



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 29th, 2024

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, February 29th, 2024 at 18:00.

1. Call to Order: **18:07**

The Speaker calls the meeting to order at 18:07.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Speaker presents the Land Acknowledgement.

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

3. Attendance

The Speaker takes attendance.

Present are: Councillors Porter, Rajan, Baybayon, Sakajiri (Proxy), Renaud, Tai, Yang, Trica-Mavrodin, Wehbe, Fraser, Duncan, Shannon (Proxy), Nounke, Grall-Johnson, Zukerman, Foxman, Fournier (Proxy), Gertsvolf, Maselli, President Ashkir, VP Sustainability and Operations Koulibaly, VP Internal Affairs Barlas, VP Student Life Dakdouki, VP Finance Kudrati-Plummer, VP External Affairs Gaither, VP University Affairs Katchelewa.

Absent are: Councillors Chemaly, Rylo, Qian, Mabia, General Manager Marcus-Sells.

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

The Agenda is distributed.



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Seeing no changes or opposition, the Agenda is adopted.

5. Minutes for Approval:

- a. SSMU Legislative Council Public Minutes 2024-02-15 – **APPROVED**

The Minutes are distributed.

Seeing no changes or opposition, the Minutes are approved.

6. Announcements:

- a. Nomination period for all Executive positions has been extended! Reach out to elections@ssmu.ca or check out the elections.ssmu.ca website if you are interested (President Ashkir)

President Ashkir invites all Councillors to check out the available Executive positions for next year. All Councillors present have a passion for student government, and he encourages them to use the extension of the nomination period to run. The more people run, the more democratic the process is as there are more ideas being proposed. If there is anyone who is interested, they should be notified of the extension. The positions are paid and provide unique opportunities for personal and professional growth. Current Executives are available to meet with potential candidates to talk about the positions, and other questions can be directed to Elections SSMU.

The Dais encourages Councillors to apply for the Executive positions.

7. Report of the Steering Committee

The Speaker presents the Report of the Steering Committee. Their meeting was quite short. He reminds Councillors to submit their reports on time, by Sunday at 23:59.

8. Report of the VP Internal

VP Internal Affairs Barlas presents his report for February 1-29, 2024. The SSPN x MusCo Jam Session is occurring tonight. He has met with CL&E to start planning Frosh, and the Orientation Planning Group is meeting monthly. Fac-O was transferred to AUS this year, and it is taking place March 20-24. SSPN meetings weekly, and their committee training was completed. They are planning events such as an MPSA collaboration, a film screening, and a Gerts night. FYC is planning a talent show on March 28, and they have postponed their collaboration with other first-year councils due to logistical concerns. The Scarlet Key nominations closed on February 11, and the winners of the Keys have been selected. The



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communications department is making more Instagram content. VP Internal Affairs Barlas's travelling office hours are Thursday 10:00-12:00 in the EUS office, Wednesday 12:00-13:30 in the MUS office, Tuesday 14:30-16:00 in the SSMU office, and Monday 14:30-16:00 in the AUS office. He is also planning the SSMU Awards with the Executive Committee, which will be held on April 5. The nomination deadline was extended until March 3, and Awards of Distinction nominations are open until March 22. SSPN has one final spot for Legislative Councillors to join. VP Internal Affairs Barlas stands for questions.

9. Students' Society Programming Network

VP Internal Affairs Barlas presents the SSPN Report for November 9, 2023 to February 29, 2024. SSPN organized a few events last semester, notably a thrift flip, an Activities Night After Party, and a MusCo Jam Session. Other events include a film screening and a Science mixer. SSPN is trying to collaborate with other faculties and clubs, and they have sent out a form to clubs for them to get involved. Some challenges they have faced this year include transferring Fac-O to AUS, as well as getting a committee together since many members were only interested in planning Fac-O, and reaching out to students about their events. There are more fun and inclusive events to come, as they have been focusing on dry and collaborative events. They are always looking for new ideas, and they are still looking for one Councillor to join the committee. VP Internal Affairs Barlas stands for questions.

VP Internal Affairs Barlas leaves the meeting at 18:23.

10. Reports by Councillors:

a. Science (SUS)

Councillor Gertsvolf presents the SUS report. He states that the SUS Gala happened on February 16, and was a great success. They have a General Assembly on March 13, and the elections are underway. Their President is planning the SUS Awards, and they have collaborated with the Faculty to recruit more students. The Burnside basement renovations are complete, and the space looks very nice. VP Academic is working on academic complaints and establishing bursary programs. A research fair took place earlier this week, and there will be a speaker panel about underrepresented groups in science. VP Finance integrated a POS system for transactions, and is finalizing details about the centralization of the department's finances. They now have a credit card, which is crucial, and they are considering transitioning to Zeffy for online purchases. There will be some by-law amendments to allow more students to run for VP Finance. VP Internal hosted Science Games, which were a great success. They are planning the Grad Ball, the Tweety Ball, a St Patty's day event, a Karaoke event, and a Plant Pot Painting event. They are already planning next year's Frosh (August 22-25, 2024) and Science Games (January 7-11, 2025). VP External established 2 Club Representatives, who represent SUS Clubs. They



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are also planning a celebration of the opening of Burnside, and are working on a sponsorship with Fellow Storage for moving season. VP Sustainability is working on a project about room accessibility at McGill; they want to provide a resource to maximize access to bookings. They need some help with gathering information on accessibility of rooms on campus, so there is a form linked in the report. VP Sustainability is working on committees and planning events. They are also discussing SDGs with 17 Rooms. The Science Senator is putting forward student-led Minicourses, where students plan a course and deliver it with help from a professor. Councillor Gertsvolf stands for questions. The Speaker reminds Councillors to pay attention to the timer, as they have 3 minutes for each report.

b. Arts (AUS)

Councillor Rajan and Councillor Baybayon present the AUS report. Councillor Rajan states that SNAX is open and that the AUS elections are ongoing. The operations of Bar des Arts have been formalized and by-laws have been developed. The President is having identity fraud issues. VP Finance is working on the audit, and the VP Internal is working on making Fac-O and BDA more sustainable. VP Social is working on Fac-O and Grad Ball. Councillor Baybayon states that VP Academic is working on the Arts Student Employment Fund, and Valedictorian selections. He is also collaborating with the Dean's Office to amend the McGill Policy on the Assessment of Student Learning, and sent out a form for the Dean's Award. VP Communications livestreamed the Executive debate on Instagram, and ran the first exhibit of the Fine Arts Council. They also plan the ongoing French Conversation Circles on Tuesdays. VP External is working on a career fair in March and a self-defence workshop for female students. The Arts Senator is mapping student services for the Arts Education Office and coordinating about the tuition hikes. They are also working with the AIO and the President's Office on internships. They are also working on a harassment form and a statement against the tuition hikes.

c. Dentistry (DSS)

Councillor Yang presents the DSS report. The President met with the Faculty in November and January, and they had a General Council meeting in January. DSS is planning a referendum to increase their membership fees to provide more services. They are looking for an EDI representative on their council. She and the President are working on redesigning the student lounge. The Executive Vice-President is working on distributing the yearbook, and pursuing sponsorships. They distributed the DSS Handbook to staff. VP Finance is working on an audit and the VP External is collaborating with Université de Montréal and Université de Laval on a non-profit opportunity, as well as organizing Med Games. VP Communications is working on club management and website renovations, as they want to add a login feature. VP Health & Wellness organized a second merchandise sale, and obtained a water fountain for their building. VP Socials are organizing an inter-faculty run.

d. Nursing (NUS) – **POSTPONED**



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The Nursing Report is postponed.

11. Executive Reports:

a. VP External Affairs

VP External Affairs Gaither presents his report. His position is up for re-election, and there is currently only one candidate. Having some competition at the election would be great, and the deadline to nominate oneself is tomorrow. The job is rewarding. He is supporting McGill and Concordia students in their strikes against the tuition hikes. From the 11-15 of March, 15,000 will be on strike. Not much momentum has picked up at McGill, but many departments have called General Assemblies and are considering different governance structures, which sets them up well for future mobilization. A Legal Action Working Group was recently formed and is accepting applications. VP External Affairs Gaither was in Ottawa two (2) weeks ago for a federal lobby week with UCRU, and he will present a report about it at the end of the year. PGSS is considering affiliating with the Quebec Student Union. His goal is to create a Union Solidarity Policy, and will speak with AMUSE tomorrow about the loss of the Floor Fellow position. He is also working on developing resources for campaigns and groups on campus, so that they can have better support from SSMU. He has hosted some film screenings as well. They are still hiring for the Indigenous Affairs Commissioner, and they recently hired a Black Affairs Commissioner. The Francophone Affairs Commissioner is also being hired. There will be a protest on March 31 against the Comité des sages, which advises on the lives of transgender people without adequate trans representation. VP External Affairs Gaither works on the Governance Reform Committee.

b. VP University Affairs

VP University Affairs Katchelewa presents her report. The OER Staff are hosting a Discovery Minute in collaboration with Concordia University. The Food Security Summit will be held on March 15, organized by the Food Security Coalition. She sits on the Tuition Hikes Legal Action Committee as a liaison with the administration, the Nominating Committee, the SSAMOSA Working Group which is reviewing year-plans, the Daycare Board of Directors with the VP Student Life, the SSMU-MCSS Student Caucus which is writing questions to pose to the University about academic policy, budget, and more, the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, as well as the Black Affairs and Equity Committees. The Menstrual Health team has added menstrual discs to their offerings, and so far the feedback has been good. She is working on the SSMU Awards with the other Executives and the University Affairs website with the communications department. She is hiring for a Student Rights Advocacy Commissioner and an Indigenous Affairs Commissioner. VP University Affairs Katchelewa sits on the MAUT pre-senate meetings, and is helping to interview a VP Administration and VP Finance for the university; she also sits on a few other McGill committees. The Gender and Sexuality Commissioner is



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representing SSMU on the Ad Hoc Committee of the Senate on Preferred Names.

c. President

President Ashkir presents his report. He is meeting regularly with the Governance team and is working with the Policy & Advocacy Coordinator on the Internal Regulations of Governance, which are in consultation. SSAMOSA Committee is working on the Master Plan to revamp it and submit it for approval before the end of the year. They hope that the Plan will be clearer and better attuned to the committee's goals. He is finishing up the Interfaculty Relations plan and consultations will be done during Reading Week; it will be presented before the end of the year. This Plan was initiated last year and worked diligently over the course of the year. President Ashkir sits on the Board of Governors as well as its Executive Committee. The Grocery Program is starting again, and they are working with SNAC to solidify it. President Ashkir has also been working on the Committee Consolidation and the Accountability Policies, as well as other minor policies. He is also working on the yearbook with the VP Internal for next year. President Ashkir stands for questions.

d. VP Operations & Sustainability

VP Sustainability and Operations Koulibaly presents her report. She is working on the insurance renewals, and there is an option that includes athletic activity. The Fairtrade Steering Committee met for the first time, which is trying to achieve the goal of being a silver status campus. There is also talk of all coffee suppliers buying fair trade coffee. There is an Indigenous family-owned company that they are interested in working with. She has been working on consultations for the Climate and Sustainability Strategy. There is an ongoing student project about green fashion. There are 11 Mini Courses being offered, and they are operating at a reduced loss from last semester. She is working on Cultural Nights, and held some Black History Month events. She is looking into hosting another event for Hellenic Heritage Month (March). VP Sustainability and Operations Koulibaly is working on a lease agreement with McGill, and the Internal Regulations of Sustainability & Operations are complete and will be presented as a notice at the next meeting. Consultations are not complete yet, though.

e. VP Student Life

VP Student Life Dakdouki presents her report. She has spent this month catching up after Activities Night and club workshops: club sanctions have been given out for failure to audit or attend workshops. The Clubs Committee is working on a criteria to review existing clubs to make sure they meet the updated requirements for being a club. She is hoping to update the IRs of Student Groups and Policies. She checks in monthly with services, and the Services Committee is planning to pool everyone's exit report into one. The Services Review Committee has started doing services review. The Mental Health team is working on the Mental Health Awareness Week coming up, which will contain



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many events. The Daycare Volunteer Program launched and attracted 25 volunteers in its first 5 days, so they will start once police checks are complete. Nuit Blanche did not occur because of the short timeline, but VP Student Life Dakdouki is planning a Cultural Soirée and a visual arts event.

12. Reports by Committees:

a. Equity Committee

VP University Affairs Katchelewa presents the Equity Committee Report. They are working on getting their Instagram running, and guides about disability accessibility. They are also creating a space for collaboration among equity initiatives on campus to reduce redundancy. The Gender Bash was hosted with Intersections Magazine. VP University Affairs Katchelewa encourages everyone to follow the Equity Committee on Instagram to stay updated with the events they are hosting.

b. Funding Committee – **POSTPONED**

The Funding Committee Report is postponed.

c. Indigenous Affairs Committee – **POSTPONED**

The Indigenous Affairs Committee Report is postponed.

d. Services Committee (VP Student Life)

VP Student Life Dakdouki presents the Services Committee Report. She states that they have a representative from each Service and some SSMU staff, including herself. They discuss issues with services and how to resolve them, for example issues with room bookings. They also go through services' projects and events. They are working on weekend bookings and exit reports, because the quality of the reports vary. Services are doing good work, and VP Student Life Dakdouki encourages everyone to check out their work and follow them on social media.

13. Notices of Motions:

a. Notice of Motion Regarding Amendments to the Policy on Harmful Military Technology

VP Finance Kudrati-Plummer presents Notice 13.a, which concerns general amendments to the Policy on Harmful Military Technology. The Motion will be presented at the next meeting.

b. Notice of Motion Regarding Amendments to the Internal Regulations of Finance



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VP Finance Kudrati-Plummer presents Notice 13.b, regarding general amendments to the Internal Regulations of Finance. The Motion will be presented at the next meeting.

14. Question Period:

Question:

Councillor Rajan asks if any of the motions need seconders.

Answer:

VP Finance Kudrati-Plummer answers yes, even though they have not been completed yet. If any Councillors wish to second, they can message her.

Seeing no further questions, the Question Period is exhausted.

15. Adjournment: **19:02**

The Speaker wishes everyone a nice reading week. He declares the meeting adjourned at 19:02.

Alexandre Ashkir, SSMU President 2023-2024