Minutes for the Council Meeting of
Wednesday, June 8, 2011, 18h30

C11-06-#01

Executives
President Roland Nassim, VP Finance Adrian Kaats, VP External Marieve Isabel, VP Internal Daniel Simeone

Councilors

Commissioners & Non-voting Members
Council Commissioner J. Mooney, Health Commissioner E. Cawley, Elections Commissioner T. Hamade, Senate Commissioner A. Deguise, Environment Commissioner A. Poisson, Social Commissioner M. Krause, Family Care Commissioner I. Pivneva, Secretary M. Boudreau

Regrets
VP Academic Lily Han, Equity Commissioner S. Houshmand, Anatomy and Cell Biology J. Degeer

Gallery and Guests

Call to Order
18h35

1. Approval of the Agenda
The agenda was amended in the following ways:
- Motion 10.1 moved immediately after motion 5.2.

No objections. Agenda approved as amended (M. Krause/ T. Centea).

2. Speaker’s Report

The speaker gave a brief announcement. He added that the Nominating Committee did not reach quorum this month.

3. Announcements

3.1. PGSS Awards
A. Bishop announced the PGSS Awards.

3.2. Draw for Council Awards
A. Bishop announced the PGSS Council Awards.

3.3. Sami Fink, project leader for the Permaculture Gardens project at Thomson House
S. Fink gave a brief announcement.

3.4. Science & Policy Exchange (5 minutes)
M. Rak gave a brief presentation

4. Approval of the Minutes

4.1 C11-05-#10
Minutes approved as amended (E. Cawley/ M. Krause).

5. Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders

5.1. Motion R12-06-#001 • Election of Student Support Commissioner (VP Finance/ Health Commissioner)
BIRT Council hold an election immediately for the position of Student Support Commissioner.

Motion passed.

The Elections Commissioner called for candidates.
Vikrant Bhosle nominated himself and gave a brief introduction to Council.
A brief question period followed.

5.2. Motion R12-06-#002 • To elect candidates to the Nominating Committee (M. Isabel/ Social Commissioner)
BIRT Council hold elections for the following vacancies on the Nominating Committee:
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Science
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Arts
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Dentistry
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Education
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Law
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Medicine
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Religious Studies
- two (3) members at-large

Motion passed.

Nomination for:
Dentistry - Zeeshan Sheikh
Human Genetics - Daniel Meadows
Agricultural and Environmental Science - Rona Strasser

The above members were ratified as members of the Nominating Committee.

10.1. Motion R12-06-#003 • PGSS-GPS Grant Programme (VP Finance / T. Centea)
WHEREAS the Grants Review Committee (GRC) has reviewed eight (8) grant applications;
WHEREAS the GRC recommends funding the following projects:
BIRT Council recommend funding Option 1 as outlined in the report of the Grants Review Committee.

Motion passed.

6. Executive Reports

6.1. VP External
Report online.

6.2. VP Academic
Report online.

6.3. VP Finance
Report online; also gave a brief announcement.

6.4. VP Internal
Report online.

6.5. President
Report online.

7. Commissioner Reports
7.1. Elections Commissioner
Report online.

7.2. Equity Commissioner
Report online.

7.3. Senate Commissioner
Report online.

7.4. Environment Commissioner
Report online.

7.5. Health Commissioner
Report online.

7.6. Social Commissioner
Report online.

7.7. Student Support Commissioner
Position vacant.

7.8. Family Care Commissioner
Report online.

8. Other Reports

Report online.

9. Question Period

A brief question period took place.

10. New Business

10.2. Motion R12-06-#004 • To create a Grants Programme Fund (VP Finance / VP External)
WHEREAS monies budgeted for the PGSS/GPS Grants Programme are may be allocated by the GRC and Council for the following financial year;
WHEREAS surpluses and deficits in the PGSS/GPS Grants Programme arising from programme activities in a given financial year should affect the amount budgeted for the programme in the following financial year;
BIRT the PGSS/GPS Grants Programme be treated as a segregated fund titled Grants Programme Fund in the PGSS budget.

Motion passed.
10.3. Motion R12-06-#005 • Committee of the whole on the budget (VP Finance/ VP External)
WHEREAS the PGSS budget was presented at the May meeting of Council and was tacitly approved with only minor change requests;
WHEREAS the current presentation of the budget reflects the combined work of PGSS accountants and bookkeepers, management staff, auditor and members of the CMA;
BIRT Council enter into a committee of the whole for a period of at least 20 minutes to discuss the current budget presentation.

Main motion passed. Council entered into the committee of the whole. Council left the committee of the whole.

Motions (VP Finance/ VP External):
BIRT the special events fund be increased from 5,000 to 10,000.
Motion passed.

BIRT the 2011-2012 PGSS budget be adopted by the Council.
Motion passed.

BIRT the travel awards line be eliminated from the budget.
Motion passed.

No objections to the late financial reports being included in the council package.

10.4. Motion R12-06-#006 • To allow executive committee to approve GPS Grants (VP Finance/ VP External)
WHEREAS Council does not meet in July;
WHEREAS there are three grant applications that have been received for the month of June but would not be considered until August;
BIRT Council allow the Executive Committee to approve the GRC’s grant recommendations for the month of June to a maximum of $2,400.

Motion out of order.

Motion (VP Finance/ VP Internal)
BIRT council approve up to $2,400 in grant allocations as approved by the GRC for the month of July.

Motion passed.

10.5. Motion R12-06-#007 • To enforce reimbursement receipt deadline and de-allocation procedures (VP Finance/ VP Internal)
WHEREAS grant applicants often do not satisfy Society Regulation 3.6.1, failing to deliver receipts in support of reimbursement requests for allocated grant funds within the time limit set therein;
WHEREAS there are presently no rules governing the consequences for failure to adhere to Society Regulation 3.6.1 and any applied repercussions are arbitrary; and
WHEREAS failures to comply with Society Regulation 3.6.1 result in undue penalization of grant applicants who suffer denial of funds due to PGSS' inability to estimate remaining funds in the PGSS / GPS Grants Program budget;

**BIRT Society Regulation 3.6.1 be amended to read, “3.6.1 Funds shall be disbursed by the VP (Finance) upon receipt of sufficient receipts. Receipts are required to be delivered to the VP (Finance) within 2 weeks of the end of the event. Failure to comply with the receipt deadline shall result in notice of a five (5) regular business day extension of the deadline after which the VP (Finance) shall be authorized to de-allocate all unclaimed funds allocated for the event.”**

Motion passed.

10.6. Motion R12-06-#008 • Bylaw Amendment regarding duties of the Health Commissioner (Health Commissioner/)

WHEREAS the constitution currently states that the role of the Health Commissioner is to ensure that the Society is represented on University committees, subcommittees, and work groups whose mandate includes health or wellness issues;
WHEREAS the Health and Wellness Committee (HAWC) is currently made up of an incomplete list of committees representing health or wellness issues on campus;

**BIRT that Society Bylaw 5.10 Duties of the Health Commissioner be amended, in first reading to:**

[New text in bold.]

5.10 Duties of the Health Commissioner
5.10.1 The Health Commissioner shall:
   a. be the Health and Wellness Committee’s direct liaison to Council;
   b. represent the Society’s interests in all health and wellness issues on campus;
   c. assist the Executive in negotiating health, dental, and vision insurance plans for the Society to offer its members;
   d. Ensure that the Society is represented on University committees, subcommittee, and work groups whose mandate includes health or wellness issues, including but not limited to the Committee for Student Services, the Health Services Advisory Board, The Mental Health Services Advisory Board, the Advisory Committee on International Students, and the Counselling Services Advisory Board.

The speaker ruled this motion out of order as it was not approved by the President.

The President stated that the nature of the changes has been discussed. These changes are just cleaning up the bylaw. It is going to come back the same way in August. He has seen and approved these changes.

**Motion:**
To challenge the ruling of the chair.
Motion passed.
Main motion passed.

10.7. Motion R12-06-#009 • Bylaw Amendment regarding Health and Wellness Committee POST- (Health Commissioner/ VP Finance)

WHERAS Bylaw 6.6.15 regarding membership to the Health and Wellness Committee (HAWC) are not accurately reflected in the membership of HAWC;
WHERAS the Health and Wellness Committee (HAWC) does not currently have seats for all university committees representing health or wellness issues on campus;

BIRT Society Bylaw 6.6.15 Health and Wellness Committee (HAWC) be amended, in first reading to:

6.6.15 Health and Wellness Committee (HAWC)

6.6.15.1 Purpose
The Health and Wellness Committee shall be responsible for:

6.6.15.1.1 surveying, assessing, monitoring and working towards improving the health and wellness of the PGSS community;
6.6.15.1.2 education and promotion of health and wellness issues;
6.6.15.1.3 collaborating with other health and/or wellness groups;
6.6.15.1.4 making recommendations to the Council on the state of the Society Health and Dental Plans; and
6.6.15.1.5 making recommendations to the Council on any health related matters.

6.6.15.2 Membership
6.6.15.2.1 The Health Commissioner (chair)
6.6.15.2.2 The VP Finance
6.6.15.2.3 One (1) Society representative to the Committee for Student Services
6.6.15.2.4 One (1) Society representative to the Health Services Advisory Board
6.6.15.2.5 One (1) Society representative to the Mental Health Services Advisory Board
6.6.15.2.6 One (1) Society representative to the Advisory Committee on International Students
6.6.15.2.7 One (1) Society representative to the Counselling Services Advisory Board
6.6.15.2.8 Five (5) at-large regular members of the Society

The Health Commissioner on motivation stated that the VP Finance is supposed to sit on the HAWC. We are making that clear. We are also adding seat for counseling services.

Motion passed.

Adjournment
20h11
POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS’ SOCIETY OF McGILL UNIVERSITY
Minutes for the Council Meeting of
Wednesday September 14, 2011, 18h30
C11-09-#02

Executives
President Roland Nassim, VP Academic Lily Han, VP External Marieve Isabel

Councilors
Air and Space Law M. Dodge, Anatomy and Cell Biology J. Degeer, Anthropology A-E. Keen, Art
History & Communication Studies G. King, A. Turnbull, M. Dionne-Petit, Atmospheric and
Oceanic Sciences E. Viktor, Biochemistry L. Van der Kraak, Biology D. Rakic, Bioresource
Engineering L. ShuangYe Qiao, E. ElSayed, Chemistry M. Krause, Civil Engineering H. Nikopour
Deilami, Communication Sciences and Disorders L. Jin, Dentistry B. Hoac, English C. Gélinas-
Faucher, D. Barkley, Experimental Medicine S. Kwan, U. Iftikhar, L. Nezvitsky, German Studies
P. Schwerppe, History C. Ulmer, Human Genetics D. Meadows, Information Studies (Lib. & Info
Studies) M. Brown, Islamic Studies M. Munir, Management P. Tenneriello, Mechanical
Engineering T. Centea, K. Fayazbakhsh, K. Rahmani, Mining, Metals, Materials Engineering T.
Hamade, Music C. Wingate, B. Sajo, Pharmacology and Therapeutics V. Bhosle, Philosophy M.
Xhignesse, Physics J. Carr, Physiology B. Rocque, Postdoctoral Studies H. Dokainish, Psychiatry
E. Cawley, Psychology I. Pivneva, Sociology K. Thurairajah

Commissioners & Non-voting Members
Council Commissioner J. Mooney, Health Commissioner E. Cawley, Elections Commissioner T.
Hamade, Social Commissioner M. Krause, Family Care Commissioner I. Pivneva, Student
Support Commissioner V. Bhosle, Equity Commissioner S. Houshmand, Secretary M. Boudreau,
AGSEM L. Lewis

Regrets
VP Finance Adrian Kaats, VP Internal Daniel Simeone, Earth and Planetary Sciences D. Carozza,
Educational & Counseling Psychology D. Goldberg, Human Genetics S. Mokhtar, Integrated
Studies K. Sun, Music E. Donald, Physics J. Kennedy, Social Work M. De La Sablonnière-Griffin

Gallery and Guests
MUNACA K. Whittaker, PGSS Environment Committee C. Wrobel, McGill Daily J. Lukawiecki, V.
Marleau, Senate Commissioner Candidates J. LeBoeuf, H. Farhat, A. Bouchard, Environment

Call to Order
18h34

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was amended in the following ways:
- For motion 5.1 to change Student Support Commissioner to Senate and Library Commissioner.
- To move motion 10.3 to after the approval of the minutes.
- To add the emergency motions at the beginning of new business.

No objections. Agenda approved as amended.

2. Speaker’s Report

The Speaker gave a brief intro about the PGSS council for new Councilors.

Motion (M. Krause/ J. Carr)
BIRT speaking rights be extend to the gallery.
No objections, motion passed.

3. Announcements

3.1. Unit Review Committees (Institute of Islamic Studies, Dept. of Linguistics, School of Computer Science)
The President gave a brief announcement about the unit review committees.

3.2. AGSEM (8 minutes)
L. Lewis gave a brief presentation regarding AGSEM.

4. Approval of the Minutes

4.1 C11-06-#01
Minutes approved (M. Dodge/ M. Krause).

10.3. Motion R12-09-#006 · To support MUNACA (Executive Committee)
WHEREAS members of MUNACA are integral to the successful functioning of McGill University and provide invaluable support to the teaching and research mission of the University;
WHEREAS a strike began on Sept. 2nd which is causing a disruption and slow down of University functioning and services that affect all graduate students;
WHEREAS the strike provides clear evidence of the irreplaceable status of MUNACA members to the University and specifically to PGSS members;

**BIRT** that PGSS support MUNACA in their ongoing negotiations with McGill for fair and equitable working conditions and parity with the working conditions in other Quebec Universities.

The President gave a brief overview of the MUNACA strike situation. We would like to pass this motion so that we have an official position on the strike.

K. Whittaker, the President of MUNACA, explained his position to the PGSS Council. The four main issues are 1. work premiums, 2. recognition of seniority, 3. benefits and pensions, 4. salary grid.

The President explained that he invited the VP Finance and Administration of McGill to come and speak on behalf of McGill regarding their position on this issue and he did not respond.

Debate, discussion, and a question and answer period followed.

*Motion to call the question* (E. Cawley)
Motion passed (J. Carr opposed).


5. **Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders**

5.1. *Motion R12-09-#001 - Elections of Senate and Library Commissioner and Environment Commissioner (Elections Commissioner/ M. Krause)*

**BIRT** Council hold an election immediately for the positions of Senate and Library Commissioner and Environment Commissioner.

Motion passed.

The Elections Commissioner called for candidates for both the Senate and Library Commissioner and the Environment Commissioner.

The following candidates nominated themselves:

**Senate and Library Commissioner**
- Adam Bouchard
- Hiba Farhat
- Jerome LeBoeuf
- Brock Rutter
Each candidate gave a brief introduction of themselves to Council.

A brief question and answer period followed.

The Elections Commissioner explained the ballot and voting process.

5.2. Motion R12-09-#002 · To elect candidates to the Nominating Committee (E. Cawley/ J. Carr)

BIRT Council hold elections for the following vacancies on the Nominating Committee:
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Science
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Arts
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Education
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Law
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Medicine
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Religious Studies
- two (3) members at-large

Motion passed. No one was elected.

5.3. Motion R12-09-#003 · To accept Nominating Committee recommendations (M. Krause/ J. Carr)

WHEREAS the Nominating Committee has met to review nominees applying for external and internal committee positions, and presented recommendations to Council with respect to committee appointments

BIRT the following appointments be made:
- Gretchen King to CKUT Board of Directors
- David O’Connor to PGSS Environment Committee and McGill Student Environment Committee
- Melissa Duffy to Advisory Committee on Human Research Ethics
- Kazem Fayazbakhsh to PGSS Committee on Monetary Affairs and PGSS Grants Review Committee
- Sophia Kapchinsky to PGSS Equity Committee and PGSS External Affairs Committee
- Ana González Barrero to PGSS Equity Committee
- Niyosha Keyzad to Subcommittee on Race and Ethnic Relations
- Alireza Shams to Advisory Committee on International Students and PGSS Health and Wellness Committee
- Jung E (Claire) Han to PGSS Health and Wellness Committee
- Sebastien Forte to Mental Health Services Advisory Board and PGSS Health and Wellness Committee
- Murthy Manjari to PGSS Committee for Graduate Student Support
- Kelly Nugent to Science Faculty Council
- Timotei Centea to PGSS Committee on Monetary Affairs

Motion passed. Nominations in the Nominating Committee report were also approved.

Motion (J. Carr/ C. Wingate)
BIRT we go directly to motion 10.4 after reports and question period.

Motion passed.

6. Executive Reports

6.1. VP External
Report online.

6.2. VP Academic
Report online.

6.3. VP Finance
Report online.

6.4. VP Internal
Report online.

6.5. President
Report online.

7. Commissioner Reports

7.1. Elections Commissioner
Report online.

7.2. Equity Commissioner
Report online.

7.3. Senate Commissioner
Report online.

7.4. Environment Commissioner
Report online.

7.5. Health Commissioner
Report online.

7.6. Social Commissioner
7.7. Student Support Commissioner
Report online.

7.8. Family Care Commissioner
Report online.

8. Other Reports

Report online.

8.2. Report of the Nominating Committee
Report online.

Report online.

9. Question Period

A brief question period took place.

10. New Business

10.4. Motion R12-09-#007 · To enter committee-of-the-whole to discuss the PGSS 2011-2012 Executive (Executive Committee/ J. Carr)
WHEREAS PGSS Executives are required to submit a work plan to PGSS Council in September;
WHEREAS PGSS Executives have consulted each other and have toiled on the work plan over summer 2011;
BIRT Council enter committee-of-the-whole to discuss the PGSS 2011-2012 Executive work plan.
Motion passed. Council entered into the committee of the whole.

Council left the committee of the whole.

Motion (President/ M. Dodge)
BIRT Council accept the 2011-2012 Executive work plan.

Motion passed.

Emergency Motion #1 (T. Centea/ M. Dodge)
WHEREAS the following Special Projects all fit into a global information technology project which will bring the PGSS up-to-date with respect to the manner in which it administers its affairs;
WHEREAS the number of documents to be digitized and incorporated into a document management system was incorrectly identified and is in fact double the original estimate;
WHEREAS we will require a year of full-time services of a professional to incorporate all of the digitized paper archives and digital records of the PGSS into a single comprehensive document management system with appropriate mechanisms for its maintenance;
WHEREAS additional capital costs are associated with updating the entirety of the PGSS' IT infrastructure (computers, wiring and installation, server costs), developing and integrating the software tools that will allow the PGSS to efficiently manage its affairs including governance, administration, document management, member communication facilities, and web-based applications (including online opt-in/out for health and dental insurance plan, online event and activity registration and payment, grants and committee application forms, etc), and staff need to update their training in order to administer and use the new systems;

BIRT the following budget lines be combined into the IT Project line with a total budget of $152,000:
- Council Management Tools
- Public Computers
- Electronic Board Rooms
- Archive and Document Management Project

The President, on motivation, explained that we would like to invest this money into things that we should have done over the years. We are doubling the fund for the IT Project line.

J. Carr debated against the motion. We have no real cost analysis regarding the doubling of this fund.

The President answered that $45,000 of this money is going to human resources. The rest will become an operating budget.

Motion passed (J. Carr opposed).

Motion to extend Council by 30 minutes (J. Carr/ President)
Motion passed.

Emergency Motion #2
WHEREAS analysis of the shuttle bus service between the downtown and Macdonald campuses and possible ways to improve the situation have demonstrated the project is not feasible without substantial financial assistance from an external source;
WHEREAS the former and current Presidents of the MCGSS and the PGSS' Vice-President (Finance) agree that such external financial assistance cannot be secured in the present year;

BIRT the Special Project budget line entitled Mac Shuttle be removed from the budget.
Motion tabled by the Speaker as it is not an emergency. It will come back on the agenda for the October Council meeting. No objections.

**Emergency Motion #3 (President/ K. Fayazbakhsh)**

WHEREAS the multi-year project of getting the PGSS into a financial position where it can meet its obligations to be an engine for member advocacy, outreach and services;
WHEREAS the PGSS needs to engage appropriate human resources in order to accommodate the increased intensity of its activities (including translation, member communications, IT system administration, and research);
**BIRT the budget line entitled administrative salaries be increased by $45,000.**

Motion passed.

10.1. Motion R12-09-#004 · To discuss the policy on graduate students as Teaching Assistants (President)
WHEREAS the present *Policy on Graduate Students as Teaching Assistants* does not adequately cover the different sorts of academic employment that graduate undertake while at the university;
**BIRT Council enter into Committee-of-the-Whole for up to ten (10) minutes to discuss a possible revision of the *Policy on Graduate Students as Teaching Assistants.***

Motion to table this motion to the next meeting (President/ J. Carr)
Motion passed.

10.2. Motion R12-09-#005 · Anatomy recognition (M. Dodge/ J. Carr)
WHEREAS the McGill Anatomy Graduate Students’ Society has submitted documentation according to the PGSS Constitution
**BIRT the PGSS recognize the McGill Anatomy Graduate Students’ Society**

Motion passed.

**Adjournment**
20h39
POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS’ SOCIETY OF McGill UNIVERSITY

Minutes for the Council Meeting of
Wednesday October 5, 2011, 18h30
C11-10-#03

Executives
President Roland Nassim, VP Academic Lily Han, VP External Marieve Isabel, VP Finance Adrian Kaats, VP Internal Daniel Simeone

Councilors

Commissioners & Non-voting Members

Regrets
Family Care Commissioner I. Pivneva, Bioresource Engineering E. ElSayed, Human Genetics S. Mokhtar

Gallery and Guests
SSMU N. Nizam, I. Bi, E. Clare, K. Paterson, Medicine L. Grant, Economics S. Forte, Anthropology M. Pappalardo, M. Yours, Islamic Studies F. Bahged, Mathematics and Statistics A. Best, E. Lundy, Physical and Occupational Therapy A. Moga, Postdoctoral Studies L. Harvey

Call to Order
18h39

1. Approval of the Agenda

Motion to amend the agenda (D. Simeone/ M. Isabel)
To move item 10.14 Motion R10-09-#030 - Post-Graduate Student Life Fund Regulation to item 10.1.

Motion passed.

Motion to amend the agenda (D. Simeone/ M. Isabel)
To add a committee of the whole on the effect of the MUNACA strike as item 10.11.

Motion passed (M. Krause and M. Dodge opposed).

The agenda is approved as amended.

2. Speaker’s Report

The speaker gave a brief report.

3. Announcements

3.1. CKUT (3 min)
G. King made a brief announcement regarding CKUT.

3.2. Sustainability Projects Fund (5 minutes)
No announcement.

4. Approval of the Minutes

4.1 C11-09-#02
Minutes are approved. No objections.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders

5.1. Motion R12-09-#017 • To accept Nominating Committee recommendations (D. Meadows / E. Cawley)
WHEREAS the Nominating Committee has met to review nominees applying for external and internal committee positions, and presented recommendations to Council with respect to committee appointments;
BIRT Council approve the recommendation of Nominating Committee as presented in the Nominating Committee Report included in the present package.
Motion passed.

5.2. Motion R12-09-#018 • To elect candidates to the Nominating Committee (M. Dodge/ D. Meadows)
BIRT Council hold elections for the following vacancies on the Nominating Committee:
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Science
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Arts
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Education
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Law
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Music
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Religious Studies
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Science
- three (3) members at-large

Motion passed.

Peter Steiner from the Faculty of Education was nominated. No objections.
Adam Bouchard from Faculty of Science was nominated. No objections.

6. Executive Reports

6.1. VP External
VP External gave a brief announcement.

6.2. VP Academic
VP Academic gave a brief announcement about committee vacancies.

6.3. VP Finance
VP Finance gave a brief announcement.

6.4. VP Internal
VP Internal gave a brief announcement about upcoming events.

6.5. President
Report online.

7. Commissioner Reports

7.1. Elections Commissioner
Report online.

7.2. Equity Commissioner
The Equity Commissioner gave a brief announcement.

7.3. Senate Commissioner
Report online.

7.4. Environment Commissioner
7.5. Health Commissioner
Report online.

7.6. Social Commissioner
Report online.

7.7. Student Support Commissioner
The Student Support Commissioner gave a brief announcement.

7.8. Family Care Commissioner
Report online.

8. Other Reports

8.1. Nominating Committee
8.2. Grants Review Committee
Report online.

8.3. Science & Policy Exchange
Report online.

9. Question Period
A brief question and answer period took place.

10. New Business

10.14. Motion R10-09-#030 • Post-Graduate Student Life Fund Regulation (VP Internal / T. Centea)
WHEREAS the PGSS has created the Post-Graduate Student Life Fund, AND WHEREAS the PGSS needs to
start the process of distributing funds to PGSAs;
BIRT a new Regulation 14 Post-Graduate Student Life Fund be created with the text of Appendix A.

The VP Internal, on motivation, stated that the Post-Graduate Student Life Fund is now in existence.
These are the procedures and regulations we have developed for administering the fund. He went on to
go through the regulation section by section.

T. Centea asked if there is any provision for working capital, or are there just going to be
reimbursements.

The VP Finance answered that there will be a procedure for obtaining pre-approved funds.

Amendment (VP Internal/ T. Centea)
To add under the reimbursement section:
At the discretion of the Post Graduate Student Life Fund Coordinator and the VP Finance, events may be pre-approved and money dispensed in advance.

Amendment passed.

M. Dodge asked about the statement that one person from the GSA must take full responsibility for the events being help. What does that really mean, can it be clarified.

The VP Finance answered that there needs to be a main contact as well as someone who is responsible for all aspects of the events. This is also for insurance purposes.

Speaking rights granted to gallery (M. Dodge/ E. Cawley).

B. Rutter expressed his concern with the fact that one person will need to take full responsibility and expect all liability.

P. Steiner, on a point of information, stated that it seems less scary if we have the insurance policy for GSA events made available.

The VP Finance answered that we can put the policy online for all GSAs to see.

T. Centea expressed concern that the regulation was too vague. What about off campus trips?

The VP Finance answered that we cannot provide scenarios for every event. With off campus events the bus has insurance, the ski hill has insurance (for example), and we will provide insurance for what we can under our insurance policy.

D. Meadows asked if a GSA fails to use their budget does the money roll over.

The VP Finance answered yes, everything will roll over. You will get a statement of account from us at the end of the year. We have not yet established if you can do long term planning with your account. In addition we also have to come up with a way to limit account accumulation if the funds are not being used.

T. Centea asked if we have already have money in an account for our GSA what happens with that money.

The VP Finance answered that there is no need to report the money you already have. But our insurance company will not cover events you put on with your own money.

Main motion passed.
10.1 Motion R12-09-0019 • Grants Review Committee recommendations (VP Finance/ D. Carozza)
BIRT the recommendations of the Grants Review Committee (GRC) be adopted as presented in the report of the GRC.

Motion passed.

10.2 Motion R12-09-0020 • Mac Shuttle motion (VP Finance/ B. Sajo)
WHEREAS analysis of the shuttle bus service between the downtown and Macdonald campuses and possible ways to improve the situation have demonstrated the project is not feasible without substantial financial assistance from an external source;
WHEREAS the former and current Presidents of the MCGSS and the PGSS' Vice-President (Finance) agree that such external financial assistance cannot be secured in the present year;
BIRT the Special Project budget line entitled Mac Shuttle be removed from the budget.

The VP Finance, on motivation, stated that we priced out adding a bus on our own and the cheapest way is to do it through McGill at a cost of $86,000 a year. This is very costly and it will not keep undergrads from getting on the bus. Therefore, he thinks it is beneficial if the Mac Shuttle budget line be removed from the budget.

Motion passed.

Motion to table items 10.3 and 10.4 for now. Move to motion 10.5. No objections.

10.5 Motion R12-09-0023 • Motion for PGSS Support of AGSEM’s Chief Bargaining Priorities (AGSEM VP External/ VP Internal)
WHEREAS the Teaching Assistant Collective Bargaining Team of AGSEM (Association of Graduate Students Employed at McGill) is currently negotiating a new TA contract with McGill administration;
WHEREAS one mission of PGSS is to “provide representation for its members and encourage involvement in political processes, both internal and external to the University”;
WHEREAS one mission of PGSS is to “represent, promote and defend the rights of Society members”;
WHEREAS the chief bargaining priorities of AGSEM seek to improve the employee rights and conditions of graduate students employed as TAs across McGill;
BIRT the PGSS support AGSEM’s Bargaining Priorities, listed below, as AGSEM negotiates on behalf of TAs with the McGill administration:
1) Pedagogical training for first-time TAs that will be paid for by McGill;
2) McGill will hire a larger number of TAs in order to lower the undergraduate student:TA ratio;
3) McGill will increase the total number of TA hours university-wide;
4) McGill will allow for a clear description of the tasks TAs perform in the TA collective agreement;
5) The funding packages of students must not be reduced as a consequence of their accepting a TAship;
6) Students must not be coerced into accepting a TAship because of an offer of funding;
7) McGill will enact policies requiring course supervisors and TAs to meet regularly;
8) McGill will provide a TA salary increase that meets or exceeds the cost of living increase;
9) McGill will provide free French courses to all TAs;
BIFRT PGSS aid AGSEM in communicating its chief bargaining priorities to its members, including but not limited to publishing information pertaining to said bargaining priorities

Amendment (President/ D. Meadows)
To strike number 9.
Amendment failed.

Amendment (E. Cawley/ VP External)
To strike numbers 1 through 9.

Discussion ensued.

Motion to call the question on the amendment (E. Cawley)
Motion passed.

Amendment passed.

Main motion passed (M. Dodge opposed).

10.6. Motion R12-06-#008 • Bylaw Amendment Regarding Duties of Health Commissioner (Second Reading) (Health Commissioner / VP Finance)
WHEREAS the constitution currently states that the role of the Health Commissioner is to ensure that the Society is represented on University committees, subcommittees, and work groups whose mandate includes health or wellness issues;
WHEREAS the Health and Wellness Committee (HAWC) is currently made up of an incomplete list of committees representing health or wellness issues on campus;
BIRT that Society Bylaw 5.10 Duties of the Health Commissioner be amended, in first reading to:
[New text in bold.]

5.10 Duties of the Health Commissioner
5.10.1 The Health Commissioner shall:
a. be the Health and Wellness Committee’s direct liaison to Council;
b. represent the Society’s interests in all health and wellness issues on campus;
c. assist the Executive in negotiating health, dental, and vision insurance plans for the Society to offer its
d. Ensure that the Society is represented on University committees, subcommittee, and workgroups whose mandate includes health or wellness issues, including but not limited to the Committee for Student Services, the Health Services Advisory Board, The Mental Health Services Advisory Board, the Advisory Committee on International Students, and the Counseling Services Advisory Board.

Motion passed.
10.7. Motion R12-06-#009 • Bylaw Amendment regarding Health and Wellness Committee (Second Reading) (Health Commissioner/ VP Finance)

WHEREAS Bylaw 6.6.15 regarding membership to the Health and Wellness Committee (HAWC) are not accurately reflected in the membership of HAWC;
WHEREAS the Health and Wellness Committee (HAWC) does not currently have seats for all university committees representing health or wellness issues on campus;

[New text in bold.]

BIRT Society Bylaw 6.6.15 Health and Wellness Committee (HAWC) be amended, in first reading to:

6.6.15 Health and Wellness Committee (HAWC)
6.6.15.1 Purpose
The Health and Wellness Committee shall be responsible for:

6.6.15.1.1 surveying, assessing, monitoring and working towards improving the health and wellness of the PGSS community;
6.6.15.1.2 education and promotion of health and wellness issues;
6.6.15.1.3 collaborating with other health and/or wellness groups;
6.6.15.1.4 making recommendations to the Council on the state of the Society Health and Dental Plans; and
6.6.15.1.5 making recommendations to the Council on any health related matters.

6.6.15.2 Membership
6.6.15.2.1 The Health Commissioner (chair)
6.6.15.2.2 The VP Finance
6.6.15.2.3 One (1) Society representative to the Committee for Student Services
6.6.15.2.4 One (1) Society representative to the Health Services Advisory Board
6.6.15.2.5 One (1) Society representative to the Mental Health Services Advisory Board
6.6.15.2.6 One (1) Society representative to the Advisory Committee on International Students
6.6.15.2.7 One (1) Society representative to the Counseling Services Advisory Board
6.6.15.2.8 Five (5) at-large regular members of the Society

Motion passed.

10.8. Motion R12-12-#024 • Motion for Recognition of McGill Dentistry Graduate Students’ Society (MDGSS) (B. Hoac/ E. Cawley)

WHEREAS the McGill Dentistry Graduate Students’ Society wishes to be recognized by the PGSS as the official representative of their respective membership at the University;
WHEREAS they have submitted the appropriate documentation in accordance to the PGSS constitution;
WHEREAS the membership of MDGSS unanimously voted to seek PGSS recognition on September 26th, 2011;

BIRT the PGSS recognizes the McGill Dentistry Graduate Students’ Society.

Motion passed.
Motion passed.

10.9. Motion R12-09-#025 • Motion for Recognition of the Economics Graduate Student association (EGSA) (VP Internal/)
WHEREAS the Economics Graduate Student Association (EGSA) wishes to be recognized by the PGSS as the official representative of their respective membership at the University;
WHEREAS their constitution has been submitted to the PGSS VP Finance and fulfills the PGSS requirements as set out in PGSS Bylaws and Regulatory Documents;
WHEREAS the membership of EGSA unanimously voted to seek PGSS recognition in the EGSA General Assembly on September 26th 2011;
BIRT the PGSS recognize the Economics Graduate Student Association (EGSA) as the official representative of their respective membership.

Motion passed.

10.10. Motion R12-06-#026 • Motion for Recognition of the Physiology Graduate Student association (PGSA) (VP Internal/...)
WHEREAS the Physiology Graduate Students Association (PGSA) wishes to be recognized by the PGSS as the official representative of their respective membership at the University;
WHEREAS their constitution has been submitted to the PGSS student life coordinator and fulfills the PGSS requirements for as out in PGSS bylaws and Regulatory Documents;
WHEREAS the membership of PGSA unanimously voted to seek PGSS recognition in the PGSA General Assembly of September 26th, 2011;
BIRT the PGSS recognize the Physiology Graduate Students Association (PGSA) as the official representatives of their respective membership.

Motion passed.

10.11. Motion R10-09-#027 • Motion for Recognition of the Microbiology and Immunology GSA (VP Internal/...)
WHEREAS the Microbiology and Immunology Graduate Student Association has submitted documentation according to the PGSS constitution
BIRT the PGSS recognize the Microbiology and Immunology Graduate Student Association

Motion passed.

10.12. Motion R10-09-#028 • Advisory committees Appointments (President/ VP Finance)
WHEREAS the University had asked the PGSS to submit names of representative on various advisory committees; WHEREAS these nominations occurred after the meeting of nominating committee, and require to be submitted to the university as soon as possible;
BIRT that the executive appoint, on behalf of the NC, Tarek Hamade (primary) and Hanno Erythropel (alternate) to the advisory committee for the selection of the Dean of Engineering.
BIFRT that the executive appoint, on behalf of the NC, Lily Han to the advisory committee for the selection of Associate Provost (graduate education) and Dean of Graduate Studies.

Motion passed.

10.13. Motion R10-09-#029 • To discuss the policy on graduate students as Teaching Assistants (VP Internal / ...)
WHEREAS the present Policy on Graduate Students as Teaching Assistants does not adequately cover the different sorts of academic employment that graduate undertake while at the university
BIRT Council enter into Committee-of-the-Whole for up to ten (10) minutes to discuss a possible revision of the Policy on Graduate Students as Teaching Assistants.

Motion tabled.

10.3. Motion R12-09-#021 • Committee of the whole on budget adjustments (VP Finance/ V. Bhosle)
BIRT Council enter into a committee of the whole for 15 minutes to discuss budget adjustments with a brief presentation at the beginning by the Vice-President (Finance).

Motion passed. Council entered into the committee of the whole.
Council left the committee of the whole.

Motion (VP Finance/ M. Dodge)
BIRT Council accept the budget adjustments.

Motion passed.

10.4. Motion R12-09-#022 • Committee of the whole on needs based bursary fund (VP Finance/ E. Cawley)
BIRT Council enter into a committee of the whole for 10 minutes to discuss the development of a needs based bursary fund.

Motion passed. Council entered into the committee of the whole.
Council left the committee of the whole.

Motion to amend the agenda to add emergency motion (B. Rutter/ VP Finance)
To add to the agenda a family care committee of the whole.
Motion passed.

Motion (VP Finance/ G. King)
BIRT the daycare reserve fund be used to secure existing daycare spots for our members.

Due to loss of quorum the executive will pass the above motion regarding the daycare reserve fund.
Quorum lost at 21h05.
POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS' SOCIETY OF McGill UNIVERSITY
Minutes for the Council Meeting of
Wednesday November 2, 2011, 18h30
C11-11-#04

Executives
President Roland Nassim, VP Finance Adrian Kaats, VP Internal Daniel Simeone

Councilors

Commissioners & Non-voting Members

Regrets

Gallery and Guests
PGSS staff J. Deschenes, D. Pettit
Call to Order
18h47

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda is approved (R. Strasser/K. Ramadan).

2. Speaker’s Report

No report was given by the Speaker.

3. Announcements

3.1. November 10: D. Simeone (VP Internal)
Student group to be leaving Roddick gates at 1:00pm to join the student demonstration. On
November 8th, the VP-External will be having a strategy meeting. Announcement to be in
Newswire.

3.2. November 18: D. Simeone (VP Internal)
A free concert will take place at Thomson House – announcement to be in Newswire.

4. Approval of the Minutes

4.1. C11-10-#03
Minutes are approved (I. Pivneva/H. Nikopour Deilami). No objections.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders

5.1. Motion R12-11-#033 · To accept Nominating Committee recommendations (D. Carozza/D. Simeone)
WHEREAS the Nominating Committee has met to review nominees applying for external and internal
committee positions, and presented recommendations to Council with respect to committee
appointments;
BIRT Council approve the recommendation of Nominating Committee as presented in the Nominating
Committee Report included in the present package.

Motion passed.

5.2. Motion R12-11-#034 · To elect candidates to the Nominating Committee (E. Cawley/I. Pivneva)
BIRT Council hold elections for the following vacancies on the Nominating Committee:
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Science
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Education
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Law
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Music
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Religious Studies
- three (3) members at-large

Motion passed.
Richard Greydanus from the Faculty of Religious Studies was nominated. No objections.
Richard Cumming (Faculty of Religious Studies) was nominated as a member-at-large. No objections.
Arnim Seeling from the Faculty of Arts was nominated. No objections.

5.3. Motion R12-10-#031 · Committee of the whole on the impact of the MUNACA strike (D. Simeone/S. Houshmand)
BIRT Council enter into a committee of the whole for 10 minutes to discuss the impact of the MUNACA strike

A question regarding the process for the committee of the whole was posed, and explained by the Speaker.

Main motion passed. Council entered into the committee of the whole, chaired by D. Simeone.

Moved to extend by two (2) questions (T. Centea/E. Cawley). No objections.

Moved to extend by five (5) minutes (T. Hamade/S. Houshmand). No objections.

Council left the committee of the whole.

Motion out of the committee of the whole (T. Hamade/R. Cummings).

BIRT that the PGSS executive draft an open letter to the administration relaying the concerns of the PGSS council related to the MUNACA strike

Motion passed.

5.4. Motion R12-10-#032 · Committee of the whole on family care (VP Finance/..)
BIRT Council enter into a committee of the whole for 10 minutes to discuss the daycare spots and the use of the daycare reserve fund

The VP Finance advised that Council does not need to go into a committee of the whole since this was discussed at the last council meeting and quorum was lost before the vote.

Motion arising from previous council meeting

BIRT council recommends to the PGSS Executive the use of the money in the daycare reserve fund to secure existing daycare spots.

Motion passed.

G. Lord asked how the fund will work. The VP Finance advised that PGSS tries to secure spots for PGSS members at a nominal fee. Upon further questioning, the VP Finance advised that the Executive has not determined how spaces can be divided between campus locations. L. Harvey asked how the daycare spots will be allocated. The VP Finance advised that a non-biased and equitable way needs to be determined, but it will be addressed in the contract. Upon further questioning regarding status, the VP Finance advised that the PGSS executive and the board had approved it on behalf of council, authorizing the negotiations, but no contract was signed.
Motion passed (one abstention: C. Angelova)

5.5. Motion R12-09-#029 - To discuss the policy on graduate students as Teaching Assistants (D. Simeone /I. Pivneva)
WHEREAS the present Policy on Graduate Students as Teaching Assistants does not adequately cover the different sorts of academic employment that graduate students undertake while at the university
BIRT Council enter into Committee of the whole for up to ten (10) minutes to discuss a possible revision of the Policy on Graduate Students as Teaching Assistants

Motion passed. No objections.

Motion out of the Committee of the whole (Committee of the whole)

BIRT a five-member, ad hoc committee looks at the role of graduate students and post-docs in the teaching mission of the university;
BIFRT the committee includes the VP Academic and selects its own chair from its membership;
BiYFRT the committee report back at the February council meeting.

Motion passed. No objections.

6. Executive Reports

6.1. VP External
Report online.

6.2. VP Academic

6.3. VP Finance
Report online.

6.4. VP Internal
Report online.

6.5. President
Report online.

7. Commissioner Reports

7.1. Elections Commissioner

7.2. Equity Commissioner
Report online.

7.3. Senate Commissioner
7.4. Environment Commissioner
Report online.

7.5. Health Commissioner
Report online.

7.6. Social Commissioner
Report online.

7.7. Student Support Commissioner
Report online.

7.8. Family Care Commissioner
Report online.

8. Other Reports

8.1. Nominating Committee
Report online.

8.2. Grants Review Committee
Report online.

9. Question Period

T. Centea requested an update on the CFS legal case. The VP Internal stated that there have been no updates since the last meeting.

C. Angelova asked about AGSEM’s plan regarding cuts in course material and TA hours and their effect on the quality of education. T. Copley (Plant Science) advised that the AGSEM is aware of this issue, and is collecting data and trying to negotiate with McGill to change that.

L. Harvey asked what McGill plans to do with the proposed extra tuition charges. The President clarified that the proposed increase is being raised by the government, and not McGill, however, McGill’s policy is to have their tuition be on par with the Canadian average, as well as to increase funding to universities. In addition, McGill policy provides for 30% of every extra net new dollar be put into financial aid, although what constitutes “net new dollar” and the equation used to calculate this remains unclear.

A question from the floor was asked regarding the contradiction of asking for parity for TA wages with other universities, while asking for lower tuition in Quebec. The VP Internal advised that it may sound contradictory but it is not. The important element is government funding, where it has increased in Ontario and in some other provinces, but did not in Quebec. The question of tuition is not very relevant in this context because it costs far more than the tuition amount to educate a student in a university in Quebec.
10. New Business

10.1. Motion R12-11-#035 · Grants Review Committee recommendations (VP Finance/..)
BIRT the recommendations of the Grants Review Committee (GRC) be adopted as presented in the report of the GRC.

Friendly amendment to the GRC report (Change 11-12-10 to 11-12-12)

E. Cawley asked why the names of the events and the departments are missing in this report, given that there was some contention in the past on the types of event being funded. Also, knowing the titles of events that are being funded might encourage others in other departments to attend those events and even organize their own. The VP Finance responded that the names and types of events were removed to alleviate any personal bias, if events otherwise meet the criteria in the grants program. He advised that this can be changed back if people are more comfortable with the former method.

Motion approved. (3 abstentions: N. Nolette, G. Lord, and anonymous)

10.2. Motion R12-11-#036 · GSA recognitions (VP Internal/A. Seelig)
WHEREAS several GSAs have submitted documentation according to the PGSS constitution
BIRT the PGSS recognize GSAs listed in Appendix A

Motion to extend speaking rights to Jacinthe Deschenes, PGSS Student Life Coordinator (I. Pivneva, E. Cawley) Motion passed.

A question was asked regarding funds for students who are not really active in their department GSA but rather with their graduate students association at their work-site? The VP Finance stated that there are a few exceptions like these, at the Douglas and at the Lady Davis Institute, but for now, the money goes to the department. The VP Finance, on motivation, further advised that funds for the Mac campus departments are held for MCGSS for management.

J. Deschenes advised, on motivation, that PGSS is trying to establish as many GSA’s as needed and ideally all departments will all have one.

Motion approved. No objections

10.3. Motion R12-11-#037 · Committee of the whole on PGSS governance (VP Finance/VP Internal)
BIRT Council enter into a committee of the whole for 30 minutes to discuss the following:
1) The society, the business, and PGSS Inc.
2) Board of Directors, Executive, Commissioners, Council, and Committee roles, authority and relationships
3) Transparency, accountability and reporting

Motion to lay on the table (VP Finance/VP Internal). Motion passed.
10.4. Motion R12-11-#038 · Committee of the whole on PGSS Council procedure (VP Finance/E. Cawley)
BIRT Council enter into a committee of the whole for 30 minutes to discuss the following:
1) Bureaucracy and Procedures
2) Rules of Order (verbatim minutes, etc.)
3) Council size

Motion to change 30 minutes to 15 minutes (VP Finance/VP Internal). Motion passed.

Motion that committee of the whole be chaired by E. Cawley. No objections.
Motion to extend Council by 10 minutes (VP Finance/E. Cawley) No objections.

Council entered into the committee of the whole.
Council left the committee of the whole

Motion to extend committee of the whole for 10 minutes (E. Cawley/ T. Centea). No objections.

Council entered into the committee of the whole.
Council left the committee of the whole

Adjournment
21h35
POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS' SOCIETY OF McgILL UNIVERSITY

Minutes for the Council Meeting of
Wednesday December 7, 2011, 18h30

C11-12-#06

Executives
President Roland Nassim, VP Finance Adrian Kaats, VP Internal Daniel Simeone, VP Academic Lily Han, VP External Marieve Isabel,

Councillors

Commissioners & Non-voting Members
Regrets
Senate and Library Commissioner  A. Bouchard, French Language and Literature  N. Nolette
Bioresource Engineering  E. ElSayed

Gallery and Guests
Principal Heather Munroe-Blum, Dean Martin Kreiswirth

Call to Order
19h23

0. Approval of the Agenda

Motion to move 10.1, 10.4 and 10.6 to the beginning of business arising. (VP Finance/Equity Commissioner)
Motion approved.

Motion to move 10.5 to the beginning of business arising (Student Support Commissioner/VP External)
Motion approved
The Agenda is approved.

1. Presentation from Principal Heather Munroe-Blum

Principal Heather Munroe-Blum and Dean Martin Kreiswirth gave a brief presentation to Council.

2. Speaker’s Report

Motion to extend speaking rights to members of the gallery (Gretchen King/VP Academic)
Motion approved.

3. Announcements

3.1. Arts Graduate Student Society (Arnim Seelig)
A call to start the conversation whether an Arts Graduate Student Society is useful was made by A. Seelig.

3.2. Sustainability Projects Fund (Lillith Wyatt)
An Announcement was made to Council.

3.3 A Call for nominations for PGSS General Elections and Referenda was made by the Elections Commissioner

4. Approval of the Minutes

Replace “Faculty” of German Studies with “Department”
The minutes were approved as amended.
10.5. Motion R12-12-#045 - Motion on Jutras Inquiry (G. King/B. Sajo):
WHEREAS an internal inquiry, to be conducted by Dean Daniel Jutras, has been commissioned to
investigate the events of November 10th,
AND WHEREAS the power and scope of the inquiry are narrowly prescribed, and do not permit for a
genuinely independent and external inquiry of the decisions, actions, context, and structural conditions
that may have contributed to the events of November 10th,
BIRT that Council direct the PGSS President, on behalf of the PGSS, sign the letter, drafted by a group
of McGill faculty, to Mr. Stuart Cobbett, Chair of the Board of Governors, contesting the current
investigation and calling for external independent inquiry into the events of November 10th, with the
terms of that inquiry set by an adhoc committee with membership appointed from representative
groups on campus.

Motion to Amend (VP Academic/G. King): strike “the President” and replace with “a letter be written”
Motion passed.
T. Centea spoke against the motion.
K. Sun spoke against the motion.
The VP Academic spoke in favor of the motion.
A member of the “Independent Student Inquiry” gave information about their activities and mentioned
that a preliminary report is already available while a final report will follow shortly.
The President spoke against the motion.
The VP Finance corrected some elements of the letter in response to a misinterpretation involving the
demand for the formation of the external committee.
G. King explained that the investigation as it was set-up sets a bad precedent on future events that
might occur on campus.
Motion fails

10.1. Motion R12-12-#041 - Grants Review Committee recommendations
(2P Finance/ J. Carr)
BIRT the recommendations of the Grants Review Committee (GRC) be adopted as presented in the
report of the GRC.

Motion to amend (L. Nezvitsky/K. Fayazbakhsh): change grant #26 from $452 to 676$.
J. Carr spoke against the amendment stating that the GRC is more fitting to evaluate the grants.
K. Fayazbakhsh spoke in favor stating that the change is appropriate because the event was supposed to
be held off-campus, but now the organizers want to move it closer to campus. From the criteria that
GRC has, this is now a high priority and can get up to $800.
P. Steiner, on a point of information, asked how are the priorities determined, for example, is it the
importance of the project to the individuals, or the society, etc.? The VP Finance explained the criteria
for the priorities.
Main motion as amended passed. (abstention: J. Carr, M. Krause, T. Centea)

10.4. Motion R12-12-#044 - GSA recognitions
(2P Internal/J. Carr)
WHEREAS several GSAs have submitted documentation according to the PGSS constitution
BIRT the PGSS recognize GSAs listed in Appendix A

Motion passed.
10.6. Motion R12-12-#046 · Ratification of executive committee appointments
(President/ J. Carr)
BIRT Council ratify the following appointments made by the executive committee:
Ryan Deuel to Provost’s working group on ASAP 2012
Daniel Simeone to Provost’s working group on ASAP 2012
Roland Nassim to Provost’s working group on ASAP 2012
Marieve Isabel to Provost’s working group on ASAP 2012

Tim raised a point of information asking what is ASAP? The President answered that the ASAP means Achieving Strategic Academic Priorities and that it is the University’s strategic planning for the next 5 years.

Motion passed.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders

5.1. Motion R12-12-#039 · To accept Nominating Committee recommendations
(VP External / Equity Commissioner)
WHEREAS the Nominating Committee has met to review nominees applying for external and internal committee positions, and presented recommendations to Council with respect to committee appointments;
BIRT Council approve the recommendation of Nominating Committee as presented in the Nominating Committee Report included in the present package.
Motion passed.

5.2. Motion R12-12-#040 · To elect candidates to the Nominating Committee
(VP Academic/ V. Bhosle)
BIRT Council hold elections for the following vacancies on the Nominating Committee:
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Science
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Engineering
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Law
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Music
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Science
- two (2) members at-large

Motion passed. No new members were elected.

5.3. Motion R12-11-#037 · Committee of the whole on PGSS governance
(VP Finance/K. Fayazbakhsh)
BIRT Council enter into a committee of the whole for 30 minutes to discuss the following:
1) The society, the business, and PGSS Inc.
2) Board of Directors, Executive, Commissioners, Council, and Committee roles, authority and relationships
3) Transparency, accountability and reporting

Motion to Amend (P. Goerner-Potvin/M. Krause): change time to fifteen (15) minutes.
Motion passed.
Council enters into Committee of the whole.
Motion to extend council time by thirty (30) minutes (VP Finance/ M. Krause).
Motion passed.
Motion to extend Committee of the whole by five (5) minutes. (VP Finance/M. Krause)
Motion passed.
Council exits from Committee of the whole

6. Executive Reports

6.1. VP External
The VP External gave an overview of the report: Nov 10th, CAGS, Tuition, QC-Tricouncils, Greening TH.

6.2. VP Academic
Report online.

6.3. VP Finance
Report online.

6.4. VP Internal
Report online.

6.5. President
Report online.

7. Commissioner Reports

7.1. Elections Commissioner
Report online.

7.2. Equity Commissioner
Report online.

7.3. Senate Commissioner
Report online.

7.4. Environment Commissioner
Report online.

7.5. Health Commissioner
Report online.

7.6. Social Commissioner
Report online.

7.7. Student Support Commissioner
Report online.

7.8. Family Care Commissioner
Report online.
9. Question Period
Motion to extend council time by thirty (30) minutes (Student Support commissioner/Equity Commissioner)
Motion passed.

K. Fayazbakhsh asked whether Council is going to talk about the increase in 2013. The VP External answered that it is already been decided in the current government plan, unless the government changes its mind. More actions are planned for the winter.

K. Fayazbakhsh asked a question regarding the naming of Community Square. The President answered that the University will not be dealing with this on their own as the gardens had been already named over the summer, honoring the visitors to the university. An event was planned but later postponed to commemorate this naming.

A question was asked whether there have been any efforts to have student representation on the funding councils. The VP External answered that support from inside the government is being sought. The VP Finance added that efforts occurred back in 2008 and that the process to get to change the structure is quite involved and varies on who is running the council. He added that FEUQ have been putting all their efforts into this.

M. Krause asked whether there is a chance for the PGSS fee to go down. The VP Finance answered that he does not know at the moment.
P. Tyagi asked the question as to who would know? She added that it was mentioned in the past, but nothing has come forward. The VP Finance answered that when we have a clear idea what are expenses are, he offered that we look at lowering the fees. But this is contingent on many financial conditions which, until now, have not been fulfilled.

P. Tyagi indicated that we might not have quorum to go over the next motions regarding operations and finances.

Voting cards were counted.
Meeting adjourned due to lack of quorum.

Quorum lost.

Adjournment
21h30
Minutes for the Council Meeting of
January 11, 2012, 18h30
C11-12-#06

Executives
President Roland Nassim, VP Finance Adrian Kaats, VP Internal Daniel Simeone, VP Academic Lily Han, VP External Marieve Isabel

Councilors
Commissioners & Non-voting Members

Regrets
School of Communication Sciences and Disorders Katie Cooke

Gallery and Guests
Provost Anthony Masi, VP Research and International Relations Rose Golstein

Call to Order
19:35

0. Presentation from Provost Anthony Masi and VP Research and International Relations Rose Golstein

1. Approval of the Agenda
Amendments to the Agenda:

Add Emergency motion to 5. Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders
Recognition of Department of Mathematics PGSA
Motion Passed

Move Item 10.3 immediately after 5.3 in business arising (G. King/ M. Pappalardo)
Motion Passed

Move Item 10.4 to the beginning of new business (VP Academic/ T. Centea)

Remove Item 10.6 from Agenda (VP External/ J. Carr)

Agenda approved as amended.

2. Speaker’s report

3. Announcements
3.1 Elections commissioner
The Elections Commissioner gave a brief announcement regarding up-coming elections

3.2 President
The President advised that two Unit Review Committee meetings are coming up. He noted that Council Meeting tonight will be long. There will be a photo taken at the next Council Meeting in February.
3.3 **VP Finance**
The VP Finance made a public apology for the heated discussion with some members of Council following the conclusion of the December Council Meeting.

3.3 **VP Academic**
The VP Academic will be seeking nominations for the Committee for the selection of the Dean of Graduate Studies, and for the newly-created International Students Committee for PGSS.

3.4 **VP External**
The VP External made an announcement regarding Education Week.

4 **Approval of the minutes**
The Minutes of December 2011 were approved (H. Nikopour Deilami / S. Forte)

5 **Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders**

5.1. **Motion R12-01-#047 · To accept reports of the Nominating Committee and the Grants Review Committee** (... / ...)

WHEREAS the Nominating Committee has met to review nominees applying for external and internal committee positions, and presented recommendations to Council with respect to committee appointments;
WHEREAS the Grants Review Committee has met to review grant applications;
BIRT that the reports of the Nominating Committee and the Grants Review Committee be adopted in omnibus.

Motion passed

5.2. **Motion R12-12-#048 · To elect candidates to the Nominating Committee** (T. Centea/VP Internal)

BIRT Council hold elections for the following vacancies on the Nominating Committee:
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Science
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Engineering
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Law
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Music
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Science
- two (2) members at-large

Patricia Goerner-Potvin from the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Science volunteered herself.
Motion passed.

5.3. **Motion R12-11-#049 · Budget Amendments** (VP Finance/ S. Forte)

WHEREAS January Council is the last opportunity during the financial year to amend the budget;
WHEREAS there are necessary changes that should be made to the budget in order to reflect as accurately as possible the activities of the PGSS;
BIRT the budget amendments included as an addendum to this agenda be adopted.
The VP Finance presented the report. M. Ahmad Munir inquired as to the nature of the $60,000 budget line item for family care. The VP Finance responded that the money was allocated from the beginning of the year and is going to be combined with amounts from other funds of the PGSS to establish a large needs-based bursary program to be run by McGill’s Scholarship and Student Aid Office.

Motion passed

10.3 Motion R12-12-#052 · Reports on the Events of Nov 10 (G. King/A. Seelig)
WHEREAS the Jutras Inquiry as released its report on the events of Nov. 10th, AND WHEREAS the Independent Student Inquiry has released its draft report on the events of Nov. 10th,
BIRT Council enter into Committee-of-the-Whole to discuss both reports.
Amend to Add “for 10 min” after of “the whole” (T. Centea/ M. Krause)
Motion passed
Main Motion passed as amended.

Council entered into Committee of the Whole.

Motion to extend Committee of the Whole for ten (10) minutes
Motion Passed

Council exits Committee of the Whole.

Motion moved by Committee of the whole:
BIRT Council endorses the principle of the Independent Student Inquiry, if not necessarily the conclusions of the report;
BIFRT the ISI be invited to next month's Council meeting to present their findings.

Motion to add: (President/S. Forte)
BIFYFRT that Dean Jutras be thanked regarding the work done to present the report into the events of Nov. 10th.

Motion to extend Council (J. Carr/T. Centea)
Motion passed. One opposed (M. Krause)
Motion to call the question (G. King, M. Krause)
Motion passed.
Motion to amend passed.

Motion to add amendment (G. King/T. Centea):
BIRT the PGSS Senators lead a critical discussion about the Jutras inquiry in Senate at the next Senate meeting, based on the concerns raised in Council;
BIFRT PGSS take up the broader contextual matters in Senate, and in consultation with campus groups;
BIFRT PGSS advocate for a review of policies at other universities regarding police on campus;
BIFRT PGSS support the creation of a community review panel at McGill University.

Motion to divide the question. (VP Finance/Danielle Meadows)
Motion passed.
BIRT the PGSS Senators lead a critical discussion about the Jutras inquiry in Senate at the next Senate meeting, based on the concerns raised in Council.
Motion passed

BIFRT PGSS take up the broader contextual matters in Senate, and in consultation with campus groups.
Motion passed

BIFRT PGSS advocate for a review of policies at other universities regarding police on campus.
Motion passed

BIFRT PGSS support the creation of a community review panel at McGill University.
Motion passed

Motion to split the Initial motion from the last four amendments (J. Carr/Environment Commissioner)
Motion passed

Motion to amend (G. Lord/J. Carr, as follows:
BIRT Council endorse the existence of the Independent Student Inquiry, without this statement implying acceptance nor rejection of the conclusions of the report.

Motion to call the question. (G. King/J. Carr)
Motion passed.

Main motion passed.

BIRT Council endorses the existence of the Independent Student Inquiry, without this statement implying acceptance nor rejection of the conclusions of the report;
BIFRT the ISI be invited to next month’s Council meeting to present their findings;
BIYFRT that Dean Jutras be thanked regarding the work done to present the report into the events of Nov. 10th.
Motion Passed. Four opposed: (M. Krause, T. Centea, D. Carozza, B. Dawe). One abstention: (E. Cawley)

Motion to extend council (G. King/T. Centea).
Motion passed. One opposed (M. Krause).

Motion to call the question (G. King/J. Carr).
Motion passed.
BIRT the PGSS Senators lead a critical discussion about the Jutras inquiry in Senate at the next Senate meeting, based on the concerns raised in Council;
BIFRT PGSS take up the broader contextual matters in Senate, and in consultation with campus groups;
BIFRT PGSS advocate for a review of policies at other universities regarding police on campus;
BIFRT PGSS support the creation of a community review panel at McGill University.
Motion passed. One opposed (S. Forte). One abstention (E. Cawley)

Motion moved by the Committee of the Whole
BIRT Council mandate the Executive Committee to encourage greater involvement of graduate students in reaction to campus events.

Motion to amend, as follows (K. Fayazbakhsh): add "and that the Executive Committee bring a report back on the issue."
Motion passed

Emergency motion: Recognition of the Graduate Student Association of Mathematics and Statistics (GSAMS) (President/J. Carr)
WHEREAS the Graduate Student Association of Mathematics and Statistics has submitted documentation according to the PGSS Constitution;
BIRT the PGSS recognize the Graduate Student Association of Mathematics and Statistics.
Motion passed.

6. Executive Reports

6.1. VP External
Report online.

6.2. VP Academic
Report online.

6.3. VP Finance
Report online.

6.4. VP Internal
The VP Internal announced upcoming trips.

6.5. President
Report online.

7. Commissioner Reports

7.1. Elections Commissioner

7.2. Equity Commissioner

7.3. Senate Commissioner

7.4. Environment Commissioner

7.5. Health Commissioner

7.6. Social Commissioner
7.7. Student Support Commissioner
Report online.

7.8. Family Care Commissioner
Report online.

8. Other Reports

9. Question Period
No questions.

10. New Business

10.4. Motion R12-12-#053 · Bylaw amendment to include one (1) member of equity committee in Committee for Graduate Student Support membership (Student Support Commissioner/Equity Commissioner)
WHEREAS the Equity Committee is responsible for representation of PGSS on equity-related university committees and for collaborating with other equity groups and offices on campus
WHEREAS the Committee for Graduate Student Support is responsible for providing peer-support and referral to PGSS members with regard to equity-related issues
BIRT that Society Bylaw 6.6.16.2 Membership (CGSS) be amended, in first reading to:
[New text in bold.]
6.6.16.2 Membership
6.6.16.2.1 The Student Support Commissioner (chair)
6.6.16.2.2 The VP (Academic) (ex officio)
6.6.16.2.3 One (1) regular member from the Macdonald campus
6.6.16.2.4 One (1) regular member from the Faculty of Science or Engineering
6.6.16.2.5 One (1) regular member from the Faculty of Law or the Desautels Faculty of Management
6.6.16.2.6 One (1) regular member from the Faculty of Art, the Schulich School of Music, or the Faculty of Religion
6.6.16.2.7 One (1) regular member from the Faculty of Education
6.6.16.2.8 One (1) regular member for the Faculty of Medicine or Dentistry
6.6.16.2.9 One (1) Post-doctoral fellow
6.6.16.2.10 One (1) regular member of the Society who is francophone
6.6.16.2.11 One (1) regular member of the Society who is an international student
6.6.16.2.12 Three (3) regular members of the Society at large;
6.6.16.2.13 One (1) staff member appointed by the Board of Directors (nonvoting);
6.6.16.2.14 One (1) member of Equity Committee (nonvoting)
Move to table.
Motion passed.

10.1. Motion R12-12-#050 · Censure of Council Commissioner (G. King/A. Turnbull)
Whereas the PGSS Council Commissioner is obligated to properly prepare for and run council meetings and;
Whereas the Council Commissioner has demonstrated an inattention to equity concerns and responsibilities;
BIRT Council censure the Council Commissioner.
The Elections Commissioner will chair the meeting. G. King, upon motivation, cited failures on behalf of the Council Commissioner to send notices and documents on time, as well as notices regarding childcare during council meetings. The VP Academic asked what is a motion to censure. The VP Internal answered that a motion to censure is just a statement of disapproval of someone’s work or performance. J. Carr spoke against the motion. M. Krause spoke against the motion stating that it will needlessly tarnish the reputation of an officer. The VP External spoke against the motion stating that many of the deadlines and procedures of council needs to be reviewed to avoid tight deadlines. The VP External added that certain things can be addressed and that a motion of censure is a pretty strong statement.

The Council Commissioner acknowledged that some errors were made and that things need to be rectified. He further stated that at times receiving reports and motions late have contributed to a late distribution of the council documents to council. G King stated that a motion of censure is the only way to address these concerns.

Motion to call the question (Health commissioner/ R. Carver)
Motion passed

Main motion failed.

Adjournment
21h29
C12-02-#07
APPROVED

POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS’ SOCIETY OF McGill UNIVERSITY
Minutes for the Council Meeting of
February 8, 2012, 18h30
C12-02-#07

Executives
President Roland Nassim, VP Finance Adrian Kaats, VP Internal Daniel Simeone, VP External Mariève Isabel

Councilors
1. **Approval of the Agenda**

Amendments to the Agenda:

- Move item 10.2, 10.3, and 10.5 to immediately precede item 5.3 (VP Finance/E. Cawley)
  - Motion passed

- Move item 10.7 to end of Business arising (G. King/ N. Nolette)
  - Motion passed

- Add emergency motion to beginning of New Business to enter into Committee of the Whole regarding “Occupation of the James Building” (President/V. Bhosle)
  - Motion passed by two-thirds majority vote

- Move 10.8 to the beginning of Agenda (S. Forte/M. Krause)
  - Motion passed

- Move item 10.1 to immediately follow item 10.8 at beginning of Agenda (VP Finance/C. Wingate)
  - Motion passed
Add three (3) short paragraphs from CKUT in the announcement section (G. King/C.L. Conway)
Motion passed

Move 10.9 after PGSA recognitions (V. Bhosle, M. Krause)
Motion failed

Agenda approved, as amended.

2. **Speaker’s report**

   Council Commissioner requested that Councillors give priority to others who have not yet spoken, before speaking for a second time. He also requested that members feel free to ask for clarification if they do not understand procedural issues or topics.

3. **Announcements**

   3.1 **Elections Commissioner**
   The Elections Commissioner announced the upcoming PGSS Executive elections at the end of March and called for nominations. VP External and President positions will have their nomination periods extended for an additional week from today as he received no more than 1 nomination for those positions.

   3.2 **President**
   The President introduced the new Recording Secretary and requested that Councillors state their name and department when speaking. He also stated that the website is currently down and in the process of getting it back on-line. Important information will be communicated by email. He will be sending out a request for motions from any member of the PGSS for the AGM that will take place on March 7, 2012.

   3.3 **CKUT board statement on the occupation of the James Administration Building**
   CKUT representative Gretchen King gave a statement on the current occupation and stated that CKUT did not participate in the plan to occupy the building, but supports the actions taken and asks the administration to recognize the results of the Fall referendum.

4. **Approval of the Minutes**

   The Minutes of January 11, 2012 were approved (R. Carver/S. Forte)
5. Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders

10.1. Motion R12-01-#059 · GSA recognitions (VP Internal/President)
WHEREAS several GSAs have submitted documentation according to the PGSS constitution
BIRT the PGSS recognize GSAs per the motions attached in the appendix.

Motion passed.

5.1. Motion R12-01-#057 · To accept reports of the Nominating Committee and the Grants Review Committee (Nominating Committee)
WHEREAS the Nominating Committee has met to review nominees applying for external and internal committee positions, and presented recommendations to Council with respect to committee appointments;
WHEREAS the Grants Review Committee has met to review grant applications;
BIRT that the reports of the Nominating Committee and the Grants Review Committee be adopted in omnibus.
BIRT the following appointments be made:
Antoine Leuzy to the PGSS Health and Wellness Committee and the Counselling Services Advisory Board
Anastasia Dikareva to the APC Subcommittee on Courses and Teaching Program
Kelly Nugent to the PGSS Environment Committee
Danielle Meadows to the International Students Committee
Alireza Shams to the International Students Committee
Kingyan Sun to the International Students Committee
Shailendra to the International Students Committee
Victor Goebel to the Judicial Advisory Board
Felipe Mendez to the External Affairs Committee
Lisa Kirsh to the Research Advisory Committee
Sunci Avlijas to the External Affairs Committee
Jonathan Elston to the Judicial Advisory Board
Craig Winters to the Advisory Council on the Charter of Students' Rights and the Science Faculty Council

L. Harvey asked why individuals are being appointed to the International Students’ Committee if the motion to ratify the decision to create this committee was part of this meeting’s agenda. The VP Internal explained that these appointments stand unless the ratification motion fails.

Motion passed.
5.2. Motion R12-01-#058 · To elect candidates to the Nominating Committee (VP External/ VP Finance)
BIRT Council hold elections for the following vacancies on the Nominating Committee:
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Science
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Engineering
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Law
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Music
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Science
- two (2) members at-large
No volunteers.

10.2. Motion R12-01-#060 · Prescription of the PGSS administrative fee for the HDIP (VP Finance/S. Forte)
10.3. Motion R12-01-#061 · Prescription of the PGSS HDIP premium (NOTE second clause is contingent on the passage of the previous motion (VP Finance/...)

The VP Finance requested that Council allow the combining of these two motions in order to create a joined new version and to debate on the revised motion presented here in Council.

Motion to debate the revised, combined motion on Health Care Policy (VP Finance/E. Cawley)
Motion passed.

Revised Combined Motion (Previously items 10.2 and 10.3) Prescription of the PGSS administrative fee for the Health and Dental Insurance Plan
WHEREAS in the 2011-2012 plan year, the Health and Dental Insurance Plan (HDIP) administration fee applied by the PGSS was $4.25 for the health insurance portion of the plan, and $4.25 for the dental insurance portion of the plan
WHEREAS in the 2011-2012 plan year, the PGSS' enrolment in the plans has been approximately 4,500 in the health insurance portion of the plan and 6,500 in the dental insurance portion of the plan;
WHEREAS in the 2011-2012 budget we have planned expenses on the order of $52,675 for the administration of the HDIP, not including special projects expenses, and there is an expected shortfall of approximately $5,700 in available administrative revenue for the plan;
WHEREAS in the 2012-2013 budget, if we continue to internally administer the HDIP, we should plan for an increase in the budgeted administration fee of $3.53 for a total of $7.78 per component\(^1\).

WHEREAS the transfer of the HDIP's administration to the plan's broker will require shifting the portion of PGSS fixed administration costs currently paid for by the HDIP to some combination of the Society Activities Fund and Business Activities fund in the 2012-2013 budget;

WHEREAS the HDIP administration can be performed with significant service augmentation\(^2\) by the HDIP broker at a significantly lower cost ($2.13 per component);

WHEREAS both the Health Commissioner and Vice-President (Finance) recommend allowing the plan's broker to fully administer the HDIP;

WHEREAS in transferring the administration of the plan, the PGSS should still create a nominal contingency fund for the plan by collecting a fee of $2.06 per component of the plan (Health and Dental)\(^3\);

WHEREAS last year, the Health and Wellness Committee (HAWC) engaged in an extensive process of evaluating user wants and implementing premium adjustments to the HDIP coverage based on this, and in the current year there has been no significant demand for additional coverage changes from PGSS members enrolled in the Plan.

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1 This increase would allow the PGSS to:

- include a contingency reserve in the HDIP fund – this amount would be equal to 1% of the HDIP premium;
- increase plan advertisement to an appropriate level – this amount would be $3,000 in order to print and distribute appropriate materials that describe the plan and how to use it;
- account for inflationary costs in supplies and equipment, office operation costs, salaries, etc – this amount is set at 3% of the current budgeted administration cost; and
- pay back the budget shortfall from this year – this amount would be $5,700.

For a total administrative fee of $7.78 (= \(\{\$52,675 \times 1.03 + \$5,700 + \$3,000 + 0.01 \times [\$251.45 \times 4,500 + \$173.65 \times 6,500]\} / 11,000 = \{\$54,255.25 + \$5,700 + \$3,000 + \$22,660\} / 11,000\) for both the health insurance and the dental insurance portions of the HDIP.

2 The HDIP broker will provide online opt-in and opt-out services as well as augmented communication services (increasing plan accessibility) and telephone client services.

3 1% of the premium cost which is estimated to be 0.01 \(\times [\$251.45 \times 4,500 + \$173.65 \times 6,500]\) / 11,000 = $2.06 per component.
WHEREAS the PGSS' HDIP broker has suggested the following premiums for the 2012-2013 coverage year in the absence of adjustments to coverage, based solely on plan use at the rates provided by the plan's current insurance underwriter: $251.45 (increase of $0.01 from the 2011-2012 year) for the health insurance portion of the HDIP, and $173.65 (increase of $6.22 from the 2011-2012 year) for the dental insurance portion of the HDIP;
WHEREAS in the past, the PGSS has failed to account for the 1% bad debt charge retained by McGill upon collection of all fee levies4; 
WHEREAS the last time the PGSS requested that the HDIP’s broker perform an insurance underwriter request for proposals (RFP) was in 2009; 
WHEREAS it has been recommended by the HDIP's broker that such an RFP be performed approximately every 3 years; and 
WHEREAS the last time such an RFP was performed there was a significant reduction in the HDIP's premium costs; 
BIRT the PGSS have its Health and Dental Plan broker perform a request for proposals for the underwriting of the plan; 
BIFRT the PGSS put the following question to referendum:
“For the year 2012-2013, do you agree that the PGSS Health and Dental Plan: 1) Be renewed with the same coverage currently provided by the PGSS Health and Dental Insurance Plan at the rate of no more than $258.20 for the health insurance component of the plan and no more than $179.62 for the dental insurance component of the plan1,2? 2) Not be renewed.

1 The health insurance component of the PGSS Health and Dental Insurance Plan (HDIP) is compulsory for all Canadian resident PGSS members. The dental insurance component of the plan is compulsory for all PGSS members. 
2 Any PGSS member required to participate in the HDIP may withdraw from either of its components by making an application to withdraw and furnishing the required documents proving equivalent extended coverage to the HDIP’s broker by using its online application system.”

S. Forte requested clarification on the breakdown of the $7.78 increase in fees. The VP Finance explained that this amount is what the PGSS is currently paying, 

4 McGill's bad charge is 1% applied to all monies collected from students. Thus, when we calculate what should be charged to students in order for the PGSS to receive $Y, we must actually charge the student $Y.
not what is being proposed and that by costing out the administration of the health plan to a broker agency it is more cost efficient and better service for the PGSS and its members. L. Harvey requested clarification on who will be responsible at the PGSS for administering the fund with the broker and further information. The VP Finance explained the inherent resistance to outsourcing PGSS administration for fear of not satisfying membership, but he was satisfied with reports from other groups regarding the agency managing the administration. Additionally, the person currently responsible for the plan administration at the PGSS could be greatly used in other roles with this time freed from contracting to the brokerage agency. C.L. Conway requested information about a framework on the contingency fund. The Health Commissioner explained that the Committee and the VP Finance would decide distribution of the funds, but the specifics have not been currently set out.

S. Forte proposed an amendment to the collection of 1% to reflect both a one percent on the health portion and a one percent on the dental portion as not all students require both.

Motion to table combined item formerly 10.2 and 10.3 (VP Finance/S. Forte)
Motion passed.

Motion to remove item from table (VP Finance/S. Forte)
Motion passed.

Amend main motion to add “non opt-outable” before the word “PGSS” (S. Forte/V. Duru)
Motion to call the question on the amendment to add “non opt-outable” (E. Cawley, G. King)
Motion passed.
Motion to amend fails.
Motion to call the question on the main motion, as written (E. Cawley, VP Finance)
Main motion passed.

10.5. Motion R12-01-#063 · Managing costs associated with covering expenses for biologic drugs (E. Cawley/I. Pivneva)
WHEREAS the Health and Wellness Committee (HAWC) met to discuss the growing costs of covering biologic drugs by the PGSS Health and Dental Insurance Plan;
WHEREAS HAWC dully considered the information with regard to the options available to address concerns about the impacts of biologic drug coverage on insurance costs;
WHEREAS HAWC has made the following proposal:
The Health and Wellness Committee recommends to Council that the following is adopted by the PGSS to address the growing concerns related to the increasing cost of covering biologic drugs:

i. Introduce the Prior Authorization program for selected drugs.

ii. Require application to a relevant government body for additional funding (in cases where applicable).

iii. Develop an appeals committee as a means for PGSS members to appeal any decision made by the Prior Authorization program that they feel is unjust.

iv. Grandfather in all PGSS members who are currently covered by the PGSS Health and Dental Plan and have received reimbursement for drugs not covered by the Prior Authorization program.

**BIRT Council enters committee-of-the-whole for up to 15 minutes to discuss HAWC’s proposal.**

B. Sajo requested clarification on what constitutes a biological drug. The Health Commissioner explained that they are a new type of drug that is being developed to target chronic diseases that are both very expensive, but very effective.

Motion passed. Two opposed (M. Krause, R. Greydanus).

Council entered into Committee of the Whole.

Motion to extend Committee of the Whole for the remainder of the speakers list (VP Internal/E. Cawley)
Motion passed.

Council exits Committee of the Whole.

**5.3. Motion R12-12-#051 · Executive Reports and Participation** (G. King/VP Internal)

WHEREAS a number of questions were raised at the December 2011 Council regarding the appropriate content of Executive Reports, Executive participation at Council, and distinctions between personal opinion and organizational representation and;

WHEREAS the above issues were broached but not adequately addressed during the December 2011 session;

**BIRT Council enter into committee of the whole for up to fifteen (15) minutes to discuss the appropriate content of Executive Reports, Executive participation at Council, and distinctions between personal opinion and organizational representation.**

Motion failed.
5.4. Motion R12-12-#054 Committee of the Whole on Financial Planning, Budget Procedures, Staffing, and Fees (P. Tyagi/VP Finance)
BIRT Council enter into Committee-of-the-Whole for up to fifteen (15) minutes to discuss Financial Planning, Budget Procedures, Staffing, and Fees

Motion to table this item (VP Finance/P. Tyagi)
Motion passed.

5.5. Motion R12-12-#055 · Motion on Commissioner Reports (VP Academic/G. King)
WHEREAS the PGSS Commissioners, unlike the PGSS Executive, do not submit monthly reports to council outlining their work and ongoing projects and;
WHEREAS as elected officials, the PGSS Commissioners should be accountable and answerable to Council in regards to their work portfolios;
BIRT each PGSS Commissioner produce a report outlining their accomplishments and fulfillment of commissioner duties throughout their term of office thus far, to be presented to Council in February, 2012.

Amend “February, 2012” to “March, 2012”.
Motion passed.

Motion to extend council by 30 minutes (VP Internal/VP External)
Motion passed.

Motion to amend to include the word “written” before the word “report” (R. Carver/M. Krause)
Motion passed.

Motion to commit this to the PSAC for decision on the wording on this motion and its specifics and requirements of commissioners (VP Finance/President)
Motion passed. One opposed (M. Krause).

5.6. Motion R12-12-#056 · Committee of the Whole on Ancillary Fees (VP External/VPF)
WHEREAS PGSS produced a research on ancillary fees at McGill;
WHEREAS PGSS is currently drafting a policy on ancillary fees;
BIRT Council enters a committee of the whole to discuss the ancillary fee research and a PGSS policy on ancillary fees.
BIFRT Council suggests that the Committee on the whole takes up the following motion: BIRT the Committee of the Whole recommend to Council the adoption of the report on ancillary fees.

Motion to table this item (VP External/M. Krause)
Motion passed.
10.7. Motion R12-01-#065 · General Meeting (G. King/C.L. Conway)
WHEREAS General Meetings are a central venue for direct democracy in student associations;
WHEREAS Graduate students are facing important issues regarding significant increases in tuition fees;
BIRT Council enter into Committee-of-the-Whole (for 15 minutes) to discuss calling a General Meeting of PGSS.
BIFRT Council call a General Meeting on ____________ (date)

The Council Commissioner called for questions or debate on the motion. E. Cawley requested the date on which the next General Meeting was to be held. The President responded March 7, 2012.

Motion failed.

Following consideration of motion 10.8, G. King raised a point of order stating as the mover of motion 10.7, her opportunity for motivation was never given. The Council Commissioner acknowledged that when calling for questions or debate on that motion it was implied to have included motivations.

Motion to reconsider the decision not to enter into Committee-of-the-Whole for motion 10.7 since there was no opportunity given for motivation. One objection.

VP Finance raised point of privilege that to reconsider a previous motion, it is only possible if an assembly member would change his or her vote. VP Internal stated that in the case of what is occurring here a member of the assembly feels that their right has not been respected and perhaps it is more appropriate for the Council Commissioner to use his privilege to ask that the assembly go back.

The Council Commissioner called for a vote on the assembly returning to the motion so that the mover may have a chance to motivate as long as there are less than four objections. Six objections. Motion voted upon, requiring two-thirds majority. Motion fails.

VP Internal raised point of order asking if a member of the assembly was denied their opportunity to motivate, a right guaranteed under the regulations, then it is not appropriate for the Council to be able to vote to deny that right. VP Finance raised the point that the member also gave up their right to debate on the motion, which was indeed called for by the Speaker. G. King stated that Council should review the recording, claiming that the Council Commissioner only called for questions, neither debate nor motivation was called for.
The Council Commissioner stated his understanding of Council’s general feeling is that a member’s right was not honored and exercised his authority to suspend the rules and go back and allow that right to be fulfilled as all members should have the right to motivate if they submit their motion on time.

G. King then given the opportunity to motivate, explaining the context ask to why calling a General Meeting was needed, including tuition increases, mobilization with other students in the province, and the recent events that have been taking place on campus. The VP External spoke for the motion to go into Committee of the Whole, as she would like to hear what the position of council on these issues in order to voice those concerns in upcoming meetings.

Amend the motion to include “go into a Committee of the Whole to discuss calling” before “a General/Meeting on” (VP Finance/President). Motion to amend passed.

Main motion failed.

10.8. Motion R12-01-#066 · Speaking Time (M. Krause/R. Carver)
WHEREAS council meetings notoriously run late and there is a perception of non-equity by some,
**BIRT speaking time in council be reduced to 2.5 min**
VP Internal raised a point of order that this motion would be out of order and contrary to constitution, as it needs to be presented as an amendment to the constitution in order to take effect.

Motion deferred, not voted upon.

6. Executive Reports
6.1. VP External
The VP External participated in consultations with many other student associations and recently participated in Education week. She recently launched the PGSS policy on increases in tuition fees.

6.2. VP Academic

6.3. VP Finance
Report sent by email
6.4. VP Internal
There wil be an overnight ski trip, and other upcoming events. He is currently working on getting the website on-line. Speed dating has been postponed to March 1, 2012.

6.5. President
Report sent by email

7. Commissioner Reports
7.1. Elections Commissioner

7.2. Equity Commissioner
Report sent by email. Addition to report: event for Black History Month will be held Saturday March 3, which will be a discussion forum bringing together people from various aspects of the community.

7.3. Senate Commissioner
Report sent by email

7.4. Environment Commissioner
Report sent by email

7.5. Health Commissioner
Report sent by email

7.6. Social Commissioner
Report sent by email

7.7. Student Support Commissioner
Submitted the FSS guidelines, which distributes funds to students in need, new limits have been submitted for recommendation. Also, non-emergency office hours will restart next week as was the case in the Fall semester. Emergency hours are available by request.

7.8. Family Care Commissioner
Report sent by email
8. **Other Reports**
   8.1 Nominating Committee

   Report sent by email

9. **Question Period**
   G. King asked all PGSS Senators what is the outcome or progress of motions decided in Council and presented to Senate. The President responded that they have created an action list of motions that should be presented to Senate from the motions decided on, and divided the list among the senators. They were not able to pass motions at Senate, but many were presented.

10. **New Business**
    10.0 Emergency motion – Occupation of the James Administration Building
        (President/M. Krause)
        BIRT PGSS enter into a ten (10) minute Committee of the Whole on the occupation of James Administration Building.
        Motion passed.

        Council entered into Committee of the Whole.

        Motion to extend Council by 30 minutes (C. Ulmer, K. Fayazbakhsh)
        Motion passed.

        Motion to extend Committee of the whole for 15 min (D. Meadows, N. Nolette)
        Motion passed.

        Motion to extend Committee of the whole for the remainder of the speakers’ line (VP Internal/VP Finance)
        Motion passed.

        Council exits Committee of the Whole.

        Motion to Adjourn (M. Krause/E. Pedersen)
        Motion passed.

**ADJOURNMENT**
21h30
POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS’ SOCIETY OF McGILL UNIVERSITY
Minutes for the Council Meeting of
March 7, 2012, 17h30
C12-03-#08

Executives
President Roland Nassim, VP Finance Adrian Kaats, VP Internal Daniel Simeone, VP External Mariève Isabel VP Academic Lily Han

Councilors
**Commissioners & Non-voting Members**
Health Commissioner Elizabeth Cawley, Student Support Commissioner Vikrant Bhosle, Senate Commissioner Adam Bouchard, Elections Commissioner Tarek Hamade, Equity Commissioner Sara Houshmand, Social Commissioner Michael Krause, Family Care Commissioner Irina Pivneva, Environment Commissioner Ben Harack, Council Commissioner Jonathan Mooney, AGSEM Lerona Dana Lewis, Renaud Roussel MCGSS representative (Macdonald) Alyssa Macleod

**Regrets**
Geography Blanaid Margaret Donnelly

**Gallery and Guests**
Civil Engineering Mohammad Talurder, Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences Georgia Paul, Political Science Theodore David McLauchlin, Parasitology James McLean, Integrated Studies Heather Phipps, Information Studies (Lib. & Info Studies) Alexandra Symons, Rachel Legaspi

**CALL TO ORDER**
17h45

1. **Approval of the Agenda**
   Motion to approve the agenda (President/S. Forte)

   Motion to table motions 5.4 to 5.6 and 10.1 (President/S. Forte)
   Motion passed. One opposed (M. Krause)

2. **Speaker’s report**
   Council Commissioner requested that Councillors give priority to others who have not yet spoken, before speaking for a second time. He also encouraged those who do not normally speak to feel free to speak during the council meeting and voice their opinions.

3. **Announcements**
   3.1 President
   The President asked Councillors to notify the attendance record keeper if they leave during or after council so that proper attendance numbers could be accounted for the AGM
4. Approval of the Minutes

Motion to table the approval of the minutes pending a review of the audio recording for motion 10.7 R12-01-#065 (G. King/C. Wingate). Objection raised against motion (S. Forte)

Motion passed. Two oppositions (M. Krause/S. Forte)

Approval of minutes tabled pending review of audio recording.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders

5.1. Motion R12-03-#073 · To accept reports of the grants review committee and the nominating committee (Nominating committee)

BIRT the reports of the grants review committee and the nominating committee be accepted.

H. Deilami spoke regarding the Civil Engineering event (11-12-45 in the GRC report) that is reported as funded for $421 and that in previous years the event had received greater funding from the PGSS.

Motion to amend the report by increasing the funded amount listed for GRC report item 11-12-45 to the maximum ($800). (H. Deilami/U.Tamima)

R. Carver spoke against this motion and that Council should respect the decision of the committee on what they debate and recommend to fund and that Council should respect the role the GRC are given to fulfill.

M. Bastarache asked for a member of the GRC to explain why the amount this year was less than previous years. K. Fayazbakhsh (GRC) explained the decision to fund and its criteria. VP Finance also explained that this year there exists a more rigorous criteria for allocating funding based on priority, whereas in past years this criteria did not exist.

M. Bastarache spoke against motion as the existing GRC process was respected.

J. Verrett asked for clarification regarding how 250 participants will attend a conference for a faculty of only approximately 80 students. VP Finance explained this is an expected number directly from the grant application and is due to the fact that this conference is open to other students from a broader base of departments and faculties.

Motion to call the question (G. King/M. Krause).

Motion passed.

Motion to amend failed.

Main motion passed.
5.2. Motion R12-01-#070 · To elect candidates to the Nominating Committee

BIRT Council hold elections for the following vacancies on the Nominating Committee:
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Science
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Engineering
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Law
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Music
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Science
- two (2) members at-large

No volunteers.

5.3. Motion R12-01-#068 · Ratification of Executive Committee decision

(Executive Committee)

WHEREAS the international graduate student and postdoctoral fellow population is a large and growing component of the PGSS and;
WHEREAS there are many issues that have a specific and unique bearing on international graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, including but not limited to graduate funding, tuition fees, health & dental coverage, housing, and equity issues;
BIRT the following motion of the Executive Committee be ratified by Council:
BIRT PGSS create the International Students Committee (ISC); BIFRT the ISC consist of seven (7) members, chosen via the PGSS nominating process, with at least five (5) of the members consisting of international students and with a Chair to be selected by the committee; BIFRT the ISC be mandated to address issues of direct and specific concern to international graduate students & postdoctoral fellows, whether through information gathering & dissemination, research, advocacy, event planning and/or any other activities deemed appropriate by the committee; BIFRT the ISC submit a report to Council by May 31, 2012, outlining its work to date and recommending either the dissolution of the ISC or the further continuance of the committee, in a form and manner deemed appropriate for the needs of its constituency.

Motion to amend the motion to read “consist of 7 members chosen by the PGSS, with at least 4 members of being international students, and at least one member being an international post-doc with a chair to be selected by the committee.” (L. Harvey)

VP Academic explained that there was an informal amendment to take into account those changes already at the Executive level that was not included in this motion, whereby the number of members would be increased by one and a position for an international post doc is encompassed within that amendment specifically.
L. Harvey withdrew amendment.

Motion passed.

Motion to Adjourn (VP Finance/G. King).
Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT
18h10
POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS’ SOCIETY OF McGill University

Minutes for the Council Meeting of
April 4, 2012, 18h30

Executives
President Roland Nassim, VP External Marieve Isabel, VP Internal Daniel Simeone, VP Academic Lily Han, VP Finance Adrian Kaats

Councilors

Commissioners & Non-voting Members
Health Commissioner E. Cawley, Student Support Commissioner V. Bhosle, Senate Commissioner A. Bouchard, Equity Commissioner S. Houshmand, Social Commissioner M. Krause, Family Care Commissioner I. Pivneva, Environment Commissioner B. Harack, Council Commissioner J. Mooney
1. Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda (T. Centea/P. Tyagi)

Amendments to the Agenda:
Add an emergency motion preceding Motion 5.1 to extend the term of the current Health Commissioner and Social Commissioner to allow for a new successor to take over following May, 2012 elections with no interruption in fulfillment of their respective roles (President/M. Munir)
Motion passed.

Move item 5.7 to directly following the emergency motion 5.0 (S. Forte/R. Carver)
Motion passed.

Move item 10.4 to beginning of New Business (L. ShuangYe Qiao/President)
Motion passed.

Agenda approved, as amended.

2. Speaker’s report

The Council Commissioner asked for members of Council to be civil in debates. He also requested that Councilors allow others who have not had a chance to speak to do so before speaking for a second time and encouraged members to speak if they feel something has been done wrong.

3. Announcements

3.1. Independent Student Inquiry (ISI)

Motion to extend speaking rights to the members of the ISI (A-E. Keen/G. King)
Motion passed.
The members of the ISI (Alison Cooper, Chris Bangs) spoke about their final report presented to SSMU council last month. In particular, they outlined the details of their creation, their mandate and methods for carrying out the inquiry. A summary of their recommendations was presented to Council, with the full report and all ten recommendations available at www.independentstudentinquiry.blogspot.com.

3.2. VP Academic
The VP Academic announced the Open House taking place next week as a recruiting event for all positions on committees, followed by a thank you event for all current committee members. She explained that all University level committee positions would be changing so that all positions begin and end on the same date (June 1st to May 31st of the following year). The VP Academic encouraged all current committee members to rerun for their committee positions for a second year.

4. Approval of the Minutes
The minutes of PGSS Council meeting on February 8, 2012 and March 7, 2012 were approved (P. Tyagi/R. Strasser).

5. Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders
5.0 Emergency Motion - Councilor Term Extensions (President/P. Tyagi)
BIRT the Health Commissioner’s term be extended to April 30, 2012
BIRT the Social Commissioner’s term be extended to April 30, 2012

Motion passed.

5.7. Motion R12-01-#071 - Motion to adjust speaking time at Council (M. Krause/S. Forte)
WHEREAS council meetings notoriously run late and there is a perception of non-equity by some,
BIRT regulation 2.2.7 shall read: “No personal shall speak for more than two and half (2.5) minutes at a time without the permission of the Speaker.

M. Krause, on a point of motivation, explained that Council notoriously runs very late, and that generally the people that do speak, do so a great deal. Also, it should be more equitable, by giving more people a chance to speak.
In response to a question from the VP External, the President explained this bylaw amendment would only apply to speaking and debate on motions as well as only apply until May 31, 2012.

Motion passed.

5.1. Motion R12-04-#074 - To accept recommendations of the grants review committee (Nominating Committee)
BIRT that the reports of the grants review committee and the nominating as outlined in the respective reports be accepted.

The Council Commissioner explained that the Nominating Committee meeting this month fell on a day when the PGSS was on strike. As a result, the committee met at a later date and the report was prepared too late to be included in the council package. The Council Commissioner presented the report council.

Motion passed.

5.2. Motion R12-04-#075 To elect candidates to the Nominating Committee
BIRT Council hold elections for the following vacancies on the Nominating Committee:
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Science
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Engineering
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Law
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Music
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Science
- two (2) members at-large

No volunteers.

5.3. Motion R12-12-#054 Committee of the Whole on Financial Planning, Budget Procedures, Staffing, and Fees (P. Tyagi/VP Finance)
BIRT Council enter into Committee-of-the-Whole for up to fifteen (15) minutes to discuss Financial Planning, Budget Procedures, Staffing, and Fees, as well as the current budget projections and figures.

Motion passed.

Council entered into committee of the whole.

Motion to extend committee of the whole by fifteen (15) minutes (VP Finance/S. Forte).
Motion passed.

Motion to extend committee of the whole by three (3) minutes (VP Finance/S. Forte).
Motion passed.

Motion to extend committee of the whole by five (5) minutes (T. Cantea/S. Forte).
Motion passed.
Motion to extend the committee of the whole until the end of speaker’s list (S. Forte/M. Krause).
Motion passed. One objection (A-E. Keen).

Council exited committee of the whole.

5.4. Motion R12-04-#076 Ratification of Executive Committee appointments (Executive Committee)
BIRT the following appoints made by the Executive Committee be ratified by Council:
Marieve Isabel (main) and Lily Han (Alternate) for the Advisory Committee for the Selection of the Principal
Elizabeth Cawley (main) and Roland Nassim (Alternate) for the ADSVP-DAR

Motion passed.

5.5. Motion R12-01-#064 Reports on the Events of Nov 10 (G. King/A.E Keen)
WHEREAS the January session of Council adopted several motions regarding the Jutras report and Independent Student Investigation
BIRT Council enter into Committee-of-the-Whole (for 15 minutes) to discuss updates on these motions and the next steps for the PGSS.

G. King on a point of motivation spoke in favor of having a committee of the whole
S. Forte asked if this committee of the whole would be specific to the ISI report presented earlier in Council. G. King responded that this would apply to anything under the scope of the events of November 10th.

Motion to amend the length of the committee of the whole to five (5) minutes (G. King/R. Strasser)
Motion passed. Two opposed (M. Krause, S. Forte).

Motion to enter committee of the whole passed, as amended. Two opposed (M. Krause, S. Forte).

Committee entered into committee of the whole.

Motion to extend committee of the whole by five (5) minutes (C.L. Conway/B. Rocque)
Motion passed.

Motion to extend the committee of the whole by one (1) speaker (M. Krause/President).
Motion passed.
Amend the first clause of resolutions to read only “BIRT PGSS thank the ISI for their work.” (S. Forte/M. Krause)
Motion passed.

Council exited committee of the whole.

Motions moved by committee of the whole:
BIRT PGSS thank the ISI for their work.
Motion passed.

BIFRT PGSS invite the MAUT to present their report on the events of the November 10th to address the Council.
Motion passed. Two opposed (M. Krause, S. Forte). Two abstentions (P. Tyagi, T. Centea).

5.6. Motion E12-01-#062 Recording of Council meetings (G. King/…)
WHEREAS PGSS councilors, who are responsible for reporting back to their constituencies, are at time unable to attend council meetings and;
WHEREAS the minutes of the council meetings are not posted directly after meetings although at times they would be useful immediate references and;
WHEREAS it is common practice for student councils to make sound or video recordings of their meetings and make these records available to their constituencies and;
WHEREAS audio is already recorded at PGSS council meetings for the purpose of accurately recording minutes;
BIRT every session of Council, as well as all General Meetings, shall be audio streamed and archived online, except for material deemed confidential by Council.
BIFRT the PGSS Constitution Regulation 11.1.13 be modified to read “Full minutes of every Council, Annual, and General meeting shall be taken and kept by the recording secretary. These meetings hall be audio streamed, recorded, and archived online.

Motion to table this item indefinitely (G. King/M. Pappalardo).
Motion passed.

6. Executive Reports
6.1. VP External
Available online. The VP External spoke regarding the survey that was sent out via PGSS Newswire and the PGSS website since the beginning of the strike. She also stated that she will write a report regarding the survey findings and it will be posted on the PGSS website.
6.2. VP Academic

6.3. VP Finance
The VP Finance stated he will submit his report for this period with his report for the next Council meeting.

6.4. VP Internal

6.5. President
Available online. The President explained that in the Council package there is a report from the Judicial Advisory Board, however it is not listed in the agenda.

7. Commissioner Reports
7.1. Elections Commissioner
Available online.

7.2. Equity Commissioner
Available online.

7.3. Senate Commissioner
Available online.

7.4. Environment Commissioner
Available online

7.5. Health Commissioner
Available online. Informed council that the increase in health student fees for was put towards hiring of a new Psychiatrist in the mental health center.

7.6. Social Commissioner

7.7. Student Support Commissioner

7.8. Family Care Commissioner

8. Other Reports
8.1 Nominating Committee

8.2 Grants Review Committee
Available online.

8.3 Committee on Monetary Affairs
Available online.
8.4 Fee Research Report
Motion to extend council by thirty (30) minutes (G. King/T. Centea).
Motion passed. Two opposed (M. Krause/S. Forte)

9. Question Period
A. Bouchard asked the VP External about the logistics surrounding the survey results that she presented during Executive Reports and how it accounted for answers to ensure if a single person could manipulate the answers by voting multiple times for the same answer. The VP External explained the survey was by in no way scientific, however she presented the statistics regarding the demographics of those that responded to the survey.

A-E. Keen asked the President about the inclusion of the word “boycott” in his Executive report. The President explained that in the language of his report he attempted to support the language that had been established by the PGSS prior to the March 7, 2012 Council meeting. He advocated that the student actions constitute a “boycott”, rather than a “strike”, and from this point forward will be using the language of “boycott”.

S. Forte asked for clarification as to the reduction in the business revenues in the new budget. The VP Finance explained that it arises from too high of a projection in the previous financial budget.

10. New Business
10.4. Motion R12-04-#080 Committee of the Whole on Additional Session fee (L. ShuangYe Qiao/S. Forte)
BIRT the Council enter a Committee-of-the-Whole to discuss the additional session fee.

Speaker amended resolution to include “for ten (10) minutes” after “Committee-of-the-Whole” (unanimous).
L. ShuangYe Qiao on point of motivation explained the additional session fee and the increase in the fee that was mandated by the University Administration. She also criticized the Administration’s lack of communication to students regarding this fee increase as well as the right of the University to unanimously change session fees without notice.

Motion passed.

Council entered into committee of the whole.
Motion to extend committee of the whole for the remainder of the speaker’s line (L. Qiao/S. Forte)
Motion passed.

Council exited committee of the whole.

Motions moved by committee of the whole:
WHEREAS many students are facing economic hardships as a result of the new additional session fee schedule;
WHEREAS the university failed to adequately inform the community in advance about changes to fee structures;
**BIRT PGSS lobby the administration to facilitate the transition to the new additional session fee schedule, via such means as fee deferrals.**
**BIFRT PGSS investigate what is involved in the new fee schedule and lobby against the imposition of any additional fees**

Amend the first resolution to remove “via such means as fee deferrals.” (R. Carver/T. Centea).
Motion passed. Three objections (L. Qiao, A. E. Keen, M. Pappaldaro)

Amend to add resolution “BIFRT PGSS investigate what is involved in the new fee schedule and lobby against the imposition of any additional fees” (C.L. Conway/VP Finance)
Motion to call the Question on amendment (G. King/Y. Konokhova).
Motion passed.
Motion to amend passed. One objection (S. Forte).

Main motion passed, as amended. One objection (S. Forte).

Motion to extend council by thirty (30) minutes (G. King/Equity Commissioner).
Motion passed.

**10.1. Motion R12-04-#077 Motion regarding homophobic assault on Mac Campus**
(Equity Commissioner/M. Krause)
WHEREAS a McGill student was the victim of a homophobic assault on the MacDonald campus on February 2, 2012 and;
WHEREAS McGill administrators have not issued a formal public acknowledgement of the assault or of the measures taken in response to make McGill safer and;
WHEREAS PGSS’s Policy on Equity and Diversity state that we will endeavor “to actively support projects that aim to end discrimination or to promote diversity and inclusiveness in the McGill community” as well as call on the University “to pursue initiatives designed to actively educate, heighten awareness, and provide opportunities for dialogue about equity and diversity-related issues” and;
BIRT PGSS issue a press release acknowledging the assault.
BIFRT PGSS call on the senior administration of McGill to also publically acknowledge the assault.
BIFRT PGSS call on University administrators to promptly inform McGillians of future occurrences of violence, hate crimes, and bias-motivated incidents that occur on or near campus, or that involve McGill community members.
BIFRT PGSS call on the University expand the current “Policy on harassment, sexual harassment, and discrimination prohibited by the law” to include a detailed protocol for public response to violence, hate crimes, and bias-motivated incidents, to ensure that future incidents receive prompt and uniform University response.

The Equity Commissioner on point of motivation spoke regarding the events surrounding the homophobic incident and the general perception and numerous incidents on MacDonald Campus.
The VP Finance recommended giving the resolutions of this motion more direct action, rather than just calling on the University to act. He also asked the Equity Commissioner to suggest how this motion could be furthered effectively.
The VP Academic explained that this issue is going to be addressed at the upcoming Senate Committee chaired by the Associate Provost Lydia White.

Amend to replace the word “University” in the last resolution to “Associate Provost Lydia White” and add “in the upcoming review of the policy of harassment, sexual harassment, and discrimination prohibited by law.” at the end of the motion (VP Academic/VP Finance).
Motion to call the question (G. King/T. Centea)
Motion passed.

Motion to amend passed.

Motion to amend the word “McGillians” to “members of the McGill community” (VP Internal/VP Finance).
Motion passed.

Amend to include “and condemning” after “acknowledging” in the first resolution and “and condemn” after “acknowledge” in the second resolution. (VP Academic/Equity Commissioner)
Motion passed.

Main motion passed, as amended.

Motion to call quorum (S. Forte/M. Krause)
34 voting members, quorum is met.
10.2. Motion R12-04-#078 Support with GASs on strike (A.E. Keen/G. King)

BIRT PGSS support graduate students currently on strike by providing advocacy and resources to the GSAs and their members who are on strike.

A.E. Keen spoke on a point of motivation regarding the current student strike environment and Graduate Student Associations (GSAs) that are currently on strike. She also advocated that GSAs on strike require resources to support their causes.

M. Krause spoke against the motion stating GSAs have funding from their activity funds and that the PGSS should not provide further support or financing.

VP Finance requested clarification as to whether or not the PGSS is already supporting GSAs on strike, and explained how the PGSS supports the GSAs financially.

S. Forte spoke against the motion as the members he represents are against the student strike as a whole, and that funds should not be directed from the PGSS to support those strikes at the GSA level. He also spoke about the unfairness of some GSAs going to strike and other not on strike, which would result in inequitable distribution of funding.

Amend to include “within its budgetary constraints” be added after “resources” in the resolution (President/M. Krause).

The President spoke for the amendment in order to have a defined limitation on the resources that PGSS would contribute as a means of officially controlling the fund distribution.

Motion to call the question (G. King/C.L. Conway)

Motion passed.

Motion to amend passed.

Motion to extend council by thirty (30) minutes (P. Tyagi/G. King).

Motion failed.

ADJOURNMENT

21h35
POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS’ SOCIETY OF McGill UNIVERSITY

Minutes for the Council Meeting of
May 2, 2012, 18h30

Executives
President Roland Nassim, VP External Mariève Isabel, VP Internal Daniel Simeone, VP Academic Lily Han, VP Finance A. Kaats

Councilors

Commissioners & Non-voting Members
Health Commissioner E. Cawley, Student Support Commissioner V. Bhosle, Senate Commissioner A. Bouchard, Equity Commissioner S. Houshmand, Council Commissioner J. Mooney, MGCSS Representative A. Macleod
Regrets
Social Commissioner M. Krause, Family Care Commissioner I. Pivneva, Environment Commissioner B. Harack, Elections Commissioner T. Hamade

Gallery and Guests
Student Health Services Dr. Pierre-Paul Tellier, Sustainability Projects Fund Lilith Wyatt

CALL TO ORDER
18h35

1. Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda (VP Finance/B.M. Donnelly)

Amendments to the Agenda:
Move item 10.1 to the first item of business under Business Arising and add a presentation by the VP Finance (VP Finance/VP Internal)
Motion passed.

Add motion 10.0 to beginning of New Business regarding the current environment of student movement and tuition increases (VP External/VP Internal)
Motion passed. One opposed (President).

Move motion 10.6 to beginning of New Business following motion 10.0 (VP Academic/S. Forte)
Motion passed.

Move announcement 3.1 to when the speaker is available to present (Health Commissioner/VP Finance)
Motion passed.

Add motion 5.6 to recognize Nursing Graduate Student Association to end of Business Arising (President/Equity Commissioner)
Motion passed.

Add motion 10.7 following 10.2 to enter into committee of the whole to discuss the Library Improvement Fund (President/VP Finance)
Motion passed.

Add motion 5.7 and 5.8 before and following 5.3 to enter into committee of the whole to discuss the Society Operations Manual and the roles of Commissioners before motion for Commissioner elections, followed by other components after the elections of Commissioners (VP Internal/VP External)
Motion passed.
Add motion 3.2 for an announcement from the Project Sustainability Fund (VP External/S. Forte)  
Motion passed.

Remove motions 5.4 and 5.5 entirely from the agenda (S. Forte/G. King)  
Motion passed.

Agenda approved, as amended. One opposed (S. Forte).

2. Speaker’s report
   The Council Commissioner asked for members of Council to be civil in debates. He also requested that Councillors allow others who have not had a chance to speak to do so before speaking for a second time, and encouraged members to voice if they feel something has been done wrong. In addition the Council Commissioner encouraged those who do not normally speak to feel free to voice their opinion.

3. Announcements
   3.2. Sustainability Project Fund (SPF)  
   Lilith Wyatt from the SPF made a presentation regarding the progress of the fund, for transparency as to where the funds are spent. Full report details and contact information is available online at the SPF’s website.

   3.3. VP Finance  
   The VP Finance made an announcement regarding the PGSS Executive’s decision to accept the underwriter, Desjardins Insurance, as proposed by the insurance broker for the Health and Dental Insurance Plan; this represents a change from the previous underwriter, Sun Life Financial. This will be a cumulative cost savings for students in the amount of approximately $40.

4. Approval of the Minutes
   The minutes of the Council meeting on April 4, 2012 were approved (no objections).

5. Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders
   10.1. Motion R12-04-#084 – Fee Structure (VP Finance/R. Greydanus)  
   WHEREAS the PGSS fee structure should be periodically reviewed;  
   WHEREAS the PGSS fee structure requires a bit of updating to bring it into congruence with the actual practices and goals of the PGSS;  
   BIRT the following be put to referendum for a period of five (days) beginning Monday May X at 9am ending May Y at 5pm.  
   (See Appendix A).

   Amend the motion as a whole to instead read the following: (VP Finance/President)
WHEREAS the PGSS fee structure should be periodically reviewed;
WHEREAS the PGSS fee structure requires a bit of updating to bring it into congruence with the actual practices and goals of the PGSS;
BIRT the following be put to referendum for a period of five (days) beginning Monday May 14th at 9am and ending May 18th at 5pm:

"WHEREAS the Post-Graduate Students' Society (PGSS) levies a number of fees from its members;
WHEREAS the PGSS is on the cusp of completing the last phase of a three year restructuring process that has seen the complete overhaul of its constitution and bylaws, operating procedures, and budgetary and financing practices and procedures;
WHEREAS the current structure and descriptions of PGSS fees has, over the course of several decades, drifted out of alignment with PGSS' actual accounting, budgeting and administrative practices;
WHEREAS the way PGSS fees are structured, described, valued, and accounted for has become impractical for the PGSS;
WHEREAS the present curriculum load based fee differentiation has no demonstrable basis in significantly differentiated use of the elements of PGSS activity implemented by its various fees, and should, therefore, be eliminated;
WHEREAS the present structure of PGSS fees and how they translate into PGSS' budgeted activities is overly complex, and is difficult to present in a transparent way to the PGSS members that pay these fees;
WHEREAS this opacity cannot be further reduced until the current fee structure is simplified and directly linked to the PGSS' budget as overseen by its Council, Officers, Directors and Staff;
WHEREAS the PGSS' fees can easily be restructured to remedy the above problems, all while maintaining or reducing the total amount of money that the PGSS plans to collect from its members per year; and
WHEREAS the PGSS Council is its largest deliberative governing body comprised of voting members occupying seats reserved for every academic unit at the University, that meets regularly, and is well versed in PGSS financing and the process that has led to this initiative:

Do you agree to give the PGSS Council the one-time authority to approve a restructuring of all PGSS fees at its next meeting in accordance with the following principles:

The total amount of money PGSS expects to collect from its members shall be equal or less than the current amount;
Overall, the monies collected by the PGSS continue to fund the same things after the fee restructuring as those that were funded before the restructuring (i.e. the overall purpose of PGSS’ fee levies does not
change although the amounts collected for different purposes and the way they are collected may change;
The differentiation of fees based on curriculum load be eliminated;
Only the portion of fees collected for membership in the PGSS shall continue to be indexed with the Consumer Price index (CPI);
Only the duration of fee levies with fixed terms (e.g. the Education Bursary Fund fee levy) be allowed to be modified; and
There shall be no changes to the opt-out status of PGSS fees.

YES, NO, NO OPINION?”

D. Rakic asked for clarification regarding why this fee will be indexed to CPI. The VP Finance explained that of all the PGSS fees that are levied the PGSS membership fee is indexed to CPI for the purposes of human resources policy at the PGSS.
S. Forte asked for reasoning behind the Administration’s decision not to allow this referendum to deal with opt-outs. The VP Finance explained that the Administration requested that referendum questions only ask a single question, not compound questions.

Motion passed unanimously.

Main motion passed, as amended, unanimously. (Recognition in the minutes of the unanimous passing of this motion, as amended, requested by the VP Finance).

3.1. Dr. Pierre-Paul Tellier, Director, Student Health Services
Dr. Tellier made a presentation on the Student Health Services and the Graduate student fees that contribute to Services. He explained that currently the health services are extended to the families (spouses and children, “dependents”) of students, which contributes to longer wait times and less access to services for students. This generally has the largest impact on Graduate students, as undergraduate students predominantly do not have families. He explained that students with families that do not have medical insurance must pay out of pocket for visits that occur outside of the Student Health Services.

Speaker asked Council to move directly to motion 10.2 for committee of the whole on Health Services for Dependents to discuss with Dr. Tellier present. No opposition.

10.2. Motion R12-04-#085 – Committee of the Whole on Health Services for dependents (Health Commissioner)
WHEREAS McGill Health Services is currently allowing the dependents of McGill students to use the service;
WHEREAS students have consistently reported that there is significant difficulty getting doctor and nurse appointments at McGill health services (either regular appointments or emergency drop-in);
WHEREAS only those McGill students who pay the student service fee are given access to McGill Health Services (e.g. Post-Docs are not granted access unless they opt-in to the student services fee);
WHEREAS it has been estimated that approximately 10% of all appointments are currently being occupied by the dependents of McGill students (almost exclusively spouses);
WHEREAS the Health and Wellness Committee discussed the issues and felt that a balance needed to be found between accommodating students with dependents (particularly international students whose spouse has accompanied them to Montreal) and prioritizing students who pay for the services;
WHEREAS the Director of McGill Health Services has asked for the PGSS to discuss the issue and report back;

**BIRT Council enter committee-of-the-whole to discuss whether or not Health Services should continue to see the dependents (spouses and children) of McGill students.**

Council entered into committee of the whole.

Council exited committee of the whole.

Motions arising out of committee of the whole:
BIRT PGSS lobby to continue access to Health Services for spouses and dependents;
BIFRT PGSS recommend that the administration implement an opt-in fee for spouses and dependents

Motion to divide the question (Health Commissioner/Y. Konokhova)
Motion passed.

**BIRT PGSS lobby to continue access to Health Services for spouses and dependents;**
Motion to call the question, no debate.
Motion passed.

**BIRT PGSS recommend that the administration implement an opt-in fee for spouses and dependents**
The President spoke in opposition to the motion as there are no data or statistics to provide support for this motion, and recommended allowing next year’s Council to address this when further information is available.
Amend to read “BIRT PGSS investigate the implementation of an opt-in fee for spouses and dependents specifically for the access to health services” (S. Forte/Health Commissioner)
Motion to call the question (no objections).
Amendment passed.

D. Rakic spoke against the motion stating that this seems untimely and unnecessary as this has not been addressed or presented to the Undergraduate student community. Additionally, Graduate students have differing needs than undergraduate students.
Point of order by the President as the points being made in argument are spoken for or against the fee, however, the motion is to investigate the fee.
S. Forte spoke in favor of the motion, as an investigation would help to engrain the rights of access to health services for dependents for graduate students at McGill.

Motion to call the question (VP Internal/Health Commissioner).
Motion passed.

Main motion passed, as amended.

5.1. Motion R12-05-#081 - To accept recommendations of the Grants Review Committee and the Nominating Committee
BIRT the recommendations of the grants review committee and the nominating committee as outlined in the respective reports be accepted.

Motion passed.

5.2. Motion R12-05-#082 - To elect candidates to the Nominating Committee
BIRT Council hold elections for the following vacancies on the Nominating Committee:
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Science
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Engineering
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Law
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Music
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Science
- two (2) members at-large

No volunteers.

5.7. Motion to Discuss the Society Operations Manual regarding the roles of Commissioners (VP Internal/President)
BIRT Council enter into committee of the whole to discuss the updated Society Operations Manual just so far as to discuss the roles of Commissioners.
Motion passed.

Council entered into committee of the whole.

Motion to adjourn Committee of the whole (VP Internal/N. Dupuis)
Motion passed.

Council exited committee of the whole.

Motions brought out of committee of the whole:
BIRT the Family Care Commissioner position be continued and that the position be elected today (M. Goulgah/G. King)

Motion failed.

BIRT the Family Care Commissioner position be held, if necessary, during the June 2012 Council meeting (S. Forte/V. Bhosle)

Motion passed.

5.3. Motion R12-05-#083 - To elect commissioners (Executive Committee)
BIRT Council hold elections for the following Commissioners:
- Social Commissioner
- Health Commissioner
- Elections Commissioner
- Council Commissioner
- Student Support Commissioner
- Equity Commissioner
- Environment Commissioner
- Senate and Library Commissioner
- Family Care Commissioner

Remove the Commissioner positions of Social, Elections, Council, Senate and Library, Family Care from election through this motion (VP Internal/V. Bhosle)

G. King spoke against the motion, as she felt it was problematic with the lack of consultation regarding the elimination of these positions.
The VP Internal, in response to a question, stated that the passing of this motion would not eliminate these positions only that they would not be elected at this Council meeting.

Motion to call the question (S. Forte/B.M. Donnelly)
Motion passed.
Motion to amend passed. One opposed (G. King).

Council chaired by the President for Commissioner elections. Council voted to elect by secret ballot as opposed to a show of hands.

*The following candidates were elected in Council:*

*Elizabeth Cawley (Health Commissioner)*
*Vikrant Bhosle (Student Support Commissioner)*
*Kelly Nugent (Environment Commissioner)*
*Gretchen King (Equity Commissioner)*

Motion to extend council by thirty (30) minutes (Health Commissioner/VP External) Motion passed.

5.8. *Motion to discuss the Society Operations Manual* (VP Internal/S. Forte)

*BIRT Council enter into committee of the whole to discuss all other aspects of the Society Operations Manual.*

Motion failed.

Add the following emergency motion to the agenda: (G. King/J. Cohen)

*BIRT the executive meet with the current FC Commissioner and the current FC committee within the next two weeks to rewrite the proposed manual.*

*BIFT such rewriting will ensure that PGSS will continue to support all current Family Care issues*

*BIFT the manual be rewritten to include a position (either commissioner, executive or paid) devoted to Family Care issues*

Motion passed by 2/3 majority.

Main motion passed.

5.6. *Motion to recognize the Nursing Graduate Student Association Executive* (M. Bastarache/President)

*BIRT Council recognizes the Nursing Graduate Student Association Executive.*

Motion passed.

6. Executive Reports

6.1. VP External

Available online.

6.2. VP Academic

VP Academic pointed out that the MAUT report on implications regarding events of November 10th and the current climate of the University, can be found in the appendix of the Council package.
6.3. VP Finance
Available online.

6.4. VP Internal
VP Internal stated that the Impact soccer game and Cirque du Soleil events are sold out and there are waiting lists. Also, a second bus has been added for the trip to Ottawa.

6.5. President
President reminded Councillors that the Operations Manual had been sent out and encouraged Councillors to review it and submit any feedback.

7. Commissioner Reports
7.1. Elections Commissioner

7.2. Equity Commissioner
Available online.

7.3. Senate Commissioner
Available online.

7.4. Environment Commissioner
Available online.

7.5. Health Commissioner
Available online.

7.6. Social Commissioner
Available online.

7.7. Student Support Commissioner
Available online.

7.8. Family Care Commissioner

8. Other Reports
8.1 Nominating Committee
Presented in Council.

8.2 Grants Review Committee
Available online.

8.3 Committee on Monetary Affairs
Available online.

8.4 Fee Research Report
Available online.

9. Question Period
G. Lord asked whether Council goes forward regarding motion 5.8 to discuss the Society Operations Manual and its consultation. The President responded that since the motion to enter committee of the whole failed, they would rely on email correspondence for opinions on the operations manual.
The VP Academic suggested that in light of the motion passed to meet with the Family Care Committee regarding the Society Operations Manual that the consultation meeting be extended to include all those wanting to discuss this topic.

Motion to extend Council by thirty (30) minutes (VP External/VP Internal) Motion passed.

10. New Business
10.0. Motion to call the government back to the negotiation table (VP External/VP Internal)
WHEREAS negotiations have broken off between the Ministre de l’Éducation Line Beauchamp and the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec (FEUQ) of which PGSS is a member, the Fédération étudiante collégiale du Québec (FECQ), the Table de concertation étudiante du Québec (TaCEQ) and the Coalition large de l’association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante (CLASSE);
WHEREAS the strike has lasted over 11 weeks on many campuses and seen a historic mobilization at McGill University, including PGSS’s participation in a 3 day strike;
WHEREAS two Graduate Student Associations and over 200 McGill students are still currently on strike;
BIRT PGSS call on the Ministre de l’Éducation Line Beauchamp to immediately return to the negotiation table with all national student associations. BIFRT PGSS appeal and advocate for a civilized and peaceful approach to the current situation from all parties involved in the conflict.

The VP External spoke in favor of the motion, as a resolution will not be reached by the parties involved in the public sphere but at the negotiation table and spoke of the importance of encouraging those parties to return to the negotiation process.

Add the resolution “BIFRT PGSS appeal and advocate for a civilized and peaceful approach to the current situation from all parties involved in the conflict.” (VP External/VP Internal)

S. Forte spoke of the necessity to include a statement that the PGSS is against violence and does not encourage violent actions in regards to the student strike and need for stronger language in this amendment. The VP External explained the current strike environment and that she is fully in support of stronger language in the motion.
Motion passed.

S. Avlijas spoke in favor of the motion and the importance of calling all parties back to the negotiations, not just one or a few of the student associations involved.

S. Forte spoke against the motion in regards to CLASSE openly not condemning violence in their demonstrations. He also spoke to the idea that the offer by the Charest government made towards students met many of the demands that have been made by FEUQ, but not the other student groups.

The VP External advocated that the goal of the motion is not to debate the evaluation of the government offer nor the actions of student, but to call back parties to negotiation table and to be able to say this with confidence in the media with Council behind her.

G. King spoke in favor of the motion advocating that what is most needed now is negotiation with all parties involved after eleven weeks of demonstrations.

Motion to call the question (VP Academic/R. Greydanus)
Motion passed. One opposed (S. Forte).

Main motion passed, as amended. One opposed (S. Forte). One abstention (E. Cawley).

10.6. Motion R12-04-#089 – International Students Committee

WHEREAS, at the March 7th council meeting, the council approved Motion R12-01-#068 that ratified the Executive Decision creating the International Students Committee (ISC) to address issues of direct and specific concern to international graduate students & post-doctoral fellows;

WHEREAS, the committee has conducted independent surveys of graduate students and post-doctoral fellows to determine issues of direct and specific concerns;

WHEREAS, the findings of these surveys suggest there is sufficient need for an International Student Committee to have an ongoing role in addressing issues of concern raised in the surveys;

**BIRT PGSS approve the continuation of the International Students Committee on a permanent basis to serve the international graduate students & post-doctoral fellows at McGill;**

**BIFRT the International Students Committee be mandated to advocate for the international graduate student and post-doctoral community at McGill and to provide information and support in addressing the identified concerns of international graduate students & post-doctoral fellows.**
Amend to read, “a recommendation be sent to the executive committee in the drafting of the Society Operations Manual to “ in place of “PGSS” in the first resolution. No objections.
Motion passed.

Main motion passed, as amended.

10.7. Motion to discuss Library Improvement Fund project proposals (LIF)
(President/Equity Commissioner)
WHERAS the Library Improvement Fund was created in 2009 through a $5 per student per semester fee levy;
WHEREAS the fund has accumulate more than $450,000 to date;
WHEREAS no procedure or structure was created that will be charged with the evaluation and approval of projects;
BIRT Council enter into a committee of the whole for 15 minutes to discuss two projects for LIF funding.

Amend to “5 minutes” from “15 minutes” (VP Academic/N. Nolette)
Motion passed.

Amend to include “and the fee levy associated with it” (S. Forte/K. Ramadan)

Motion to call quorum; quorum not met.

ADJOURNMENT
22h16
POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS’ SOCIETY OF McGill UNIVERSITY
Minutes for the Council Meeting of
May 23, 2012, 18h30
C12-05-#11

Executives
President Roland Nassim, VP External Marieve Isabel, VP Internal Daniel Simeone, VP Finance Adrian Kaats

Councillors

Commissioners & Non-voting Members
Health Commissioner E. Cawley, Senate and Library Commissioner A. Bouchard, Council Commissioner J. Mooney

Regrets
VP Academic Lily Han, Chemistry Michael Mergy Krause, German Studies Arnim Seelig, Pharmacology and Therapeutics Vikrant Bhosle, Elections Commissioner Tarek Hamade, Family Care Commissioner Irina Pivneva, Physics James Kennedy, French Language and Literature Nicole Nolette, Dietetics & Human Nutrition Ashley Wardell, Integrated Studies Kingyan Sun, Architecture Olaf Recktenwald, Nursing Maxim Bastarache, Natasha Dupuis, Postdoctoral Studies Louise Harvey, Plant Science François Gagné-Bourque
**Gallery and Guests**
Megan Mericle, Errol Salomon, Kaie Pagnucco, Kelly Nugent, Lerona Lewis, Juan Vasquez

**CALL TO ORDER**
18h33

1. **Approval of the Agenda**
   Amendments to the Agenda:
   
   Motion to table 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10.4 indefinitely (President/VP External).
   Motion passed. One opposed (S. Forte).

   Motion to add 10.5 Emergency motion at end of amended agenda (VP External/VP Finance).
   Motion passed. One opposed (S. Forte).

   Agenda accepted, as amended.

2. **Speaker’s report**

3. **Announcements**
3.1. **VP Finance**
    MacCampus Graduate Society (MCGSS) held a meeting today and voted to pay full PGSS fees, pending final approval.

4. **Approval of the Minutes**

   The minutes of PGSS Council meeting on May 2, 2012 were approved (no objections).

5. **Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders**
5.1. **Motion R12-05-#090 - To accept recommendations of the grants review committee and the nominating committee** (Nominating Committee)
    BIRT the recommendations of the grants review committee and the nominating committee as outlined in the respective reports be accepted.

    Motion passed.

5.2. **Motion R12-05-#091 - To elect candidates to the Nominating Committee**
   (Nominating Committee)
BIRT Council hold elections for the following vacancies on the Nominating Committee:
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Science
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Engineering
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Law
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Music
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Science
- two (2) members at-large

No volunteers.

5.3. Motion R12-04-#092 - To discuss Library Improvement Fund project proposals (LIF) (President/VP External)
WHEREAS the Library Improvement Fund was created in 2009 through a $5 per student per semester fee levy;
WHEREAS the fund has accumulate more than $450,000 to date;
WHEREAS no procedure or structure was created that will be charged with the evaluation and approval of projects;
BIRT Council enter into a committee of the whole for 15 minutes to discuss two projects for LIF funding.

The President motivated for the motion, and that the Executive felt that the best way to evaluate these projects and the best way to delegate the LIF is to bring it directly to Council. He also stated that when the LIF was created there was no structure put in place on how to delegate and approve its funds, so would like a committee of the whole to discuss this.

Motion passed.

Council entered into committee of the whole.

Motion to extend committee of the whole by ten (10) minutes (G. King/M. McCallum).
Motion passed.

Motion to extend committee of the whole long enough to bring the motions to vote (VP Finance/VP Internal)
Motion passed.

Council exited committee of the whole.

Motion(s) brought back to Council out of committee of the whole (VP Internal/President):
BIRT $300,000 be allocated from the Library Improvement Fund as a contribution to the Redpath Library renovation.

BIFRT $100,000 be allocated from the Library Improvement Fund as a contribution to the renovation of the Education Library.

Alessandro from Chemistry asked about the structure for deciding on allocating the LIF moneys to projects. The President responded that presenting this to Council is the consultative process that is needed to make decisions for the LIF allocation. Stephen from Education motivated against the motion as he felt there is not sufficient consultation for spending such a large sum of money. He also motivated against the PGSS spending money for capital projects in Libraries, which is the responsibility of the University Administration and the Government. Fernando from Education spoke against the motion and that this is not the appropriate time or place to make the decision to spend this money and that further consultation should be made with the whole membership. The President argued that the Council is a representative of the PGSS membership as a whole to make a decision such as this.

Motion to call the question (VP Internal/E. Cawley).
Motion passed.

Motions arising out of committee of the whole passed. One opposed (G. King). One abstention (E. Pedersen)

10. New Business

10.1. Motion R12-04-#093 – Society Operations Manual (President /E. Cawley)
WHEREAS a project was underway throughout the year to replace the existing PGSS articles, bylaws and regulations with a new set of governing documents;
WHEREAS the new bylaws were approved at the last AGM to come into effect June 1st, 2012;
WHEREAS the governing documents include the Society Operations Manual under the purview of Council.
BIRT Council approves the proposed Society Operations Manual to take effect on June 1st, 2012 replacing the current constitution.

The President motivated for the passing of the Society Operations Manual (SOM) for the next Council to be able to take office in June with an updated and much clearer manual. He also motivated that changes to the SOM after its approval is possible at future meetings and its editing is an ongoing process.

Motion to amend to include Family Care Caucus description of composition and roles (President/Family Care Commissioner) as follows:
1.1.1. Gather information and develop expertise on issues affecting McGill graduate students and postdoctoral fellows caring for dependants;

1.1.2. Advocate for the equitable treatment of McGill graduate students and postdoctoral fellows caring for dependents through committee and caucus work and through collaborations with other groups and offices who provide services and resources for graduate students and postdocs;

1.1.3. Respond to requests for information and assistance on all matters related to graduate students and postdoctoral fellows caring for dependents through information dissemination, referrals, and/or other support as deemed necessary and appropriate;

1.1.4. Make recommendations to Council and the Executive on improving the Society’s policies and services in relation to graduate students and postdoctoral fellows caring for dependents.

2. Composition

2.1. All members filling position on PGSS committees who are dedicated to family care;

2.2. The caucus shall choose a chair from among its members;

2.3. Membership in the caucus shall not require a nomination from the Appointments Board; interested members shall contact the chair of the caucus for permission to join.

S. Avlijas asked for clarification as to what powers or rights the family care caucus differ from the previous Family Care Commissioner. The President stated that the previous rights and powers of the Family Care Commissioner is now divided between the caucus and the PGSS Executive.

Motion to amend passed.

S. Avlijas spoke against the motion as the AGSEM representative on Council and the proposed change to the SOM in this motion that will remove the voting seats for AGSEM representative and the potential for this motion to create negative feelings between these two organizations. The VP Internal raised a point of personal privilege and removed himself from further discussions on the topic of the AGSEM seats under consideration. The President spoke to clarify the role of non-voting seats on Council and that there is no intention to reduce or remove the AGSEM speaking rights as members can still speak without these seats. Further, that motions can be presented on behalf of AGSEM in Council without these Council positions. Due to this, the removal of these seats is more procedural for the organization of PGSS Council going forward and for the desire to have PGSS be PGSA based, not campus union based. AGSEM members will still be represented and have a voice on Council through their departmental representative.
The Council Commissioner raised a point of personal privilege to remove himself from debate on the matter of AGSEM and the decision to remove the AGSEM seats from Council in this revision of the SOM.

Motion to extend debate by twenty (20) minutes (G. King/K. Ramadan). Motion passed.

S. Avlijas spoke against this motion until further consultation can take place and further that this type of document should be passed at a general assembly. The President stated that these types of documents are to be approved at Council by representatives of all PGSA members. The VP Finance asked for clarification as to the timeline of consultation of this document. The President gave a brief outline of the multiple consultation processes that occurred over a period of time going back to June 2011 in addition to a full presentation outlining the exact changes to the SOM from the previous version.

The VP Finance spoke in favor of this motion, as there has been ample consultation over its changes and what it would mean for the PGSS Council. Further that Council was given the mandate to produce and approve the SOM by the vote of approval at the General Assembly.

Motion to amend to include the resolution “BIRT the Society Operations Manual be amended to provide AGSEM with non-voting seats on Council” (VP Internal/VP Finance).

The President spoke against the amendment as this motion is out of line with the bylaws approved by the General Assembly. S. Peters spoke in favor the amendment stating that having AGSEM seats on Council would not be doubly representative for graduate students and that the contrary would be true whereby a greater empowered AGSEM would lead to benefits for graduate students.

Motion to extend debate by fifteen (15) minutes (G. King/VP Finance). Motion passed.

Motion to amend failed.

Motion to call the question (E. Cawley/P. Tyagi). Motion passed.

Main motion passed, as amended. Two opposed (G. King, E. Pedersen)

10.2. Motion R12-04-#94 – Transitional Motion (President/VP Finance)
WHEREAS a project was underway throughout the year to replace the existing PGSS articles, bylaws and regulations with a new set of governing documents; WHEREAS the changes proposed in the new set of governing documents include changes of the names of some committees, and the change in titles of executives; WHEREAS elections took place for the executive position under the current constitution; BIRT council ratify the following changes:
- The President-elect will take office as Secretary-General as of June 1st, 2012;
- The VP Academic-elect will take office as Academic Affairs Officer as of June 1st, 2012;
- The VP External-elect will take office as External Affairs Officer as of June 1st, 2012;
- The VP Finance-elect will take office as Financial Affairs Officer as of June 1st, 2012;
- The VP Internal-elect will take office as Internal Affairs Officer as of June 1st, 2012;
- The current nominating committee will continue as the Appointments Board as of June 1st, 2012 maintaining the same term end date for each member of the committee;
- The current Judicial Advisory Board will continue as the Appeals Board as of June 1st, 2012 maintaining the same term end date for each member of the committee.

The VP Finance motivated for this motion and explained that this motion will allow the previously elected members to take office with their new titles.

Motion passed.

Motion to reconsider the previous motion on the approval of the SOM to amend to reinstate the Commissioner position of Senate and Library (G. Lord/S. Peters). Motion failed.

10.3. Motion R12-04-95 – Fee Levy Restructuring (VP Finance/P. Tyagi)
WHEREAS by referendum, the PGSS membership has granted the PGSS's Council the “one-time authority to approve a restructuring of all PGSS fees in accordance with the following principles:
- The total amount of money PGSS expects to collect from its members shall be equal or less than the current amount;
- Overall, the monies collected by the PGSS continue to fund the same things after the fee restructuring as those that were funded before the restructuring (i.e. the overall purpose of PGSS’ fee levies does not change although the amounts collected for different purposes and the way they are collected may change);
- The differentiation of fees based on curriculum load be eliminated;
- Only the portion of fees collected for membership in the PGSS shall continue to be indexed with the Consumer Price index (CPI);
- Only the duration of fee levies with fixed terms (e.g. the Education Bursary Fund fee levy) be allowed to be modified; and
- There shall be no changes to the opt-out status of PGSS fees.

**BIRT the entirety of the fees levied by the PGSS be set as follows:**

1) **PGSS Regular Membership Fee**
The Post-Graduate Students' Society (PGSS) represents all graduate students and postdoctoral fellows at McGill University. The PGSS engages in advocacy, outreach, and lobbying, provides activities, events and services to its members, and operates restaurant, pub and catering services out of the David Thomson House Graduate Student Centre, which it maintains for its members. This fee is collected in the PGSS' Society Activities Fund and disbursements from this fund are made in accordance with the PGSS's governing documents. This fee has no end date, is not opt-outable, and increases on June 1st of each year with the Consumer Price Index (as calculated for the calendar year previous ending on May 31st).

For the 2012-2013 year, the per semester (fall and winter) amount of this fee levied equally from every PGSS regular member is $31.57.

2) **PGSS Student Life Fee**
This fee is used by the PGSS to provide funding to Post-Graduate Student Associations (PGSA) that the PGSS recognizes following procedures set out in its governing documents. The money collected by the PGSS is put in a fund called the Post-Graduate Student Life Fund and the fund's monies are divided amongst PGSAs in proportion to each PGSA's number of members. This fee has no end date and is not opt-outable.

The per-semester (fall and winter) amount of this fee levied equally from every PGSS regular member is $10.10.

3) **PGSS Member Legal Support Fee**
This fee is for the purpose of allowing the PGSS to help its members with legal problems. The fee is collected in the PGSS' Member Legal Support Fund and disbursements from the fund are made upon decision of the PGSS' Committee for Member Support. This fee has no end date and is not opt-outable.

The per semester (fall and winter) amount of this fee levied equally from every PGSS regular member is $1.01.

4) **PGSS Needs Based Bursary Program Fee**
This fee is for the purpose of maintaining annual funding for the PGSS' Needs
Based Bursary Program which is administered by McGill's Scholarships and Student Aid Office. The program is also funded with investment revenue from an endowment of $350,000 made by the PGSS and administered by the University. This fee is collected in the PGSS's Restricted Spending Fund. This program provides financial support to PGSS members who demonstrate financial need. Priority in access to this support is given to members who demonstrate that they are caring for dependents, or that they have been given priority due to special circumstances as determined by the PGSS' Committee for Member Support. This fee has no end date and is not opt-outable.

<If McGill agrees to provide funding (endowment and annual $), we will include mention of their contribution in the description>

The per semester (fall and winter) amount of this fee levied equally from every PGSS regular member is $4.04.

5) PGSS Thomson House Maintenance Fee
This fee is for the purpose of financing the maintenance by the PGSS of the David Thomson House Graduate Student Centre which is the home of the PGSS. This fee is collected in the PGSS's Thomson House Maintenance Fund. NOTE this fee is not for the purpose of capital investments or lease holder improvements. This fee has no end date is not opt-outable.

The per semester (fall and winter) amount of this fee levied equally from every PGSS regular member is $0.76.

6) PGSS Special Projects Fee
This fee is for the purpose of financing special projects of the PGSS that require funding outside the normal operational funding implemented by PGSS' permanent fee levies. Presently this fee provides the ability to finance PGSS' construction of a daycare, its renovation of the David Thomson House Graduate Centre basement floor and kitchen, its legal defence, and the overhaul of PGSS computing systems and web-based administrative and member services. Unless modified by referendum, this fee shall end after the winter semester of 2027 and is not opt-outable for the duration.

The per semester (fall and winter) amount of this fee levied equally from every PGSS regular member is $4.60.

7) PGSS Grants Program Fee
This fee establishes the funding for the PGSS Grants Program which finances events and activities proposed by individual members of the PGSS. The fee is collected in PGSS's Grants Program Fund and disbursements under the Grants Program are administered by the PGSS Member Services Committee in
accordance with the PGSS’s governing documents. This fee has no end date and is not opt-outable.

*If McGill agrees to provide funding (annual $), we will include mention of their contribution in the description*

The per semester (fall and winter) amount of this fee levied equally from every PGSS regular member is $1.26.

8) **PGSS FEUQ Membership Fee**

This fee allows the PGSS to maintain the membership it established in 2009 in the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec (Quebec Federation of University Students). This fee is collected in the PGSS’s Restricted Spending Fund. This fee has no end date and is not opt-outable.

The per semester (fall and winter) amount of this fee levied equally from every PGSS regular member is $2.53.

9) **PGSS Library Improvement Fee**

This fee exists to provide additional support to the McGill University Library Network. All funds collected by this fee are matched by McGill University. This fee is collected in the PGSS’s Restricted Spending Fund and disbursements are governed as per PGSS’s governing documents and in accordance with the PGSS’s agreement with McGill University. This fee has no end date and is not opt-outable.

The per semester (fall and winter) amount of this fee levied equally from every PGSS regular member is $5.05.

10) **PGSS Health and Dental Insurance Plan Fee**

This fee is for the provision of the PGSS’ Health and Dental Insurance Plan (HDIP). The fee is collected by the PGSS in its Restricted Spending Fund. The health insurance component of the HDIP fee is levied from all PGSS regular members who are Canadian residents (all other members are subject to McGill University’s health insurance), and the dental insurance component of the HDIP is levied from all PGSS regular members. This fee is opt-outable during an opt-out period as set by the PGSS, and only by those who provide adequate proof of equivalent alternate coverage.

For the 2012-2013 coverage year, the amount of this fee charged to those enrolling in the fall semester is $233.33 for the health insurance component and $168.12 for the dental insurance component; for those enrolling in the winter semester the fees are $155.55 for the health insurance component, and $112.08 for the dental insurance component.
BIFRT this fee structure shall come into effect immediately;
BIFRT all previous fee levies collected under the aegis of the PGSS be terminated immediately.

S. Avlijas spoke against the motion as the wording in this motion is extremely confusing and is not clear to members of the PGSS.
The VP Finance explained that the fee restructuring referendum question was answered by significantly more than quorum of members and was approved by over 90 percent of respondents. He also explained that the PGSS will take over $35,000 less from members than previous.
S. Peters asked how many members answered the referendum question. The VP Finance explained that close to 9% of members (or approximately 700 members).

Motion passed.

10.5. **Emergency Motion against Bill 78** (VP External/VP Finance)

WHEREAS the freedom of assembly, protest, association and movement, is central to the integrity of a democracy;
WHEREAS Bill 78 – “An Act to enable students to receive instruction from the postsecondary institutions they attend” is a reactionary law that jeopardizes this freedom;

**BIRT** the PGSS Executive Committee be mandated to draft an open letter denouncing the adoption of Bill 78; and

**BIFRT** the PGSS publicly call for the Premier Jean Charest to negotiate directly with students.

The VP External motivated for this motion speaking about the ramification of this bill’s passing in the National Assembly on the rights and freedoms of citizens and the student movement as a whole. She explained that the bill is not clear in the way that it is nearly impossible to apply, and it places significant restrictions on the rights and ability to protest.

Motion to amend the second resolution to replace “call for the Premier Jean Charest to negotiated directly with students” with “advocate for an election to be called.” (VP Finance/President).

The VP Finance spoke for the amendment as the public has lost confidence in the governments ability to govern adequately. He also argued that the Bar Association of Quebec has publically called this bill and its contents ludicrous.
G. Lord spoke in favor of this amendment stating that the government has clearly displayed that they are unable to resolve this issue.
The President spoke in favor of the amendment for the simple reason that a law such as this to be passed shows that they are not fit to govern.
S. Peters spoke against the motion, as he is concerned that an election is not a resolution to this current student issue. He further suggested that the motion be amended to call for the resignation of Jean Charest and then to negotiate directly with students.

Motion to amend failed.

Motion to amend the second resolution to replace “call for the Premier Jean Charest to negotiated directly with students” with “call for the resignation of the Premier Jean Charest and that the PGSS call on the government to immediately engage in negotiations directly with all student associations.” (S. Peters/VP Finance).

G. Lord spoke against the motion arguing that calling for an election is much stronger.

Motion to amend passed.

G. Lord spoke in debate stating that Law 78 specifically places the responsibility on students and student associations to prove that they did not break the law, rather than the burden to prove guilt on that accusing, which is directly contrary to all essence of the law.
S. Peters spoke in debate that this law targets and attacks student associations directly solely for being an organization for students.

Motion to call the question (VP Finance/D. Rakic)
Motion passed.

Main motion passed, as amended, unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT
20h56