



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

October 24, 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 on Thursday, October 24, 2024 at 18:00.

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

The Speaker calls the meeting to order at 18:07. He states that Coucillors are welcome to get snacks during the recess, and that they have wireless microphones to use. If Councillors wish to speak, they should wait until they get the microphone to do so.

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.

L'ÀÉUM reconnaît que l'Université McGill est située sur le territoire traditionnel et non cédé des nations Anishinaabeg et Haudenosaunee. L'ÀÉUM reconnaît et respecte ces nations comme les véritables et constants gardiens des terres et des eaux sur lesquelles nous nous rencontrons aujourd'hui. En outre, l'ÀÉUM s'engage à respecter les lois et coutumes traditionnelles de ces territoires.

3. Attendance

The Speaker takes attendance.

Present: Councillors Kalaga, Weissman, Renaud, McKay, Bérubé, Nounke, Li, Kohler, Zhao, Kumar, Abu Alkhair, Farhat, President Taylor, VP Muñoz, VP Zahidah, VP Jolicoeur, VP Solomon



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Absent: Councillors Chen, Kim, Engo, Crema Black, Pinard-Milette, El Murr, VP Baltes, VP Berglas

4. Adoption of the Agenda – **FOR ADOPTION**

Councillor Kalaga states that the Notice of Motion Regarding the SSMU Policy Against Anti-Semitism is not viewable.

Parliamentarian Bakar states that it is available in the shared drive as a PDF. The links on the Agenda may not be viewable.

Councillor Farhat states that he was not called on during attendance.

The Speaker marks Councillor Farhat as present.

Councillor Renaud motions to amend the agenda to set the adjournment time to 21:00.

Councillor Weissman seconds.

Seeing no opposition, the adjournment time is set to 21:00.

President Taylor adds Motion 13f to the agenda.

The Speaker states that he will entertain a recess so that the Steering Committee can review all motions added to the agenda after they are all proposed.

VP Jolicoeur adds Motions 13g, h, i, and j to the agenda.

VP Zahidah adds Motion 13k to the agenda.

The Speaker entertains a 5-minute recess to allow the Steering Committee to review new motions.

The meeting resumes at 18:20.

Seeing no opposition, all motions proposed are added to the agenda.

Councillor Kalaga adds Discussion Item 15a to the agenda.

Seeing no opposition, the discussion item is added to the agenda.



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Councillor Weissman asks if all new documents will be shared.

The Speaker answers yes.

Seeing no opposition, the Agenda is adopted as amended.

5. Minutes for Approval

- a. [SSMU Legislative Council Public Minutes 2024-09-19](#) – **APPROVED**
- b. [SSMU Legislative Council Public Minutes 2024-10-03](#) - **APPROVED**

The Minutes are distributed.

Seeing no changes or opposition, the Minutes are approved.

6. [Report of the Steering Committee](#) (3)

The Speaker states that the Steering Committee met on Tuesday and reviewed all business received, including one motion from the last meeting; the committee appreciates motions received on time. They also accepted some late business, in line with the Standing Rules. In the future, the committee will be meeting every other Tuesday to deal with business, to share documents with councillors earlier. The Speaker reminds everyone to submit their reports on time, so that councillors can prepare questions before the meeting. He notes that late reports count as half an absence and missing reports count as one absence. Reports at the next meeting will be from law, the clubs representative, the services representative, social work, engineering, and music, as well as from the Environment Committee, the Commission des affaires francophones, the Services Committee, and the Milton-Parc Relations Working Group. There is no confidential session tonight.

7. Announcements

- a. Resignation of Vice-President Student Life (Vice-President Muñoz)

VP Muñoz states that she is resigning from her position; her last day is next Tuesday. She has been thinking about this for the past month and a half, and after thinking about it and discussing it with executives, she has decided to go ahead with it. The other Executives will fill in her duties, and she has officially resigned via a letter to the Board. There will be an election for a new VP Student Life. She decided to resign because her position is engaged with different departments at SSMU, many of which are being restructured, which made her job very difficult and prevented her from giving attention to her committees. She also felt unable to give the appropriate time to student groups. She has felt this way since the beginning of the year, but it has worsened with time. There are also certain dynamics within SSMU's structure that require a lot of energy on her part, and things that she disagreed with



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that she could not separate herself from. VP Muñoz states that people can reach out to her with questions. It was lovely to work with everyone, despite their short time together.

The Speaker thanks VP Muñoz for her service.

Councillor Kalaga states that it would be beneficial for VP Muñoz to provide an exit report with proposed changes to her role; he fears that the next VP Student Life has the same issues and resigns as well. An exit report would be beneficial for councillors and executives to review, to determine potential restructuring projects. He asks her if she would be willing to provide this.

VP Muñoz states that she is working on an exit report and will have it done next week. It covers what she did during her term, and potential improvements. She suggests bringing back the Student Life Assistant position, and creating guidelines on certain events that happen annually, such as Activities Night and Club Workshops. Their structure can be changed so that the planning becomes more efficient and less time-consuming. VP Muñoz states that the VP Student Life position acts as a secretarial role for clubs and services, and communications need to be improved.

8. Executive Reports (6)

a. [VP Finance](#)

VP Jolicoeur states that she has been working on the October revised operating budget. A \$460,000 deficit was originally projected, but after revisions and many changes, they are now projecting a surplus. The exact number will be approved by the Board of Directors next week. The accounting department has been working on the audit, which is going well; the accounting software is being updated; the accounting forms are being automated. She submitted many fee motions for the fall referendum, and received the total student fees from McGill earlier in the month. They are in the process of transferring the money into funds and departments; this week they are working on transferring the funding to services and ISGs. Club finances are being finalized after a busy period. Service finances are receiving their funding this week, and the Service Finance Coordinator was hired. The Funding Committee is set up, and their first meeting is next week. The application portal is now open, and this year's guidebook has been updated and posted. The Funding Committee's goal this year is to avoid early depletion of funds and follow up on post-funding reports. The Finance Committee has not met yet, because the Chair of the committee has just been hired. VP Jolicoeur is meeting with Student Care soon to go over the usage statistics from last year. She also hired other part-time staff. Funding applications are now open, and she is seeking one councillor and members to sit on the Funding Committee, so those interested should contact her or the Funding Commissioner. VP Jolicoeur stands for questions.

b. [VP External](#)



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VP Solomon states that he has been working on SSMU's legal cases; there are more details to come. He will meet with other VP Externals from other societies to discuss concerns going into the election and referendum period. He is working towards a SSMU food bank, something that many other student societies in Canada have, and there is demand for this service, despite the various food programs at SSMU. They are looking to work with established community partners while they develop their own food bank. He is also planning a clothing swap on November 14 with AUS and CL&E, in the Arts Lounge. VP Solomon is meeting with the CCMP and BMP working groups and is currently giving walking tours with QPIRG this and next Tuesday, celebrating collective organizing in the neighbourhood. Tomorrow morning, he will be attending a breaking-ground ceremony for the UTILE affordable student housing building. Students have paid \$10.00 per year into this fund over the years, and the result is a 300-room building with subsidized rent for 260 students. The Community Solidarity Fund received its funding, and funds will be dispersed. They received much higher demand than last year, so VP Solomon hopes that the fee increase proposed will meet the increased demand. VP Solomon has been working with the Indigenous Affairs Commissioner to create a permanent Indigenous art exhibition on the first floor of the University Centre and in the clubs' lounge. They are looking to have an opening night event with Indigenous drag queens. The Indigenous Affairs Committee plans to use its leftover funding to provide resources to the Mohawk Mothers, who are going to the Supreme Court soon to plead their case. The Black Affairs Commissioner has been working on the Black Students' Solidarity Policy and is working to collaborate with the anti-racism working group at McGill. The Francophone Affairs Committee finished its first policy and fee proposal with the help of the Francophone Affairs Commissioner. He will be meeting with CSU and UQÀM to create an inter-university discussion group to allow students to practice French outside of an academic setting and to meet students at other universities. VP Solomon has been meeting with the GSAC Committee and the McGill Subcommittee on Gender & Sexuality. He stands for questions.

- c. VP Student Life - **POSTPONED**
 - d. VP University Affairs - **POSTPONED**
9. Reports by Councillors (9)
- a. [Athletics](#)

Councillor Renaud states that the President planned the welcome-back lawn games and pizza event, and is working to consolidate the relationship between Motionball, an organization that plans the Special Olympics, and the Varsity Council. Every year, McGill hosts a marathon of sports in support of the Special Olympics. VP Communications have been relaying information from the varsity office to team representatives. Councillor Renaud states that updates about events at the Currie Sportsplex are shared on the Varsity Council Instagram. The redbirds legacy lacrosse game occurred, which commemorates the Indigenous roots of lacrosse. They raised funds via shirt sales at the game and a food and clothing drive. All varsity associations at SSMU are transferring to McGill Athletics, and



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recreational clubs are transferring to SSMU, and the VP EDI is aiding these transitions. They also met with the McGill Collective for Gender Equality to discuss supporting Martlets teams. They are planning winter 2025 programming, including Black History Month programming. VP Varsity Affairs works with a different team every month to raise awareness about mental health issues and to raise money for associated charities. They worked with the women's rugby team and will be working with the men's rugby and football teams. The men's rugby team beat Harvard in the Covo Cup, the first one since 2019, and it celebrated 150 years of rugby at McGill and football in North America. The men's lacrosse team beat Carleton in their legacy team. The women's field hockey team held their first home game in 5 years, and the women's soccer team is heading to playoffs. The homecoming football game is tomorrow.

b. [Medicine \(MSS\)](#)

Seeing that the Medicine Councillor is absent, the report is postponed.

c. Nursing (NUS) - **POSTPONED**

10. Reports by Committees (3)

a. Mental Health Committee

11. Question Period (5)

The Speaker states that questions can be directed at Councillors or Executives during this time. He asks that those with the microphone speak clearly in order to be heard on Zoom.

Councillor Renaud asks if anyone has a MacBook charger.

The Deputy Speaker offers her charger.

12. Recess, Consent Items (5)

The Speaker entertains a recess at 18:55. He states that the Consent Items form is in the shared drive.

The meeting resumes at 19:09.

13. Motions

a. [Motion Regarding Amendment to the Internal Regulations of Finance](#) (VP Jolicoeur) - **CONSENTED**

b. [Motion Regarding the Referendum Question for an SSMU Membership Fee Increase for Salaries and General Operations](#) (President Taylor) - **APPROVED**



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President Taylor presents Motion 13b. He states that SSMU tried to pass a base fee increase due to the large deficits in previous years. However, due to layoffs, the deficit was eliminated. They are required to run a fee increase campaign along with the increase. He yields to VP Jolicoeur for the financial details.

The Deputy Speaker suggests that those presenting motions can come up to the front to present in order to share the audio with those on Zoom.

VP Jolicoeur states that a pay equity evaluation of salaries will be done if the fee increase passes, because employees at SSMU are generally underpaid. She estimated that salaries will increase by 15% and the rest of the funding increase will go to the operations budget. The increase is proportional to previous iterations of the base fee.

President Taylor states that the base fee calculations are in Appendix B. They had to estimate this before adjusting salaries because a budget is required to adjust salaries to avoid falling into a deficit. Appendix C includes the campaign information, and once added, Appendix D will allow for an interim provision to the IRs of Elections & Referenda to allow SSMU to campaign in favour of the base fee increase.

President Taylor amends the motion to add Appendix D to the motion.

Councillor Farhat asks if, when hiring, SSMU prioritizes students with financial difficulties, or if they hire from outside the student body.

President Taylor answers that the SSMU membership fee is opt-outable, by opting out of being a SSMU member. This requires a student to send a letter to SSMU requesting opt-out. The salary adjustment will look at part- and full-time positions, including student positions. SSMU is focused on hiring students for part-time positions; their full-time staff are not students due to the time commitment of a full-time job.

Seeing no further questions, the Speaker entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 13b is unanimously approved.

- c. [Motion Regarding the Establishment of a Constitution & Governance Working Group](#) (President Taylor) - **CONSENTED**
- d. [Motion concernant la création d'une cotisation de support aux affaires francophones](#) (VP Solomon) - **CONSENTED**
- e. [Motion Regarding Renewal of Legal Essentials Fee](#) (VP Jolicoeur) - **CONSENTED**



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- f. [Motion Regarding the Legislative Council Nomination to the Board of Directors](#)
President Taylor) - **APPROVED**

President Taylor presents Motion 13f. He states that the Services Representative was nominated to the Board. Because the Board is currently full, they will join on November 15, 2024 and their term will end on November 14, 2025.

VP Solomon asks President Taylor why the fourth Councillor spot was empty but the Board was full.

President Taylor answers that four councillors sit on the Board. One of the spots from last year is occupied, so one Councillor from last year's Council is on the Board. The remaining three spots have gone to this year's Councillors, who will serve from now until November, and then November 2024 to November 2025. There are currently four Councillors on the Board, so it is full, but one Director is leaving in November and the spot will be filled by the Services Representative.

Seeing no further speakers, the Speaker entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 13f is unanimously approved.

- g. [Motion Regarding Creation of Gender Support Fee](#) (VP Jolicoeur) - **CONSENTED**
h. [Motion Regarding Renewal of Equity Fund Fee](#) (VP Jolicoeur) - **CONSENTED**
i. [Motion Regarding Renewal of Community Engagement Fund Fee](#) (VP Jolicoeur) -
CONSENTED
j. [Motion Regarding Increase to Ambassador Fund Fee](#) (VP Jolicoeur) - **APPROVED**

VP Jolicoeur presents Motion 13j. She states that the Ambassador Fund provides funding for external conferences and competitions, one of eight funds managed by the Funding Committee. It saw a lot more demand than other funds last year, and was the second most popular fund after the Club Fund. Last year, there was three times the demand of the fund, hence the large increase. This fund is the only one of its kind, whereas some of the other funds are interchangeable. She notes that this fee is opt-outable.

Seeing no further speakers, the Speaker entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 13j is approved.

- k. [Motion Regarding the Referendum Question of Renewal of Radio CKUT's Fee](#) (VP Zahidah) - **APPROVED**



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VP Zahidah presents Motion 13k. She states that it proposes a fee increase of \$3.00 per student per semester, increasing the fee to \$8.00 per semester or \$16.00 per year. CKUT is a non-profit campus radio and broadcasts news, music, and cultural programming 24/7 on FM radio and on their website. They also have recording services for students, and provide workshops for aspiring journalists in absence of a McGill journalism program. The cost of maintaining CKUT's equipment has increased in recent years, and their fee has not increased since 2012. Their space is very welcoming to students and the service provides a good service to the community. They also have a very cool vintage records collection. The failure of the fee increase would result in a drastic decrease of their services. VP Zahidah states that this is an important motion to approve, and yields her time to the CKUT members to answer questions.

President Taylor suggests amending the motion to remove the whereas clauses from the question because SSMU does not usually use whereas clauses in its questions. He also suggests an amendment to strike a potentially biased part of the question.

The Speaker asks VP Zahidah if the amendments are friendly.

VP Zahidah yields to the CKUT members.

CKUT Member states that the whereas clauses were in the motion last year, in a linked document on the voting platform.

President Taylor states that if they are linked in a document that is fine.

CKUT Member states that the second proposed amendment is a friendly amendment.

Seeing no further speakers, the Speaker entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 13k is unanimously approved.

14. Notices of Motion

- a. [Notice of Motion Regarding the SSMU Policy Against Antisemitism](#) (VP Solomon)

VP Solomon presents Notice 14a. He states that this Policy has been in the works for four and a half months and ensures advocacy and communication efforts internally. He is seeking to work with the administration and Jewish students' groups to put on workshops about anti-semitism. Educating people will make people feel safer, and reduce the need for Jews to be their own self-advocates.. They are also seeking to increase accessibility, to ensure that SSMU events do not fall on Jewish holidays and that kosher food options are provided where possible. This project included feedback from many



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Jewish groups on campus, who approved a motion against anti-semitism in 2018. The motion was not a policy, so it did not have any direct mandates and was not renewed. This is why they re-wrote the policy and consulted the same groups. VP Solomon stands for questions.

Councillor Kalaga states that AUS was approached by a Jewish students' group and informed them that the next LC meeting is on a Jewish holiday.

VP Solomon answers that as a Jew, the next meeting is not on a Jewish holiday.

- b. [Préavis de Motion Concernant La Politique des Affaires Francophones de l'AEUM](#) (VP Solomon)

Le VP Solomon présente le Préavis. Avant que cette motion soit proposée, il n'y avait aucun document qui clarifie les affaires ni le mandat du Comité des affaires francophones. Ils ont consulté les groupes francophones sur cette motion, et ils vont embaucher deux stagiaires de traduction pour aider avec les buts francophones de la société et de la communauté étudiante.

Le Conseiller Bérubé dit que c'est important d'avoir des initiatives francophones à l'AEUM, car l'administration ne fait pas un gros effort pour promouvoir la francophonie, et de reconnaître le bilinguisme à McGill, parce que c'est souvent oublié. Les initiatives francophones sont particulièrement importantes maintenant étant donné la position politique de la langue française.

VP Solomon states that French has become politicized, and they have to reclaim the value of French as something that can build bridges in their community. Learning French is a benefit to students professionally and personally.

15. For Discussion

- a. SHHS changes move-in dates

Councillor Kalaga yields his time to President Taylor.

President Taylor states that on October 8, Angela Campbell emailed SSMU, PGSS, and MCSS regarding a change in the moving dates proposed by SHHS. The dates would shift from August 16-19 to August 22-24, 2025, the latter which conflict with Frosh. SHHS wants the Discover McGill event to happen on August 25, to do department orientation on August 26, and Frosh to occur from August 28 to 30, which conflicts with the first two days of classes. This means that students may not want to go to Frosh because they have classes. SHHS claimed that the change would allow them to prepare better for move-in, better train staff and casual employees, improve facilities and recover construction time, improve the student onboarding experience by allowing for better programming, allow for McGill



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employees a bit of extra vacation during the summer, and hire additional staff if needed. SHHS claims that the later dates will save the university in labour costs in the amount of \$2,500,000 over 5 years, and lose \$900,000 by reducing the leases by 7 days per year. McGill is not planning to reduce the cost of the meal plan; so they are charging students the same amount for fewer days in residence. SHHS did not consult their inter-residence council, which was told to remain silent about the changes. President Taylor will send them a letter with his opinion, and a letter has been sent to Angela Campbell regarding the situation.

Councillor Kalaga states that music, engineering, and medicine faculties' deans have made statements about the change. The Arts Faculty is trying to get the Arts Dean to make a statement as well. Faculty organizations get a lot of their money because of Frosh, and students need an in-person Frosh. Frosh will be impossible if the move-in dates are changed. The Council can't do much about the dates, but they can make a statement and mobilize against it. The Council is responsible for representing first-year students who are not yet at McGill, and Frosh is crucial for their introduction to McGill. Taking away Frosh is taking away a key event for first-years, and many organizations across campus agree with this opinion. The more they wait to respond, the less effective their efforts will be. They should mobilize against this while it is still a proposal, because they will be more effective that way. He suggests that Councillors speak with their constituencies to see what they can do.

VP Solomon states that McGill has claimed to lose less than they have spent on additional security this summer. It is clear that McGill is not prioritizing its students; they have taken away Floor Fellows and will not reduce the meal plan costs despite the reduced term. Recently, students in the law faculty mobilized in front of the Arts building in support of AMPL, which resulted in the end of the strike. So, a protest might be effective in making change.

President Taylor states that SHHS proposed these changes themselves; McGill did not initiate these changes themselves. Every faculty requires their General Councils to review statements, but they could release a joint statement with all faculties to denounce SHHS's proposal. This would likely be one of the best options to share the news and do it.

16. Adjournment: **19:52**

The Speaker declares the meeting adjourned at 19:52.