

Global Students For Palestine Network Panel Event

Date & Time: March 30, 6:30–9:30 PM (proposed)

Location: Proposed venue: Leacock Building, McGill University

Capacity / Expected Attendance: ~330 attendees

As part of the final leg of an international speaking tour, this event will host a panel discussion featuring Greta Thunberg, Leanne Mohamed, Zaid Jaloudi, and local faculty, students, and organizers.

The program will include a moderated panel followed by an interactive audience Q&A. The discussion will focus on the history and current moment of global social movements and student organizing, including solidarity efforts related to Palestine and other ongoing conflicts.

The event may be **co-facilitated with the Palestinian Cultural Collective (PCC) or the Arab Students' Network (ASN)** and aims to bring together students, community members, and organizers for discussion and engagement.

Email from the Provost to the Head of Security

Hi everyone,

I met this morning with two members of the SSMU executive. Tony was meant to join but was tied up with EOC matters, so I attended with Susana from ODPSLL.

SSMU has inquired about booking space for an event on **March 30**, featuring the following speakers:

- Zaid Jalouti
- Greta Thunberg
- Leanne Mohammed (UK politician)

The event is being organized by the Global Students for Palestine Network, which is seeking SSMU's collaboration. SSMU is therefore asking what the costs and feasibility would be for such an event, given the anticipated crowd size and the security requirements. I indicated that we would look into this and get back to them.

They are exploring the possibility of hosting the event in the SSMU Ballroom at 8:30 a.m. that day, but this is not their preferred option. Their first choice is an evening event, when the Ballroom is unavailable, hence their inquiry about McGill space.

Given the short turnaround time, I am really not certain about feasibility, so any guidance on logistics and cost estimates would be greatly appreciated.

Tony and/or Natalie, once we have this information, could you please return with it to Dymetri and Seraphina? They plan to bring this to the next SSMU Legislative Council meeting on Mar 13.

Many thanks,

Angela

Email from Head of Security to Angela

Hi Angela,

Given the profile of the speakers, particularly the international visibility of Greta Thunberg, and the likelihood that this event would draw significant interest both on and off campus, we can reasonably expect interest and attendance to be high. Obviously, previous events connected to the Israel–Palestine context have required careful security planning due to the potential for protest activity and disruption, regardless of the perspectives represented.

From a feasibility standpoint, there are several considerations:

Venue Availability

Our large-capacity venues (Leacock 132, Adams Auditorium) may have limited availability on March 30, even during the evening, although this would need confirming. Even if space were available, the suitability of the venue would depend on expected attendance and the ability to manage entry, egress, and crowd flow safely.

Location Considerations

Given the potential for a substantial security presence and possible protest activity, hosting the event within an academic building may not be advisable, even if it were to take place in the evening. High-traffic academic spaces present additional operational risks, including disruption to teaching and research activities and challenges related to controlled access.

Security Requirements and Costs

Security planning would depend on:

1. Confirmed venue and room capacity
2. Expected attendance (students only vs. open to the public)
3. Speaker security needs
4. Information regarding potential protests or disruption

Based on comparable events, enhanced security could include contracted guards and coordination with local authorities. These costs could be important and would need to be borne by the organisers. Without firm numbers and a confirmed location, we cannot provide a precise estimate, but SSMU should be advised to anticipate materially higher security costs than for a typical campus event.

As a guide, 5x agents working 4 hours would cost \$612.80 and 10x agents working 4 hours would cost \$1,225.60.

As an educated guess, an event of this nature would likely require approximately 8–15 agents, but is fully dependant on the factors outlined above. If coverage extends beyond four hours, costs will increase accordingly. SSMU may also incur additional charges from Building Services.

Additional security could also be required, specifically for the guest speakers.

Speaker profiles

Zaid Jalouti

Jalouti is described by critics as strongly anti-Israel and has been alleged to have expressed or amplified views some consider antisemitic. Supporters would characterise his positions as pro-Palestinian advocacy.

Assessment: In the current campus climate, particularly around Israel–Palestine, his participation would likely be considered controversial and could attract protest activity.

Greta Thunberg

Thunberg is internationally known for climate activism. She has also been somewhat of a polarising public figure due to her outspoken political positions, including commentary on global conflicts.

Assessment: Her presence would significantly increase visibility and likely attendance, and may heighten the likelihood of demonstrations, both supportive and critical.

Leanne Mohammed

Leanne Mohammed is a UK political activist who ran as an independent parliamentary candidate. She is not a sitting Member of Parliament. Her public profile is more limited internationally compared to Thunberg.

Assessment: She may be controversial within UK political circles due to her positions, but in Canada her name recognition, and therefore the likelihood of drawing controversy, may be more limited. Her association with the broader theme of the event may be more significant than her individual profile.

Many thanks,

Liam.

EXTRA CONTEXT AND DETAILS

Who will be responsible for funding the event (e.g., GSPN or SSMU)? Will SSMU funding be requested?

At this stage, it is not yet clear who will ultimately fund the event. Funding could potentially come from GSPN or SSMU, depending on the role SSMU decides to take. The financial structure will become clearer once Council determines the level of involvement SSMU wishes to have in the event.

What role would SSMU play in this event, and what risks might this pose to SSMU (political, optical, financial, etc.)?

SSMU's role has not yet been formally defined. At this stage, SSMU is primarily acting as a facilitator helping to shape the conversation among the groups involved.

Depending on the role SSMU ultimately takes, there could be potential political or optical risks related to public perception of SSMU's association with the event. Mainly because of Zaid Jaloudi's antisemitism allegations. There are possible financial considerations if SSMU contributes funding. Council's discussion will help determine what role SSMU would like to take and how to manage these potential risks.

What is the goal of the Council discussion?

There is no predetermined outcome for the discussion. The goal is for Council to decide what role SSMU should play in relation to this event.

What is the timeline of events so far, and what stage are we currently at?

Several conversations have already taken place to explore the feasibility of the event.

- A meeting was held with GSPN to better understand the event and the support they could provide, particularly regarding security.

- A meeting was held with ASN and PCC to discuss their potential role in helping facilitate the discussion.
- A meeting was held with McGill administration to discuss the feasibility of the event.

Further logistical details, including final security numbers, are still being determined.

What is the context of previous correspondence about the event?

Previous discussions have included:

- A meeting with McGill administration to discuss the feasibility of holding the event.
- A meeting with GSPN regarding their potential support, particularly with security considerations.

These conversations were part of preliminary steps to better understand what would be required to host the event.

How does this event relate to SSMU's Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with McGill?

At this time, nothing has been flagged as conflicting with the SSMU–McGill MOA.

Internal consultation suggested that if McGill administration is aware of the event and involved in discussions—particularly regarding security—this should not pose an issue. Administration has already been consulted about feasibility.

Is there a plan in place for non-McGill attendees mentioned in the email?

Yes. The current proposal is to have security present at the entrance, and free tickets distributed through Zeffy for McGill students only. This ticketing system would allow organizers to manage attendance and ensure that access is controlled.

