIL NEXT MEETING**

The Speaker asks if there is an Executive presenting this presentation.

President Ashkir answers that he can present this today, but it might be better to present it at the next meeting in more detail. The point of the presentation is to encourage people to sign up for the Board of Directors.

The Speaker thinks it would be better to give a more detailed presentation at the next meeting, to allow for sufficient question time.

12. Question Period:



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Seeing no questions, the question period is exhausted.

13. Recess, Consent Items

The Speaker states that there is one new motion being presented, and the Consent Items form is in the shared folder. She entertains a recess to allow everyone to fill out the form.

The meeting resumes at 18:53.

The Speaker states that Motion 15a will be debated, and that Motion 14a was postponed at the request of Elections SSMU.

14. Old Business:

- a. Motion Regarding an Interim Provision to the Internal Regulations of Elections & Referenda (IR-04) (VP External Affairs) – **POSTPONED**

15. New Business:

- a. Motion on a Statement on Commitment to Empathy, Respect, and Anti-Doxxing on Campus (Councillor Shannon) – **APPROVED**

Councillor Shannon presents Motion 15.a. A working group was created at the last meeting to write the statement. Many changes were made online, and Councillor Shannon is open to hearing questions and comments.

The Speaker entertains a question period.

VP University Affairs Katchelewa asks Councillor Shannon if this statement is still fitting given the Principal's email today.

Councillor Shannon answers that the statement was written before this email was sent. The statement enhances students' right to protest, and denounces doxxing without taking a stance on the issue itself. Given that there were 2 attacks on Jewish institutions in Montreal, he can understand why McGill sent this email. The statement does not take a stance on the email nor the conflict, but states that students should feel safe on campus when they express their opinions.



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Question:

VP External Affairs Gaither asks Councillor Sakajiri, the second, how the SSMU's statement affects the ASUS's decision not to release a statement.

Answer:

Councillor Sakajiri answers that ASUS's decision was based on the size of their faculty, as they will not be able to make much change in the face of such a large issue. Students in ASUS have received resources from both AUS and SUS, so they felt that another statement would clutter students' inboxes. It would be a waste of resources to have an ASUS statement say the same thing that a SSMU statement would say. ASUS supports a neutral statement that comments on harassment and doxxing.

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

Councillor Shannon motions to call the question.

Councillor Sakajiri seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, the Speaker entertains a vote. She asks Councillor Shannon how he would like to vote.

Question:

Councillor Shannon asks what the voting options are.

Answer:

The Speaker answers unanimous consent, vote by placard, vote by roll-call, or a vote by form.

Councillor Shannon wants to vote by placard.

Question:

VP External Affairs Gaither asks how this works.

Answer:



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The Speaker answers that Councillors will raise their placard when the Speaker asks if they are in favour/opposed/abstaining. Councillors on Zoom can use the check mark/x/coffee cup reactions.

With a majority in favour, Motion 15.a passes.

16. Confidential Session: **19:03**

The Legislative Council enters in a brief Confidential session at 19:03.

17. Committee Preference Form for New Councillors

The public session resumes at 19:04.

The Speaker asks new Councillors to fill out the Committee Preference Form before they leave tonight, as they are required to sit on a Committee. She reminds everyone that the Clubs Committee needs members badly.

18. Adjournment: **19:05**

Seeing no further points, the Speaker declares the meeting adjourned at 19:05.

Alexandre Ashkir, SSMU President 2023-2024