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Attending

External Affairs Officer (Julien Ouellet), Financial Affairs Officer (Nikki Meadows), Internal Affairs Officer (Gesa), Secretary-General (Yony Bresler), Member Services Officer (Brighita Lungu)

Guests
Behrang Sharif

7:28 PM  Call to order

1  Approval of the agenda

7:30 PM  1.1 Add Item: $15 Wage Campaign

7:31 PM  1.2 Add Item: Information Policy

7:32 PM  1.3 Add Item: Approval of Agenda

7:33 PM  1.4 Approval of Agenda

7:34 PM  1.5 Motion to Reconsider: March 3rd Executive Committee Meeting

7:35 PM  1.6 Motion to Reconsider: March 3rd Executive Committee Meeting

7:36 PM  1.7 Motion to Reconsider: March 3rd Executive Committee Meeting
2 Floor Items

7:33 PM 2.1 March 3rd Executive Committee Meeting

3 Announcements

7:37 PM 3.1 Update from the Board

Update from the Board

SG: Document attached

7:47 PM 3.2 Executive Updates

2 minutes update from each executive.

MSO: Hunting ground screening, which was updated to the EC last meeting. Video of the discussion after screening will be uploaded to Youtube and PGSS site later. Jenna is working on it.

MHV was shot in MSO’s absence, one student is dropping out (fairly certain) so down to 4 testimonials despite signing agreements. (FAO - was the student’s pic removed from website?)

Family coordinator interviews. CSS meeting, formal request for documents.

EOA: STM is receptive to our 4 requests, we have 6 other student unions supporting us now, considering including CEGEPs. (FAO offered to help contacting Dawson). Potential sponsors: HydroQ, ASEQ, Financial and Engineering sector Presentation to be delivered around mid May.

PME meeting 2 weeks ago, despite 3 associations leaving, PME now has 175K students in the committed organizations, may reach 200K soon. Student politics happened, some organizations that left might come back to the table in Summer.

May 3rd PME election. PME office space, we cannot lease it according to Vilma, so UofSherbrooke will be handling it. Failing that, SSMU might do it.

IAO: Newswire, events, trivia, trips, tickets, information policy with SG and appointment board.

FAO: Mac Campus and Budget issues.

SG: Board - HR audits, meeting with auditor and Emploi Quebec grant. Next Thursday evening 6pm joint exec-board meeting with auditor. Information policy. Senate about student services - DPSLL committed on record to give us the information we requested. Conversation with SSMU about gym committee, constructive. Budget approved at board of gov.
8:10 PM 3.3 Council

Reminder on the upcoming council deadline, and what we want to get accomplished

Council next week, submission deadline tomorrow evening. Budget stuff. MSO will email Emily

4 New Business

8:13 PM 4.1 Attendance Canadian Jewish Political Action Committee - May 7th (CJPAC)

Whereas CJPAC is a yearly conference that draws in a significant number of elected officials, making it a great lobbying opportunity.

Whereas FAECUM, AéESG and FEUQ officers will be attending the event.

Whereas it would be a great venue to put our foot in the door to push the issues of international student health insurance, student services and research funding.

BIRT that PGSS will send x representatives to the event.

Note: the event will be held on May 7th at 8PM at Marché Bonaventure. Tickets cost 75$ per person.

BIRT PGSS will send the SG and the EAO to the 2015 CJPAC at a cost of $150, allocated from the Executive Discretionary fund.]Amendment proposed by IAO,

BIRT PGSS will send the SG and the EAO to the 2015 CJPAC at a cost of $150, allocated from the Executive Discretionary fund.

SG and EAO not voting

3-0-0, passed

EAO: Attendees, a lot of conservative and NDP contacts and alumni to befriend. It will be a very interesting opportunity to establish contact and good relationship with people in the government. Not necessary for immediate concerns, but for long term cooperation. Recommend to send 3-4 people since there are over 2000 participants.

FAO: $300 for 4 people

EAO: The return would be substantial and is definitely worth it.

FAO: Location?

EAO: Bonaventure, no transport or lodging needed. ‘Targets’ would be identified and we’ll prepare well to be efficient. People from FAECUM and other associations are going as well, good opportunity to cooperate to push on big fronts. Comes out of travel.

FAO: Could come from exec discretionary too.

Behrang: Are incoming considered?

EAO: Definitely. Current candidates: SG, EAO, plus more to add later. Perhaps MSO and incoming SG

FAO: Why not the incoming EAO?
MSO: Student services is important and I should go. This is not transition and incoming EAO might not be the best for it.

FAO: Sending incoming EAO is important for continuity sake, and it is very important.

SG: Let’s just discuss the 2 confirmed participants now, SG and EAO, and deal with the other 2 by E-motion later.

BIRT PGSS will send the SG and the EAO to the 2015 CJPAC at a cost of $150, allocated from the Executive Discretionary fund.

Passed 3-0-0 (SG, EAO not voting)

4.2 Signature of the New Association Foundation Contract

Whereas elections to the Project for a Student Movement (new name) interim coordination team will be held on May 3rd.

Whereas we need to have signed the contract to endorse candidates and vote.

Whereas we promised our endorsement to Gabriel Boileau at the last EC meeting.

Whereas our signature can be withdrawn at anytime.

BIRT the EC allows the Secretary-General (Yony Bresler) to sign the contract.

BIFRT the EC will present a motion to join the “Project for a Student Movement” to council for official ratification in May.

Friendly Amendment by SG for 1st BIRT:

BIRT the EC allows the Secretary-General (Yony Bresler) and FAO (Nikki Meadows) to sign the contract.

FAO: If this is not a binding contract, what is the purpose?

EAO: To provide protection in case of bankruptcy and to shield student associations from debt.

IAO call vote

5-0-0 Pass

5 Discussion Items

5.1 Transition with incoming Executives

Transition period is almost upon us, we should discuss how we want to help the incoming exec.

These should include: Our transition reports, individual meetings, and joint meetings.

SG: Results should be finalized by Wednesday. Incomings are meeting Jacinthe soon. It would be better if we meet individually with all of them first. Reach out to incoming if they don’t first. Start working on transition reports. Should aim for consistency between us, not necessarily in great details. MSO should write one anyways.

MSO: I would just add something to last year’s.
SG: But we really should do a unique one ourselves.
SG: We should invite the incomings to the next EC meeting. Let’s not hog all the work and bring the incoming into your daily work.

8:46 PM 5.2 2015-2016 Budget

On May 6th, we will be presenting a draft budget to Council for feedback. Prior to that, I’d like to discuss a few topics that have come up and/or will likely come up:

1. Overall budget cuts to deal with the financial strain that the 2014-2015 fiscal year
2. The future of Study Saturdays
3. FEUQ fees in light of upcoming changes
4. Complications with budgeting staff costs
5. HDIP fees...?

I’ve attached the budget document as is. Please note, this is a working document and it will likely be changing between now and then. The calculations for most of our revenues are correct based on the numbers we have available, but there are still other bits in flux.

2015-2016 Budget

FAO: We absolutely need to make budget cuts, especially since the fee increase did not pass. We cannot keep digging the hole. We can choose carefully where to make the cut, but we need to do an approximate 10% cut on the society side. Business side is quite steady over the past 2 years, which is just enough for maintenance and upgrade.

Refer to file attached for details. More information and changes will be made available in the next month.

MSO: The cuts are global, why specifically study saturday and leisure courses?

FAO: Everything will be cut 10% across the board, as long as they’re not essential, but certain items would be cut more, like orientation and stuff, but there are meetings scheduled to discuss underused services like study saturday, etc.

EAO: What is the planned amount to set aside?

FAO: Probably at least 100K, amortized over several years to pay back.

FAO: Went over every line in the proposed budget to discuss planned cut.

MSO: Daycare - contract with SSMU expires this semester, 10000 for 7 spots for graduates at SSMU daycare.

SG: The math doesn’t work out when divided to per person per day. Does the student have to pay on top of PGSS’ 10K?

MSO: I’m not sure. But we should not be too aggressive in negotiation and might burn the bridge for next year’s deal.

FAO: Mini courses will have more discussion later, PGSA and Grants money are neutral and essential. Everything in grey is business budget. Most office supply budget can be cut. Insurance cannot. Maintenance can be, rent cannot, cleaning potentially although it is by contract.
FAO: If all cuts are in order, we may have 30K - 50K to be put back to SPF to pay the debt. SPF was at -139K when we started and it is -349K right now, even after the pension and LSF transfer. SPF will get 80K this year. This kind of austerity is recommended for the next few years to fill the hole if a fee increase is not passed.

Item discussions:

Study saturday - FAO: Our agreement with Chaplaincy when we took over the project was they’ll pay for the coordinator for 1 year. The year has elapsed and we’d have to pay for admin. Does the MSO have the numbers?

MSO: Not yet.

SG: The attendance number is in, 14.5 kids per session. Which is full signup and half attendance.

MSO: Have we consulted last year’s data?

FAO: These numbers and concerns are confirmed by Catherine.

MSO: The problem is with how the event is ran, with food scheduling and things.

FAO: We should not cut the service to our member, but we need to present solid options, for example cutting food or having a token registration fee to improve attendance

MSO: Proposed to expand the service and is against charging nominal registration fee. Even though we are in deficit, we should still have to option to expand services and put more money into certain services.

IAO: We have spent the last 45 minutes at the MSO’s request to go over every item in the budget to cut across the board. We are in austerity with a 350K hole to fill, and all the staff can confirm that study saturday is underutilized. The MSO should not simply ask to expand an underutilized service because you have worked on it and it’s under your portfolio. We have to be fiscally responsible.

FAO: The MSO may have been misinformed on some of the numbers.

EAO: We are in austerity so we have to do cuts. They can be creative so as to not jeopardizing our service quality. For example asking them to bring their own food for study saturday so we can reduce underused food costs.

SG: The number suggests we have 14 participants for 1000 spent per study saturday which is $70 per person per session. We have to ask if this event is worthwhile. No one is suggesting that we cancel this program, but we have to look at it realistically and an event that costs $70 per participant is a lot.

MSO: But it’s 10K for a 3 million dollars, it’s nothing

FAO: Our operational budget is only 500K.

MSO: That’s still a small amount.

SG: Nevertheless 10K is still a lot of money and 70$ per participant may be too much. We could spend the money in different ways to better serve student parents.

MSO: Childcare is very important for student parents, it’s not like events and such which is on the side and not important. We should ask for the impossible and look over the numbers again and explore all options.

FAO: You should ask the staff for the exact numbers before suggesting something not possible.

MSO: I have a meeting with them tomorrow, what’s the rush?
Leisure courses - meeting with staff, MSO and FAO will take place tomorrow.

FEUQ fee, EAO discussed details

Complications with budgeting staff costs - We would have major changes to the staff costing after the HR audit, which we cannot predict at the moment.

EAO - When would we get the final numbers?

SG - If all goes well, July.

FAO - We could either not change anything right now and amend later, or to amend it to reflect where we predict it would go. The plan in discussion right now is going to reduce the cost.

SG - We should keep it as is it is this year.

HDIP fees....? (Health and Dental)

FAO - Will forward the numbers to McGill tomorrow.

9:55 PM 5.3 MCSS/MCGSS Update

I have met with the BoD Legal Subcommittee and the MCGSS exec to discuss the current situation. Additionally, on Monday I will be meeting with PA Tessier, our legal counsel in this file, to discuss options and strategies going forward. I'll provide the EC with a more of an update of where things are.

SG moves to go into close session

FAO seconds

3-0-2 (IAO abstains)

Closed Session

10:05 PM 5.4 MHV Update

The MHV has been shot and we are awaiting the first rough cut. In the interim, we should discuss the process and update other execs of where we are in terms of budget and future directions.

FAO: All contracts signed, but because of extension and overtime, it costed a bit more (~500) than the initial contract cost, but we still stayed within our original budget (2500) since McGill more than matched it. The Mary Brown fund came in.

MSO: One student dropped out so we'll end up with 4 people. One of them is in French so it's fine, 2 girls and 2 guys. Considering we went down to 1 volunteer left earlier, it's not bad. The rough draft should be ready by the end of the week, it would be shared with volunteer and working group etc., everything should be done in May, which is slightly behind schedule (original planned for April).

SG: Timeline for editing?

MSO: First draft by Sunday, and goes back to them after comments. A few weeks in total.
10:13 PM 5.5 Annual member BBQ

In the past we’ve run a may free BBQ to our members.
In light of our financial situation, we should discuss if we want to run it again this year.

IAO: In past years, we receive 2-3K from our insurance which we used to have a free BBQ for our members. Considering the budget constraints, this event will be cancelled and put back into the SPF hole.

BIRT The annual PGSS free BBQ for members be cancelled this year.

Vote called
4-0-1 (MSO abstains)

10:21 PM 5.6 Information Policy

SG: I’ve met with IAO and Karim to draft the PGSS information policy. We don’t have a clear policy on many things right now. For example, no one knows how to treat closed session minuted for EC meeting at the moment.

Please reviewed email file.

SG: About IAO’s suggestion of audio recording of EC closed sessions?

FAO: Supportive.

IAO: This is just a draft, please provide feedback as soon as it comes up.

10:32 PM 5.7 $15 Wage Campaign

SG: AGSEM is contacting us about their plan to do $15 minimum wage across entire McGill campus. Many unions on campus have endorsed. Maybe we should refer this to council?

BIRT The EC proposes a motion at council to endorse this campaign

Vote called by IAO
5-0-0

10:36 PM Adjourned