Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Students' Society of McGill University

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.
Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

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SSMU LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PUBLIC AGENDA

October 8, 2026

The regular bi-monthly Legislative Council Meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) was held in Leacock 232 on Thursday, October 8, 2026, at 18:00.

1. Call to Order: **18:10**
2. Land Acknowledgement

The Deputy Speaker reads the Land Acknowledgment.

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'AÉUM reconnaît que l'Université McGill est située sur le territoire traditionnel et non cédé des nations Anishinaabeg et Haudenosaunee. L'AÉUM 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'AÉUM s'engage à respecter les lois et coutumes traditionnelles de ces territoires.

3. Attendance

The Deputy Speaker takes attendance.

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

The Deputy Speaker asks if there are any additions or changes to the agenda.

[inaudible] motions to move the motions regarding CKUT and QPIRG to earlier in the agenda. Seeing no opposition, the motions are moved.

APPROVED

President Abu-Alkair asks to add an announcement "women in sports panel," seconded by Councillor Jones. Seeing no opposition, the announcement is added to the agenda.

Seeing no additional changes, the Deputy speaker moves to the adoption of the agenda.

Seeing no opposition, the agenda is adopted as amended.

5. Minutes for Approval
    a. SSMU Legislative Council Public Minutes 2026-09-10 – **APPROVED**

The Deputy Speaker asks if there are any additions or amendments to the minutes. Seeing none, the Deputy Speaker moves to the approval of the minutes, Seeing no opposition, the minutes are approved.

    b. SSMU Legislative Council Public Minutes 2026-09-24 – **POSTPONED**
6. Report of the Steering Committee (Deputy Speaker Beeai) **(3)**

The Deputy Speaker states that the Steering Committee approved all motions unanimously. Some received recommendations, specifically the CKUT motion, the Athletics Team Fee Motion, and the Constitutional Amendment motion.

7. Announcements
    a. Athletics & Recreation (Greg Trahan)

Guest Greg Trahan from McGill's Athletics & Recreation department as a Business Development Officer. He has been working with the SSMu to organize a tailgate before the Homecoming game. He wants to thank the team, and also invites all Councillors to participate in the tailgate, attend the football game that follows, and bring any recommendations to his attention.

He says that one of his goals is to bridge the gap between Athletics & recreation and the student body, as the true nature of sports is to bring people together. He wants to build the relationship back with the students, and hopefully do other projects together.

The Deputy Speaker asks if there are any questions.

President Abu-Alkhair mentions that all Councillors will get free tickets to the event, and they also have many other free tickets to the event and need a distribution plan to get them to the student body.

APPROVED

Mr. Trahan explains on October 24, the tailgate will be taking place on Mount Royal by the stadium, there will be giveaway, food, a DJ, and there will be alumni and community participating. The football game will start at 2 pm. Their goal is to get as many students there as possible.

Councillor Crema-Black asks about the women in sports panel which is on the 21st.

Mr. Trahan explains there are several events related to homecoming happening, and that panel is part of that, but unrelated to the tailgate.

General Manager Proietti states that she wants Councillors to help incentivize their constituents to attend, and that the reason the SSMU chose to work with McGill athletics was to be able to help provide a fun and free event for students, socialize, it is not a drinking-based event, create opportunities to meet alumni, etc. She asks whether Councillors think they can distribute tickets, whether there is interest in participating in this event, and if there are ideas for how to publicize it and distribute the tickets.

Vice-President Knickerbocker motions to extend the speaking time on the announcement by two minutes, seconded by Councillor Dan. Seeing no opposition, the time is extended.

Councillor Dan states that she believes students will be interested in participating especially because the tickets will be free, and that past hesitancy related to attending games was due to cost.

Seeing no other comments, Announcement 7a is concluded.

b. Board of Directors and Judicial Board Applications Open (Parliamentarian Chan)

Parliamentarian Chan asks Councillors to let constituents or anyone else they may know who would be qualified to apply for the Board of Directors or Judicial Board positions which are now open.

Councillor Kwambette asks if you need to be Canadian to be on the Judicial Board.

Parliamentarian Chan confirms that you do not.

Councillor Giraud asks for confirmation that the positions are posted as ssmu.ca/jobs. The Deputy Speaker confirms that is correct.

c. Women in Sports Panel (President Abu-Alkhair, Councillor Jones)

President Abu-Alkhair explains that homecoming starts on the Wednesday and continues until the Sunday. There are many events, and many alumni will be on campus.

APPROVED

One of the events will be the Women in Sports panel and he encourages participation in this event.

Councillor Faulkner asks if it is just for Varsity teams.

President Abu-Alkhair states that to his knowledge it is open to any McGill students.

Councillor Jones asks about involving the recently cut Varsity teams, given SSMU is hosting the event.

President Abu-Alkhair clarifies that SSMU is not hosting the event. But he agrees it would be great to involve some of the Athletic Groups.

8. Motions
    a. MOTION REGARDING CKUT EXISTENCE REFERENDUM (Vice-President Tang, Councillor Kwambette) - **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Vice-President Tang presents Motion 8a. She explains this is a motion that must happen every 5 years. She defers her time to a representative from CKUT Michelle Wang.

Ms. Wang explains that CKUT is the campus community radio station, supported by McGill students and the border Montreal community. They have been on the air since 1987, providing news, music, spoken word, and arts and culture. It provides a forum for students to share their art as well as gets hands-on training in broadcasting, journalism, internships, and employment. They are a teaching space, and also provide opportunities for connections between mcGill students and the broader Montreal community.

As an Independent Student Group, their MOA with McGill says they need to run this referendum question every 5 years to ask about the interest of McGill students. A majority no vote would eliminate CKUT's status as an Independent Student Group as well as end their student fee which would result in their inability to provide training, resources, or ability to broadcast, so essentially cease to exist.

Vice-President Jason Wang mentions he was not consulted on this motion, and that he is a required consultation on fees put forward. He also states there is no explicit mention of the fee increasing from $5 to $7. Finally he asks why the fee for Dentistry, Medicine, and Law are different and how this decision came to be.

Vice-President Tang replies that since this is an existence question and not specifically on the fee, there was not a need to consult with the VP Finance. The amount mentioned is what is in place for 5 years, and it is an existence motion, not about the fee itself.

APPROVED

Vice-President Jason Wang asks about the difference between an existence question and a question about the fee itself.

Ms. Wang explains this isn't asking for an increase to the fee, it is just asking for the student body's continued support on CKUT's existence as an Independent Student Group. If they continue to exist, they continue to get the student fee.

Governance Affairs Coordinator Ginnetti explains that they included the rates to explain what the students are currently paying, and would continue to pay, with the understanding that if the referendum did not pass, CKUT would both cease to exist and the fee would no longer be paid.

Councillor Giraud asks how many students participate in CKUT activities and how many listen to it.

Ms. Wang says around 300 people work with CKUT, around ⅔ of those are McGill students (both undergraduate and graduate). They have around 100,000 weekly listeners. She also clarifies the student fee is opt-outable.

Seeing no further questions, the Deputy Speaker moves to the discussion. Seeing no discussion points, she moves into voting.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 8a is approved.

b. MOTION REGARDING QPIRG-MCGILL EXISTENCE (Vice-President H. Wang, Councillor Giraud) - **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Vice-President Harry Wang presents Motion 8b. He states that this is also an existence motion required by QPIRG's MOA with McGill and it is about their existence as an Independent Student Group and not about their fee specifically. He cedes his time to a representative of QPIRG McGill.

Nelly Watt explains QPIRG-McGill is an independent student group supported by fees. It is a resource that's been around since 1989. QPIRG has a mandate to work towards social and environmental justice, which they do via operating free events for students and the public, their alternative library, free textbook program, they organize Rad Frosh which is an alternative frosh, they publish the School Schmool agenda with QPIRG-Concordia, as well as many other events and resources.

Councillor Dan asks if the fee is opt-outable. Mx. Watt confirms it is opt-outable.

Seeing no further questions or discussion points, the Deputy Speaker moves into voting.

APPROVED

Seeing no opposition, Motion 8b is approved.

9. Presentations
10. Executive Reports **(3)**
    a. Vice-President University Affairs

Vice-President Lai presents her report. She highlights that all of the staff under her portfolio have been hired, the first Senate took place and she is very happy with the engagement of the student senators.

Seeing no questions or comments, Vice-President Lai concludes her report.

    b. President

President Abu-Alkhair presents his report.

Councillor Giraud asks about the IRP and feedback to be given in mid November. He asks about where to find the information on how the IRP works at SSMU and past numbers.

Vice-President Tang clarifies that the IRP itself can be found on the SSMU website. She also has two Anti-Violence Coordinators who work for her and people can book meetings with them to ask questions.

Councillor Faulkner asks if there is a form to submit comments on the IRP, or is it just through emails to the AVC? Vice President Tang confirms for the moment it would be by email.

Seeing no further questions or comments, President Abu-Alkhair concludes his report.

    c. Vice-President Finance

Vice-President Jason Wang presents his report. He mentions that due to poor engagement from Councillors and technical matters due to the legality of changes being made, he will not be presenting a motion to update the IRs of Finance at this time following the Notice of Motion last meeting. He's hoping more Councillors will engage with it, and mentions that he will be expanding the changes and presented it in the future.

Councillor Faulkner asks if the updated IR changes will be presented through a Notice of Motion as well or directly as a Motion.

Vice-President Jason Wang answers that he's not sure and will be seeking advice on that front from the Governance Affairs Coordinator.

APPROVED

The Deputy Speaker mentions that the Governance Affairs Coordinator clarified online that there will need to be a new Notice of Motion.

Councillor Crema-Black asks for updates on the Finance Committee.

Vice-President Jason Wang mentions that the Finance Commissioner recently resigned so the Committee is delayed.

Seeing no further questions or comments, Vice-President Jason Wang concludes his report.

d. Vice-President External

Vice-President Harry Wang presents his report. He asks if any Councillors watched the elections, mentioning that the Parti-Quebecois won a minority government. This means the approach to government relations will be adjusted. He is working with his Government Relations Coordinator, and he hopes to bring some context on student politics in Quebec to future Council meetings, particularly on how provincial politics affects McGill students.

Councillor Lam asks about the mention in the report that turnout for the Community Engagement Day did not meet expectations, and asks for clarification on what the expectations were and how engagement was measured.

Vice-President Harry Wang explains he was hoping for turnout similar to Discover McGill. He also clarifies that though the report mentioned attendance was around 150, he received the final numbers today which show attendance was 250. He met with CL&E that day to discuss promotion especially. He feels the name of the event is not sufficiently clear to students, and having it later in the semester affects participation.

Councillor Giraud asks about the reforms of the Community Solidarity Funding. Vice-President Harry Wang refers Councillors to the document linked in his report, but, in summary, the process was taking too long and was confusing. He has changed the process so applicants meet with him directly and set hard deadlines for getting funding out so there should be less delays.

Councillor Giraud asks for a brief summary of plans for government relations. Vice-President Harry Wang explains that the Parti Quebecois is a sovereignist party and they seem to be laying the foundation for a sovereignty referendum. This likely means tensions with the anglophone communities. It's too early to see exactly what they will do, but it is likely to be delicate politics in the future.

APPROVED

Councillor Gagné asks about the proposed public transit plan and whether they've considered the PQ's transit plans. Vice-President Harry Wang says he does not expect the government to immediately give everyone free transit, but they have said they want to reduce costs. He's still working on a transit plan, especially because there seems to be issues between the municipal and provincial governments. But he expects major changes to transit in the coming years and they will be prepared for it.

Seeing no further questions or comments, Vice-President Harry Wang concludes his report.

11. Reports by Councillors **(3)**
    a. Arts (AUS)

Councillor Letham presents the report.

Vice-President Harry Wang asks why Councillor Jones's highlight is not in the report. Councillor Jones explains he's been having meetings with the SSMUexecutives and Internal Counsel regarding the Athletics groups and some Board matters.

VIce-President Knickerbocker asks how the Arts Showcase went. Councillor Letham states that it was very successful, there were roundtable discussions, food, research presentations, and there was great participation. They hope to add this as a recurring event.

Councillor Lila asks about the AUSec bylaws being rewritten.

Councillor Kwambette explains that the old bylaws had issues, so they've been rewritten so there are coordinator positions.

Councillor Gagné shares concerns regarding the AUS renegotiation with McGill on their MOA and suggests reaching out to colleagues from LSA to share thoughts and experience. He thinks there is an access to justice problem for students. Councillor Letham agrees to pass this message to the AUS president. Councillor Kwambette asks for more details. Councillor Gagné explains that there are rights for student associations by law, and it can be easy for the university to allege that the MOA is breached, but the University can put you in default if the student association takes an action or position, based on the way the contract is drafted.

    b. Sciences (SUS)

Councillor Faulkner presents the report. He mentions that currently the SUS is not insured, and this is the major focus at the moment.

APPROVED

Vice-President Harry Wang asks for further information about the insurance situation and if there's any assistance that can be provided. Councillor Faulkner explains that the only way to get insurance is through a broker and that is where the issue has been. The President and VP Finance are encouraging the broker to give faster updates and to reach out to more companies.

c. Management (MUS) - **POSTPONED**

12. Reports by Committees **(3)**
    a. External Affairs Committee

Vice-President Harry Wang presents the report.

Vice-President Lai notes a name is spelled incorrectly in the report. Vice-President Harry Wang agrees to update it.

Councillor Giraud asks about whether other VP Externals have been contacted regarding food security. Vice-President Harry Wang confirms he's spoken to most, and they seem pretty aware of the issues and the plans.

    b. Environment Committee

Vice-President Tang presents the report. She explains that the committee is chaired by the Sustainability Coordinators under her portfolio and she also sits on the Committee.

13. Question Period **(5)**
14. Recess, Consent Items **(5)**
    a. 15-Minute Recess: **19:15**

Call to order: 19:35

15. Motions
    a. MOTION REGARDING CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT FOR ATHLETIC TEAMS
    (Vice-President Knickerbocker, Councillor Lefebvre) - **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Vice-President Knickerbocker presents Motion 15a.

She explains this Motion is designed to integrate the Athletic teams fully into SSMU following the temporary measures put in place the previous year. The Motion is to put a Constitutional amendment on the fall referendum to add a category of Athletics Teams to the student groups under the VP Clubs & Services portfolio, and add an Athletics representative to Council. Since the Constitution supersedes the Internal Regulations, so it needs to be changed first before the IRs can be updated.

Seeing no questions or comments, the Deputy Speaker moves to a vote.

Seeing no opposition, the Motion is approved unanimously.

APPROVED

b. MOTION REGARDING PLATE CLUB FEE INCREASE (Vice-President Knickerbocker, Councillor Letham) - **APPROVED [24-0-1]**

Vice-President Knickerbocker presents Motion 15b. She explains that the Plate Club is a SSMU Service and it has expanded its operations significantly. It went from 2 to 8 executives and 40 volunteers, with one staff member, the General Manager, The fee can no longer keep up with operations. It's been set at $0.14 and they are seeking the increase to support the expanded operations and additional staffing required.

Councillor Lam asks about student engagement and how much the service is used. Vice-President Knickerbocker explains the Service gives out reusable dishware for groups and individuals, and they are quite busy.

Councillor Giraud asks if there's no other way to expand operations without increasing the fee, especially given that most of the operations are done by volunteers. Vice-President Knickerbocker explains that the General manager ran out of work hours last year and is set to do the same this year. The Plate Club budget is incredibly small and they don't have many costs outside of staffing. The General Manager runs the operations and coordinates all the volunteers. If the increase does not pass, the Plate CLub will need to scale back its operations by around 50%.

Councillor Dan asks about the Plate Club getting fees from the Sustainable Projects Fund. Vice-President Knickerbocker explains they do get funding from that, and the fee increase would not affect that.

Vice-President Jason Wang clarifies that the SPF is a McGill fund and not a student fee.

Councillor Faulkner asks for clarification on how many events per year are supported as his reading of the Motion is that they do 6 per year. Vice-President Knickerbocker clarifies that the numbers in the Motion are only for the 2025 year, thus in that year they had 29,000 dishes borrowed, 119 completed orders, and 83 groups served.

Councillor Giraud asked if there was data from previous years. Vice-President Knickerbocker states she does not but could obtain it.

Councillor Dan clarifies there would be no changes to the operations, such as the necessity to clean plates before return. Vice-President Knickerbocker states there are some dish washers. Councillor Dan explains they had an event where they were required to wash the dishes before return. Vice-President Knickerbocker explains that it depends on the way it is booked, especially external events or larger ones they need to be returned clean.

APPROVED

Councillor Lam asks about the accessibility of the rentals, whether the dishes are delivered or need to be picked up, where it is located, etc. Vice-President Knickerbocker confirms they are picked up from the University Centre.

Councillor Dan asks whether people working for the Service are volunteers or are being paid. Vice-President Knickerbocker states they are volunteers, as are most Services. Councillor Dan asks if the increase is for getting more plates. Vice-President Knickerbocker reiterates that it is for the salary for their one paid staff member, the General Manager, who manages the team of volunteer executives and volunteers. It is meant to cover their additional hours and increase operational needs if they need additional materials.

Councillor Giraud states the money is for additional labour hours and not any other uses.

Vice-President Knickerbocker motions to amend Motion 15b to include Appendix B with the budget. Councillor Letham agrees this is friendly. Vice-President Knickerbocker mentions that, since the Motion went to Steering she was able to obtain some clarifications from the SSMU HR Director which she can add to the Motion as a friendly amendment.

Parliamentarian Chan reminds Councillors that if there are edits to Motions received after the agenda is sent out that the updates need to be done in the version linked in the agenda so that the Councillors can see the most updated version.

Vice-President Jason Wang mentions there's some discrepancy between the appendix and the Motion. Vice-President Knickerbocker acknowledges this and states there was a misunderstanding of which version to update, but the HR Director confirmed an increase to $0.35 is what is needed to continue operations.

Councillor Giruad asks how much time the volunteer executives work. Vice-President Knickerbocker answers that she does not know.

Seeing no further questions or comments, the Deputy Speaker asks if anyone is opposed to voting by Unanimous consent.

Seeing opposition, the vote is conducted by placard. With 24 in favour, none opposed, and one abstention, Motion 15b is approved.

APPROVED

c. Motion Regarding Plebiscite Question for SSMU Athletic Team Fee (Vice-President Knickerbocker, Councillor Jones) - **APPROVED [24-1-1]**

Vice-President Knickerbocker presents Motion 15c. She reminds COuncillors that this is a plebiscite motion that is designed to collect student opinions but is non-binding. The intention would be to move forward with the most popular option expressed by students in the winter referendum.

Councillor Giraud asks who are the members of the Athletic teams. Vice-President Knickerbocker confirms there are 11 teams with between 9 - 30 or so members. They do need to pay a lot to be part of the teams, and she would like to increase accessibility.

Councillor [inaudible] asks how the final amount would be counted. Vice-President Knickerbocker confirms that the finances would be analyzed and a more comprehensive breakdown would be given to COuncil if this comes to the winter referendum.

Councillor Jones thanks Vice-President Knickerbocker for her work on this. He mentions that there had been some talk of adding a more comprehensive breakdown of costs to the question and wonder what happened with that idea. Vice-President Knickerbocker mentions the range is in the motion and she outlines what the minimum amount would be to support the teams, and then asks for what students may be willing to pay. It's a temperature poll, and the more rigorous analysis will follow. This is more to gauge if students want something like this at all.

Councillor Giraud cautions against voter fatigue and including too much, and if Vice-President Knickerbocker considered just putting forward the Motion. He also mentions there are several other items in the fall referendum, and, as previously discussed, it's hard to know how representative plebiscite questions are. Vice-President Knickerbocker states she believes plebiscite questions are representative and have been used as an effective tool in the past. She explains that she's not willing to move forward with a fee implementation motion without adequate consultation with the members. Furthermore, it is too late to add a fee motion, and since we represent student interests, she does not want to push forward something without adequate consultation.

Councillor Jones motions to extend the question period by 2 minutes. Seeing opposition, the Deputy Speaker proceeds to a vote. With 2 for, 5 abstain, and 18 against, the question period is not extended.

The Deputy Speaker moves into the discussion period.

Councillor Jones mentions he sees the value in student consultation, but wonders if the wording could clarify the implications of passing the base fee vs. the largest potential fee. He understands that the lowest fee would mostly cover administrative charges but not meaningfully defray athlete costs.

APPROVED

Councillor Faulkner agrees with Councillor Jones, mentioning that as a student without much knowledge of SSMu it would help to have this information.

Councillor Giraud emphasises all the work done by Vice-President Knickerbocker, but feels like we will end up basically asking the students the same questions twice, and the more we ask the less engaged they will be.

Councillor Letham asks if there is a Motion to amend, and states she believes it would be hard to state definitely what each level of fee would cover.

Vice-President Jason Wang motions to amend the wording of the plebiscite question to add "*to cover the administrative costs of incorporating the Athletic Teams into the SSMU*" And to further amend to say "*would you support the above mentioned fee of 30 cents to be greater to create an Athletics Team fund to support athletic team activities up to an amount of $3*."

Vice-President Kickerbocker does not consider this a friendly amendment.

Vice-President Jason Wang further amends the wording of the motion, seconded by Councillor Jones.

Vice-President Knickerbocker and Councillor Jones confirm that the amendment is friendly.

The Deputy Speaker opens the floor to further discussion.

Vice-President Knickerbocker moves to replace cut varsity with athletics.

Councillor Jones confirms that the amendment is friendly.

The Deputy Speaker notes that the discussion period has exceeded its allotted time and invites a motion to call the question.

Vice-President Harry Wang moves to call the question, seconded by Councillor Connor.

Seeing no opposition, the Deputy Speaker calls the question and asks whether there is any opposition to approving Motion 15c by unanimous consent.

Seeing opposition, the Deputy Speaker proceeds to a placard vote.

Motion 15c is approved with 24 in favour, 1 opposed, and 1 abstention.

APPROVED

d. Motion to suspend sections 6.2 and 6.12 of the IRs of Elections and Referenda to allow the SSMU staff under the Plate Club and the Athletic temporary interim clubs to campaign for their respective referenda (President Abu-Alkhair, Councillor Jones)
    i. Increase of the Plate Club Fee
    ii. Constitutional Amendment re: athletics - **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

President Abu Alkhair yields his time to Councillor Jones to present Motion 15d.

Councillor Jones explains that the SSMU Internal Regulations prohibit external groups from campaigning during referendum periods, although Council has traditionally permitted groups to campaign on questions directly concerning their activities and supporting fees. The motion proposes suspending sections 6.2 and 6.1.2 of the Internal Regulations of Elections and Referenda.

The Deputy Speaker opens the floor to questions.

Vice-President Knickerbocker asks which athletics staff would be covered by the motion.

Councillor Jones initially indicates that no athletics staff appear relevant to the discussion and expresses openness to an amendment if clarification is required.

The Deputy Speaker clarifies that the separate motion concerning QPIRG and CKUT addresses different sections of the Internal Regulations. Motion 15d concerns permitting SSMU staff to campaign on the Plate Club fee increase and the constitutional amendment regarding athletics.

Vice-President Knickerbocker seeks clarification on the scope of related SSMU staff, including which employees would be eligible to campaign and whether they could campaign on both referendum questions or only the question concerning their respective group.

Councillor Jones explains that coaches hired by athletics teams could fall under SSMU because the teams lack independent legal standing. The intention is to permit staff working for the affected groups to campaign on the relevant referendum questions.

President Abu Alkhair seeks clarification on whether the concern is that the wording could be interpreted as permitting all SSMU staff to campaign.

Vice-President Knickerbocker clarifies that the concern is the undefined scope of related SSMU staff.

APPROVED

Councillor Jones moves to replace related SSMU staff with wording specifying that SSMU staff under the Plate Club and the newly created athletics teams may campaign on their respective referendum questions.

The Deputy Speaker asks President Abu Alkhair whether the amendment is friendly.

President Abu Alkhair clarifies that athletics coaches are contractors rather than staff and that the athletics teams have not yet been formally established. He supports specifying Plate Club staff and suggests referring to the athletics groups as temporary interim clubs.

Councillor Giraud moves to call the question, seconded by Vice-President Knickerbocker.

The Deputy Speaker asks whether there is any opposition to approving Motion 15d.

Seeing none, Motion 15d is approved unanimously.

e. Motion to suspend section 6.21 of the IRs of Elections and Referenda to allow the following external bodies to campaign: (President Abu-Alkhair, Councillor Jones)
    i. QPIRG for the QPIRG Existence referendum motion
    ii. CKUT for the CKUT Existence referendum motion - **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

President Abu-Alkhair mentions that this is similar to the previous motion. He also mentions that the Chief Returning Officer has some proposed changes to the IRs of Elections & Referenda which will likely be presented at a future Council that would remove the necessity to constantly be suspending the IRs in this way.

The Deputy Speaker opens the floor to questions.

Vice-President Knickerbocker asks for clarification on whether this motion allows the ISGs to campaign broadly or only for their specific motions. President Abu-Alkhair affirms it is only for their respective motions.

Seeing no further questions or comments, the Deputy Speaker proceeds to a vote.

The Deputy Speaker asks whether there is any opposition to approving Motion 15e.

Seeing none, Motion 15e is approved unanimously.

16. Notices of Motion
17. For Discussion
    a. How to ensure GAs are accessible to all (Councillor Giraud)

APPROVED

Councillor Giraud explains that he had reports of people who were not able to participate in the last SSMU General Assembly. Some would have been able to participate if the meeting was hybrid. SOme were in class for example and were not allowed to vote by proxy per the Constitution. He is seeking the opinion of Council on this situation where people cannot have their votes heard.

Vice-President Harry Wang clarified how the General Assembly worked in the previous year and when the GA was exceptionally done in a hybrid manner. He emphasized that there are important logistical hurdles to hybrid GAs. The previous year it was very difficult to ensure people are voting when there is a high quorum, ensuring participants were SSMU Members was very challenging. People were sending links to others to join the GA and the Secretariat had no ability to stop people from doing so. The inability to be sure who was voting and that they are Members is a significant issue. He understands the accessibility concerns, but Motions passed at GAs still need to be ratified through a referendum. The GA was hybrid the previous year due to the STM strike. Hybrid GAS are not an ideal situation for the Secretariat to handle.

Vice-President Knickerbocker added more context. While she agrees with the idea of General Assemblies being more accessible, she wants to add more context on why the hybrid meeting was so challenging the year before. The main issue was that they had tried to limit the Zoom to only allow people who had pre-registered into the meeting, but that feature malfunctioned with the amount of people coming into the Zoom. There were also people trying to attend in-person and in the Zoom. People were trying to sign in with different emails from what they'd used to register and the Secretariat was trying to validate them during the start of the session. The Secretariat had to go through each vote (over 500) in real time to validate the votes which was logistically challenging. She believes there is a solution to this issue, but she's not sure what it is and invites suggestions.

The Deputy Speaker echos the two previous comments about the difficult experience in previous hybrid GAs. She adds that, when it is required, the ability to be hybrid is there. Hybrid meetings should be when there are extenuating circumstances that would not allow the GA to reach quorum (for e.g. the STM strike). When quorum is met, everyone is able to vote in the referendum that follows, so students have the ability to be heard, which happened this year.

Councillor Connor states that, regarding accessibility, since quorum is 350 people, there were not enough chairs in the room. He assumes this is a constraint on the space, but wonders if that can be changed in future.

Vice-President Knickerbocker states that the room has a 265 seated capacity. The previous year the GA had been held in Leacock 132, which had its own constraints, especially around being able to hear

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participants (particularly for those on Zoom). There are logistical constraints, unfortunately, in every option.

Councillor Faulkner mentions that an idea would be to have participants let the Secretariat know they are attending online in advance, since most people know why they can't attend (e.g. they're in a lab or something similar). The Secretariat can verify the information, no one can join after, and then the meeting could be hybrid and aligned with the regulations.

Vice-President Knickerbocker emphasizes that this is in fact exactly how the Secretariat had set up the hybrid meeting the previous year and still there were all the issues noted above. Two weeks beforehand the Secretariat had verified everyone who signed up and sent them the meeting credentials. Within 10 minutes of people entering the room the entire system collapsed.

Councillor Jones states it seems the main challenge is to verify the voting. The SimplyVoting system seems quite good and quick, could the vote not be run that way?

Vice-President Harry Wang explains there are processes and procedures that need to be voted on during meetings. For example, during the GA there was a vote about extending the discussion and 400 people voted no. SimplyVoting worked very well this year for the main Motion, but it doesn't entirely solve all the issues.

Vice-President Knickerbocker thinks it is possible to collect attendee names and put them into SimplyVoting but there would need to be a way to verify they are actually in attendance on the day of. She is sure there's a solution to make it more accessible, and she welcomes others to help think of solutions.

The Deputy Speaker also mentions that a lot of the issues in her experience are from the Secretariat needing to troubleshoot while also trying to run the meeting at the same time.

Parliamentarian Chan adds that when you leave the GA you need to sign out, but there is no similar way to keep track when someone leaves Zoom. With SimplyVoting, there were multiple people who had issues with it despite being registered and who were able to go see the Chief Retraining Officer who fixed the issues right away. In person that was quite simple, but if it was online he would have been receiving multiple messages at once that would have been difficult to manage.

Councillor Conner mentioned he worked at the check-in table and he found there was a bit of a disconnect with the student body as to what the General Assembly is and what it is for. He's not sure

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what the prerogative is for students to educate themselves before participating, but something like an instagram post or something similar *before* the GA would be helpful.

Councillor Giraud expresses agreement with this suggestion.

b. Emergency Fund (VP H. Wang)

Vice-President Harry Wang presents the discussion point. There is a significant gap in trying to help low-income students, especially for things like housing. The potential fund would be used for students in urgent situations such as losing housing. There is no similar fund in SSMU of this nature yet. He asks Council about the possibility of creating a working group to look into this matter.

Councillor Faulkner really supports this idea. He wonders if McGill has something for these situations. He supports a motion for this working group to be created.

Vice-President Harry Wang states the Dean of Students will do this on a case-by-case basis, and there is perhaps a possibility of collaborating with them in the future.

Councillor Faulkner puts forward the following Motion:

i. Motion to create and populate a working group for the creation of an Emergency Fund under the SSMU (Councillor Faulkner, Councillor Dan) - **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**
    1. Councillor Faulkner
    2. Councillor Giraud
    3. Councillor Dan
    4. Vice-President H. Wang (Chair)

The Deputy Speaker asks for volunteers to populate the working group, with the above-named people putting themselves forward.

The Deputy Speaker asks whether there is any opposition to approving the Motion.

Seeing none, the Motion is approved unanimously.

c. Discussion re the Yearbook (President Abu-Alkhair)
    i. Simply Voting Results
    ii. Voting Result Report

President Abu-Alkhair presents the results of the plebiscite question on the yearbook.

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He states that most people express support for a yearbook, particularly one of good quality, and most answered they would be willing to pay between $40-$50, which is similar to the quote they received. He notes there is a lot of data to review from the results of the plebiscite. He solicits thoughts, and also wishes to create a working group to analyze the results and come up with a plan and structure around the Yearbook.

He gives some history, noting that there used to be a Yearbook Executive Board of 4-7 people who created the book itself. There would also be a committee tasked with doing operational things like gathering photos and liaising with faculties.

Councillor Dan proposes the following Motion:

iii. Motion to create and populate a working group for the creation of the Yearbook under the SSMU (Councillor Dan, Councillor Letham) - **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

1. President Abu-Alkhair (Chair)
2. Councillor Connor
3. Councillor Lam
4. Vice-President Lai
5. Councillor Letham
6. Councillor Croquelois
7. Councillor Jones
8. Councillor Clément

The Deputy Speaker asks for volunteers to populate the working group, with the above-named people putting themselves forward.

Councillor Croquelois asks whether there should be members-at-large added.

President Abu-Alkhair clarifies this is just the working group to come up with a project plan. There will be a Yearbook Committee created, which could have members-at-large.

The Deputy Speaker asks whether there is any opposition to approving the Motion.

Seeing none, the Motion is approved unanimously.

d. Updating the Constitution (President Abu-Alkhair) - **POSTPONED**

President Abu-Alkhair states he is happy to postpone this discussion.

18. Confidential Session

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a. There is no confidential session.

19. Adjournment: **21:04**

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