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Guests
Adelina Bolhores, Jack Neal (McGill Tribune)
Quorum has been satisfied.

6:36 PM  Call to order

6:36 PM  1 Approval of the agenda
Speaker introduced herself.

There was a motion to amend the agenda to the following:

7.3. BIRT the PGSS join the five student associations taking part in the one-day anti-austerity strike on October 31 to oppose the increase of students fees and privatization in public services.

BIFRT the PGSS endorse and participate in the October 31 protest against the liberal budget cuts organized by coalition main rouge (Coalition opposée à la privatisation des services publiques)

BIFRT this is done by PGSS holding a one day strike on that day and that PGSS support the strike by disseminating information and encourage PGSS members at large to take part in it.

Speaker called amendment to a vote.

Motion Passed with 1 abstention from Ana Best.

Speaker called motion to approve the agenda to a vote.

Motion Passed.

2 Approval of the minutes

6:39 PM

Speaker called motion to a vote.

Motion Passed.

3 Floor Items

3.1 General meeting

6:40 PM

3.2

8:02 PM

Andrea Palmer (Social Work) read a more coherent motion.

WHEREAS 12 000 students across Quebec be voted on a one day strike budget on October 31, denounced austerity measures in general and budget cuts to university in particular, and more votes are happening in the coming week.

WHEREAS the budget compression of 172 million dollars to universities has been announced by the Quebec Government.

WHEREAS the Quebec Human Rights Commission has denounced the cuts to public services and women spirits highlighted has such disproportionately and negatively affected women in particular.

WHEREAS there is a demonstration organized against these austerity measures at 11AM on October 31, starting at McGill College and Sherbrooke Street, as student groups and community groups will be participating in this action.
BIRT the PGSS oppose the budgetary compressions and imposed on universities throughout Quebec, notably McGill, as well as public and social services in general that the PGSS endorse and participate in the October 31 protest against the liberal budget cuts that this be done by PGSS holding a one day strike on that day and that PGSS support the strike by spreading information, I encourage PGSS members at large to take part of this.

She motivated in favour of this motion as she knows the impact of these changes to vulnerable population. She welcomes questions.

Frederic Voisard (MMGES) asked how this was more unfair for women than men.

Andrea Palmer (Social Work) answered that in terms of health services, women make up the majority of the workforce in the sociological sector and at the same time women are also paid less.

External Affairs Officer would like clarification on the type of group who are rallying for this.

Andrea Palmer (Social Work) answered that this would be a friendly rally and from experience, rallies would not be violent.

External Affairs Officer also asked about the list of student groups who have signed onto this petition already.

Andrea Palmer (Social Work) replied that she would get the answers while the Speaker takes the next questions.

Saturni Ntamba Ndandala (EGSS) proposed that we should be more proactive and organize another rally to fight for our rights.

Speaker suggested him to draft another motion and speak with the External Affairs Officer on procedures involved so he can have this motion be brought to council next time.

Andrea Palmer (Social Work) suggested the following amendment to the amendment of the motion.

BIFRT the External Affairs committee be encouraged to organize actions in the spirit of this motion.

Speaker explains the procedure to make amendments.

Speaker called this amendment to a vote.

Motion Passed.

Behrang Sharif (GAP) asked the External Affairs Officer to comment on the first coalition that he mentioned and if we were sure that this would not cause any problems in the future.

Speaker called amendment as a whole to a vote.

Motion Passed.

Andrea Palmer (Social Work) answered in response to the External Affairs Officer question earlier that there are student groups from CEGEP, UQAM, University of Sherbrooke, Concordia University and at least 7 associations from University de Montreal and another large body who are in support of this rally.

Nicolas Chatel-Launay (MCGSS) noted that one of the Coalition pour Services Publique was composed of FEQ, CSM, and CEQ which are major unions.

Logistical questions were also asked about the specifics meant by a strike. It was questioned whether Thomson House would be closed that day and whether TAs teaching classes were not obliged to attend classes that day.
Andrea Palmer (Social Work) answered this would strictly be as a student member to strike a class that day and attend the demonstration.

Speaker suggested Motion to extend meeting by 15 minutes.

Motion Passed

External Affairs Officer noted the controversial part in the middle that endorsed the protest that PGSS hold a strike. He motivated to strike the middle two clauses.

Yony Besler (MGAPS) supported this amendment because PGSS as a whole would probably not go on a strike.

Secretary-General spoke against the first two clauses. He noted that due to internal organization reasons, this would raise problems.

Jonathan Mooney (CGSS) suggested to call this motion to a vote.

There was a point of information where PGSS did go on a 1 day strike previously.

Speaker called amendment to a vote.

Motion Passed.

Karim Bouayad-Gervais (GASP) asked if we could refer this to council.

Speaker answered ‘no.’

Saturnin Ntamba Ndandala (EGSS) proposed another amendment to hold fundraising events for raising funds to alleviate the pressures of the budget cuts.

Speaker suggested him to speak with the other Officers and noted that this topic was not in this venue.

External Affairs Officer spoke in favour of this motion.

Speaker called this motion as a whole to a vote.

Motion passed.

4 Speaker’s Report

6:40 PM

Speaker introduced herself and explained the responsibilities of her position. She encouraged questions regarding the 5 day submission rule and other businesses inquiries. The Speaker further explained the rules and process to be respected during the AGM. She hoped for more motions for the winter AGM and noted that there would be a photographer at this meeting.

5 Announcements

6:43 PM

5.1 Divest McGill

Victor Frankel, BGSA
External Affairs Officer noted the tragic events today at Ottawa and that members. He extended his thanks to everyone who were present at the meeting and sent out his condolences to the soldiers who were killed.

Victor Frankel (BGSA) introduced Divest McGill and its purpose. The campaign encourages renewable alternative sources of energy. On the university level, Divest McGill is looking into the investment in fossil fuels alongside with the Financial Affairs Officer of PGSS. An information session would explain the broader goals and the how individuals of PGSS could get involved. He noted that this was an unprecedented start on a sustainable movement. You could contact Victor Frankel at victor.frankel@mail.mcgill.ca

5.2 #ConsentMcGill Campaign

Is happening on campus this week. Stop by the booths, talk with the #ConsentMcGill volunteers and pick up a kit / write a message / take a photo!


Member Services Officer informed Council that Consent McGill is happening on campus this week. Information on the event would be updated on Facebook. She then introduced the speaker from the Family Care Caucus.

Laura Risk (MGSS) introduced herself as the Co-Chair of PGSS Family Care Caucus. They advocate for PGSS members who have families. She explained the the volunteer nature of the organization. You do not need a dependent to be involved in this Caucus. Commitment to this organization is very flexible. They are currently looking for 2 members to join the family care caucus. Any questions could be directed to familycarepgss.com

5.3 Tribune Publication Society (TPS)

Maryse Thomas, PGSS Representative to TPS

Maryse Thomas introduced herself as the first ever PGSS Representative to the McGill Tribune. It was approved in a referendum last year to make graduate student part of their publication society. It is part of their mandate now to cover graduate student events and extend their other services to graduate students. Any questions could be directed to pgssrep@tribunemcgill.com.

Speaker explained if anyone want to make an announcement, they must email her beforehand. #consent

6 Reports

6.1 CFS update

CFS update by the Secretary-General

Secretary-General explained the case that was heard by the superior court. The question was, if an individual member of PGSS could ask CFS to hold a referendum on certain issues. The result of this case was favourable to PGSS. This Friday, PGSS lawyers would present themselves in front of the court and the secretary-general is confident that the court of appeal and judge would vote in our favour. He extended his thanks to his executive team and everyone else who contributed to this 5 year case.
Jonathan Mooney (CGSS) asked the Secretary-General to explain for those who do not know, what the CFS is and what the referendum would be about.

Secretary General explained that PGSS wanted to leave CFS 5 years ago and that PGSS had to go through a cumbersome process where CFS was preventing universities from leaving this organization. Last year only in legal fees, PGSS spent over $150,000 in legal fees alone on this case.

Shane Caldwell (BGSS) asked for clarification on the term ‘quasi-constitutional right.’

Secretary General explained that there are two legal systems in Canada (common and civil). Quebec operates under civil law and has a separate system with a different charter of rights. This quasi-constitutional right was a human right. It is used for laws which remain superior even when subsequent statutes, which contradict them, are enacted by the same legislature. It is an argument under the civil law side.

It was asked if we are currently in the supreme court stage or the superior court stage.

Secretary General explained that the Supreme Court of Canada is the last instance court of the country. He further explained that we did not go through the Court of Quebec and so the Superior Court was the first instance judge in the CFS case. The process is difficult because you had to prove that the rights violated had to breech your own individual rights. We are not at the Supreme Court stage yet as that would be the last instance.

6:59 PM 6.2 Report of the Members Services Officer to the October 2014 General Meeting

Report of the Members Services Officer to the October 2014 General Meeting

Karim Bouayad-Gervais (GASP) asked for an explanation of the Sustainability Committee

Member Services Officer explained that they recently ratified the Sustainability Committee. She is the Chair of that committee and they currently have three positions available for members to join. Those who are interested in joining could email the MSO.

7:00 PM 6.3 External Affairs Officer’s Report to 2014 Fall AGM

External Affairs Officer’s Report to 2014 Fall AGM

Regine Debrosse (GASP) asked for an explanation regarding the transport card.

External Affairs Officer explained that during last council, it was approved that a new card would be introduced that would combine your student card and OPUS card. The panel to approve this would happen on November 14.

7:02 PM 6.4 Internal Affairs Officer’s Report to 2014 Fall AGM

Internal Affairs Officer’s Report to 2014 Fall AGM

Regrets, not present.
6.5 Report of the Financial Affairs Officer to the October 2014 General Meeting

Report of the Financial Affairs Officer to the October 2014 General Meeting

Regrets, not present.

6.6 Report of the Academic Affairs Officer to the October 2014 General Meeting

Report of the Academic Affairs Officer to the October 2014 General Meeting

Jonathan Mooney (CGSS) asked if the Academic Affairs Officer could tell us about anything interesting that happened in Senate today.

Academic Affairs Officer noted that they passed a policy on supervision today. Supervision had been a priority of McGill in the past years and it finally passed today. Implementation could now be commenced.

Regine Debrosse (GASP) asked if the document they were talking about referred to the charter.

The Academic Affairs Officer explained that those are two different things and that the Charter was respect to External Affairs Officer’s portfolio and this policy is catered for only students of McGill. External Affairs Officer noted that council sent back the charter after revision and PGSS agreed with it in spirit despite minor issues of being too general or restrictive. Revision would continue on with Laval University since there were things in the document that sounded more aggressive in French. This document would probably be introduced again in Council at some point.

Academic Affairs Officer clarified that she was one of the student senators and that there is a new spot available in Senate. She encourages students to submit questions to Senate. Questions could be directed to academic.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca

6.7 Report of the Secretary-General to the AGM-Oct 22,2014

Report of the Secretary-General

Report of the Secretary-General to the AGM-Oct 22,2014

Saturnin Ntambandandala (EGSS) asked if there was there a program or plan regarding transport on campus (ex. shuttle).

Secretary General explained that within McGill there is only the MacDonald Campus shuttle. He noted that he could bring up this problem to McGill Administration. There has not been an initiative so far with regards to internal transportation up to this point.

Karim Bouayad-Gervais (GASP) asked why the secretary-general’s report was not as detailed as the other reports presented.

Secretary General explained that there were some things could not be disclosed due to confidentiality issues. Questions regarding a specific item could be directed to the Secretary-General for clarification since this was a yearly report.
6.8 Member Support Commissioner - October-2014 AGM report

Member Support Commissioner - October-2014 AGM report
Member Support Commissioner - October-2014 AGM report

Regrets, not present.

6.9 Health Commissioner Report

Health Commissioner Report

Saturnin Ntambandandala (EGSS) noted that international students had to pay extra fees when it comes to health insurance. He asked if there was a plan to change the insurance coverage policy for international students.

The Health Commissioner explained that health insurance is under the portfolio of the Member Services Officer. There are some clinics who rip off students. McGill Health Services has a list of clinics who do not do this. In terms of what international students are charged, this is part of the executive work plan this year.

6.10 2010-10-16- Report of the Environment Commissioner (October 2014 AGM)

Re-post of EC report and supplemental information (apologies, originally posted in council stream).
2010-10-16- Report of the Environment Commissioner (October 2014 AGM) (1)
2010-10-16- Report of the Environment Commissioner (October 2014 AGM) (2)

No questions.

6.11 Equity Commissioner Report

Report from the Equity Commissioner
Equity Commissioner Report

No questions.

7 New Business

7.1 Bylaws Reform Package (PENDING RATIFICATION BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS)

WHEREAS PSAC reviewed the proposed modifications to the Bylaws,
WHEREAS the proposed modifications are important for the proper functioning of the Society,
WHEREAS Council approved the Bylaws Reform Package as amended by PSAC,
WHEREAS The Board of Directors ratified the Bylaws Reform Package;
BIRT the Bylaws Reform Package be approved.

Bylaws Reform Package (PENDING RATIFICATION BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS)

Secretary-General explained the process the Bylaws Reform Package had to go through to reach General
Assembly for approval.

Yony Bresler (MGAPS) asked whether they are allowed to make amendments now that this is present in
the AGM.

Secretary General replied ‘no.’

Nicolas Chatel-Launay (MCGSS) asked to have all items in 6.5 to be voted on separately.

Speaker noted that only questions would be allowed for now.

Karim Bouayad-Gervais (GASP) noted that there is a recruitment problem with the Appeals Board cur-
tently. However, he does not think the solution presented was suitable solution to the problem. Item
6.5.2.1 seems to be giving preferences to certain associations, especially the GLSA.

Secretary-General explained that the problem with recruitment currently is the inability to recruit judges.
Additionally, there is the problem of having an independent judiciary board where the Secretary General
is a member. There is a disposition currently which says that members with legal training has priority over
members. The majority of people who have this training are based in the faculty of law. The reality would
be that if people from the GLSA wanted to join, the would have priority. By having a lawyer, the procedural
matters are easily solved. He emphasized that it would not be an automatic process since nominations
from the GLSA would still have to be assessed. Part of the bylaws would be taking the Secretary-General
out of the equation.

Karim Bouayad-Gervais asked about section 9.16 and asked why a is student would be the center of legal
action when PGSS already has a legal counsel.

Secretary-General explained that chief justice is separate of the legal counsel. This is consultation pur-
poses only and not a mandatory opinion.

Environment Commissioner asked if people who apply are prioritized based on having legal training, would there be consideration given to having other PGSAs nominate people who may be appropriate for
the position as opposed to just the law faculty.

Secretary General explained that other PGSAs nominated people, however members of GLSAs are the
only students who have had legal training during their studies.

Jonathan Mooney (CGSS) asked if it was possible to divide the question and debate on individual clauses.

Speaker explained in the complicated situation of bylaws, they would go through each section quickly and
not necessarily efficient to go through everything clause by clause.

Speaker called to vote on each clause individually.

3.5.1. No points regarding this section.

4.1.3. No points regarding this section.
6.4.3.2. No points regarding this section.

6.5. No points regarding this section.

6.4.1. No points regarding this section.

6.5.1.1. No points regarding this section.

6.5.3.1. Karim Bouayad-Gervais (GASP) expressed that he does not see the point and they should simply vote for the most competent candidate.

Secretary-General explained that other students from other faculties are welcomed be involved in the Appeals Board. However, this is a specific position that is part of the judicial board which is an independent body that makes decisions. Their decisions are subject to due process and if not made correctly, it could result in problems that could carry out outside of PGSS. (See example of SSMU) He again emphasized on the importance of legal training.

External Affairs Officer noted that appeals that affect Officers should not be a conflict of interest.

Sebastien Dery (BMESS) asked about the rationale behind changing the number of judges from five to three.

Secretary-General answered they do not get to have five people.

Frederick Armstrong (Philosophy) asked what this council does. He also asked why there is not an external legal council that could be appealed to.

Secretary General explained that the Appeals Board is the judiciary body within PGSS.

Speaker explained that the Appeals Board is the body of the PGSS to which you appeal decisions made by PGSS officers or PGSS itself. She also noted that it would be named the ‘Judicial Board.’

Secretary-General explained that we could resort to an external legal council. However, some decisions are judicial and PGSS would need to have a body that resolves matters following due process to avoid legal complications.

Jennifer Murray (EOBSS) spoke in strong favour this as it resolved an immediate concern. There has been a lack of applications. She noted that GLSA does not have a majority vote and they need strong legal expertise in the situation of a problem.

Andrew Blakney (MCGSS) asked the Secretary-General to name an instance where PGSS had been sued where a lawyer was required.

Secretary-General noted that for PGSS, there has not been a case. However, SSMU had set the precedent last year when they were sued because of an incorrect decision made by the judicial board.

Victor Frankel (BGSA) spoke in favour of this motion. He asked if there are policies in place for members for protection in times of conflict of interest.

Speaker replied with a resounding ‘Yes.’

External Affairs Officer expressed that he was not a particular fan of restricting the candidate pool to the GLSA. However, he agreed that this was a major improvement compared to the old system.

Frederick Armstrong (Philosophy) noted that it is bad form to be very specific when phrasing bylaws.

Speaker noted that this is not the last chance to discuss this matter and that this is not the last opportunity to make a change.
6.3.3.2. No points regarding this section.

6.5.4.1. No points regarding this section.

6.5.5. Frederic Voisard (Mining & Materials Engineering) asked what the procedures would be to differentiate a tie in the case where only two judges are appointed due to lack of applications.

Secretary General explained that it was rare when judges did not agree, but there are regulations when disputes happen.

6.5.5.1. No points regarding this section.

6.5.5.2. Frederick Armstrong (Philosophy) asked if there was a difference between discussion and deliberation.

Secretary General replied that there is no distinction and they meant the same thing.

Frederick Armstrong (Philosophy) further inquired that if the judges could speak about the issue if there were not 2/3 duly appointed judges.

Secretary General answered in order for you to give a decision on a matter, you need two judges to discuss the matter.

6.5.5.3. Nicholas Chatel-Launay (MCGSS) noted that considering the amount of information that the appointments board have on appointments, in the situation where only one judge is appointed, the judge could name two friends who have the same opinion.

Yony Bresler (MGAPS) agreed that it was poorly worded. He opposed this subsection.

Secretary General explained that there are still regulations regarding conflict of interest. However, this is a problem that is part of the appointments board rather than the judicial board.

Dieta Hanson (EGSA) asked if revise was meant to be review.

Secretary General replied ‘yes.’

6.5.5.4. No points regarding this section.

7.3.4. No points regarding this section.

8.5.5. No points regarding this section.

9.16. Karim Bouayad-Gervais (GASP) expressed that the chief justice should come from any association.

Secretary General emphasized it was not a legal action. It was for internal purposes for internal members.

9.17. No points regarding this section.

Karim Bouayad-Gervais (GASP) suggested a motion to divide the question where 6.5.3.1 and 6.5.5.3 and 9.16. and 9.17. would be voted on separately.

Speaker emphasized that bylaws are a comprehensive package and that it could affect other items in the package.

Frederick Armstrong (Philosophy) asked for clarification on voting procedures.

Speaker explained that they would vote on each separate division.

It was asked would the change from Appeals board to Judicial board have any effect if we vote separately on these items.
Speaker answered 'no' and they would be voted on as a whole.

Speaker called 'Motion to divide the two clauses above and voting on them separately to a vote.

Motion Failed.

Speaker called 'Motion to divide second set of clauses' to a vote.

Motion Failed.

Speaker called motion as a whole to a vote.

Motion passed with abstentions from Frederick Armstrong (Philosophy), Amy Pryhoda (MGAPSS), Regine Debrosse (GASP),

Opposition noted from Elizabeth Cawley (PGSA), Karim Bouayad-Gervais (GASP), Jason Jensen (MGSSA-SOCILOGY)

7.2 Ratification of the appointment of Directors

WHEREAS the Board of Directors has approved the appointment of three (3) new Board members;
WHEREAS Marc Lemieux has been appointed to fill one (1) of the two (2) seats reserved for External Members;
WHEREAS Regine Debrosse has been appointed to fill the seat of Council representative to the Board;
WHEREAS Karim Bouayad-Gervais has been appointed to fill one (1) of the two (2) seats reserved for Internal Members;
BIRT the appointment of these Directors be ratified.

Secretary-General moved in favour of this motion.

Speaker called this motion to a vote.

Motion Passed with abstentions from Karim Bouayad-Gervais (GASP) and Regine Debrosse (GASP).

8:32 PM Adjourned