Agenda

1 Approval of the agenda 2
1.1 Add Item: Grad A Cappella Group 2

2 Floor Items 3
2.1 August 19th Council Meeting 3

3 Speaker's report 3

4 Announcements 3
4.1 Student Parent Orientation (Sept. 17th) 3
4.2 Announcement: SLC Maternity Leave Replacement 3
4.3 Consent week (Sept 28th to Oct 2nd) 4
4.4 Fighting Sexual Violence by becoming an Active Bystander - the Workshop (Oct 6th) 4
4.5 Social Equity & Diversity Education Office (SEDE) 10th BBQ (Oct 1st) 4
4.6 Call for the Creation of Referendum Committees & Call for Referendum Questions 5

5 Reports 5
5.1 Quarterly Financial report 5
5.2 FAO report to the council, September 2015 6
5.3 Equity Commissioner Report 6
5.4 Member Support Commissioner Report 6
5.5 2015-09-16_HealthCommissioner_Report_September_Council 7
5.6 2015-09-16 Environment Commissioner Council Report 7
5.7 2015-09-16 Secretary General Report to Council 7
5.8 2015-09-16 Member Services Officer Report to Council 7
5.9 2015_09_16_EAO_Report 8
5.10 Report from the Academic Affairs Officer 8
5.11 2015-09-16 Internal Affairs Officer Council Report 8

6 Discussion 9
6.1 Discussion - Understanding the Enrolment Policies 9
6.2 Discussion of the 2015-2016 Executive and Commissioner Work Plan 9

7 New Business 10
7.1 Motion Regarding PGSS Support of a Traditional Territory Acknowledgement at McGill University 10
7.2 Motion: Adoption of Bylaw Changes 10
7.3 Referendum Dates 11
7.4 Referendum question; Membership Fee 12
7.5 Referendum question; Special Projects Fund 13
7.6 Equity Amendments to the Society Affairs Manual 14
7.7 Motion - Establish the Intellectual Property Working Group 14
7.8 Motion to allocate $600 Towards Fall 2015 PGSS Green Drinks Events and Thomson House Bee Housewarming Party 15
Attending

Amir H Nosrat, Avital Horowitz, Angelica Avisha Gopal, Barbara Christina Mindt, Binhan Sun, Brian Hsu, Camille Delouche, Chief Returning Officer (Colby Briggs), Claire Elizabeth Anne McLeish, Daniel Robert Kaufman, Environment Commissioner (Amir Nosrat and Victor Frankel), Equity Commissioner (Debrosse Regine), External Affairs Officer (Bradley Por), Financial Affairs Officer (Behrang Sharif), Frédrick Armstrong, Hamed Rafezi, Health Commissioner (Julia Nantes), Igor Kozlov, Internal Affairs Officer (Sahil Kumar), Isabel Harvey, Jaimie Lynne Cudmore, Jane Siyang Li, Jenny Ann Pura, Jonathan Godin, Kathrin Rothermich, Kathryn Grace Zell, Kimberley Gauthier, Laura Merdsoy, Logan James Smith, Leora Tova Ruth Frimer, Mark-Damyan Edwards, Member Services Officer (Brighita Lungu), Member Support Commissioner (Ayo Olanrewaju), Nadia O'Brien, Morgan Kenzie Foret, Natalia Jaworska, Nicolas Chatel-Launay, PGSS Council Speaker (Nida Nizam), Pierre Fanzhu, Rachel La Selva, Recording Secretary (Christina Liu), Renata Helena Bahous, Roya Jamarani, Sarah Ann Morin Dodsworth, Secretary-General (Danielle Toccalino), Shabnam Taherian, Shaun Daniel Wilson Retallick, Sophie Elizabeth Kabbash, Temel ?c?nc?, Tessa Claire Maclean, Thomas Robert Beattie, William Weiqian Liu, Yasmine Nadifi, Alexei Kazarine, Academic Affairs Officer (Devin J. Mills)

Guests

Hossein Aminikafiabad (CAOS), Andreeanne Morin (HGSS), Rebekah McCallum (HCGSA), Cem Ertekin (McGill Daily), Zapaer Alip (McGill Daily), Igor Sadikob (McGill Daily), Michael DeRamo (MIISSC), Aislinn Kalob (McGill Tribune), Josh Dimakakos (McGill Tribune), Nima Gharib (MMGESAA)

6:40 PM Call to order

1 Approval of the agenda

Speaker noted to ignore “Applications sent from the Appointments board” item.

F. Armstrong (PPSMUA) proposed an amendment to the agenda to discuss 10.2 before 10.1.

Speaker called this amendment to a vote.

The amendment passed.

Speaker called the agenda to a vote.

The motion passed.

6:52 PM 1.1 Add Item: Grad A Cappella Group

L. Frimer (EBOSS) announced that she will be starting the first Graduate student A Cappella group. There will be auditions next week on Wednesday and Thursday. Those who are interested can email: choralcomprehensives@gmail.com
2 Floor Items

6:43 PM 2.1 August 19th Council Meeting

Speaker called the minutes for approval.
Motion passed.

3 Speaker’s report

6:44 PM

Speaker discussed her email regarding a motion to amend the budget and noted that it was not under the discretionary of the executive. She welcomed everyone back to a new school year. Those who want to discuss with her about anything, please email her.

4 Announcements

6:45 PM 4.1 Student Parent Orientation (Sept. 17th)

If you are a student parent, please see the Orientation invitation below and let us know if you can attend! The 1st Annual Student Parent Orientation will take place on September 17th, 2015 from 10am – 1:30pm in the Madeleine Parent & Lev Bukhman located on the 2nd floor of the SSMU building. This Orientation will include important information for students with family responsibilities, an interactive panel discussion with student parents who have been there and short presentations from the various resources you can access on campus. A free lunch will be provided. RSVP here: https://www.mcgill.ca/equity_diversity/students/family-care/1st-annual-student-parent-orientation

Student Parent Orientation (Sept. 17th)

Equity Commissioner discussed about the Student Parent Orientation happening tomorrow (Sept. 17) at the SSMU building. She encouraged whose who are a student parent to go check out the services that are available.

She also mentioned that the annual Pow Wow of the First Peoples’ House on campus this Friday (Sept 18). Free food will be provided and more details will be uploaded onto the stream.

Meanwhile, Indigenous Awareness Week will take place next week and links to the details will be posted onto the stream.

6:50 PM 4.2 Announcement: SLC Maternity Leave Replacement

As many of you may know, Jacinthe, our Student Life Coordinator, will be leaving on maternity leave at the end of September. Mirka Rasoanilana will be filling the Student Life Coordinator position this year so you will all see her around council and in the office. Please say hi and make her feel welcomed!
Secretary-General announced that Jacinthe will be leaving for maternity leave at the end of September. Mirka will be there to replace her during this time.

PGSS events of the year are also available at the door for pick up.

6:53 PM **4.3 Consent week (Sept 28th to Oct 2nd)**

Consent week (Sept 28th to Oct 2nd)

The Equity Commissioner announced that during the week of Sept. 28 - Oct. 2 Consent Week will take place. There will be plenty of awareness activities that will take place around campus to bring up the discussion about consent and sexual violence.

6:53 PM **4.4 Fighting Sexual Violence by becoming an Active Bystander - the Workshop (Oct 6th)**

You have attended consent week and wonder what you can do to fight sexual violence? Learn to identify and intervene in potentially harmful situations by taking this active bystander workshop. This evidence-based program provides the skills and knowledge to intervene safely and educate peers on the different aspects of sexual violence.

Fighting Sexual Violence by becoming an Active Bystander - the Workshop (Oct 6th) ()

Fighting Sexual Violence by becoming an Active Bystander - the Workshop (Oct 6th) ()

The Equity Commissioner announced that the week following Consent Week, there will be an Active Bystander Workshop training that will be taking place to train people how to intervene in situations where sexual violence could arise. This event is free and there will be food.

6:53 PM **4.5 Social Equity & Diversity Education Office (SEDE) 10th BBQ (Oct 1st)**

In 2015, SEDE is celebrating our 10th anniversary! To commemorate this milestone, we are reflecting on our first ten years, and looking forward toward the future of equity and diversity at McGill. We invite all students, staff, and faculty to celebrate with us at a free barbecue being held from 12-2 during Community Engagement Day (October 1st) on lower field. RSVP here: http://www.mcgill.ca/equity_diversity/sede-10th-anniversary-rsvp-form

Social Equity & Diversity Education Office (SEDE) 10th BBQ (Oct 1st)

SEDE will be celebrating their 10th anniversary this year by providing a free BBQ for everyone on October first.

The Equity Commissioner encouraged everyone to participate in these events and those who have questions can meet with her or email her at equity.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca
4.6 Call for the Creation of Referendum Committees & Call for Referendum Questions

6:53 PM

The CRO is calling on councillors to bring forth referendum questions for the Autumn by-election. This officer is also calling on members, including councillors, to volunteer to join referendum committees.

...

5 Reports

5.1 Quarterly Financial report

6:53 PM

Here is the 3-month update of the actual expenses.

2015-09-09 Quarterly Financial report

Financial Affairs Officer noted that he will be giving quarterly financial report as part of his mandate. He proposed a new template for the budgets.

The budget included

1. Society activities - collected from students
2. Shared activities
3. Corporate activities

He went through several sections explaining their functions.

Expenses - there is a breakdown of the 4.5 million dollar budget into smaller accounts (spent for different types of expenditure)

Events - (ex. housewarming party) normally there is a budget line for specific events plus the ticket revenues. This item is usually quite balanced.

Auditor - hired for HR matters. Improvements needed in that department. There has been $12,000 spent on this.

Business side expenditure - goods + cost of goods of food/alcohol from the bar.

D. Kaufman (GAP) asked what the bad debt fee was.

The Financial Affairs Officer answered that this is a 1% overhead fee for banking and financing that McGill keeps from the fee PGSS collects from students.

Nicolas Chantal mentioned that the bad debt fee is illegal now under Act 32 now that PGSS is accredited.

The Financial Affairs Officer replied said this is in our MOA and it cannot be changed since it is contracted. It is not illegal because the name stays the same but it functions as an overhead fee.

Member Services Officer asked if they are double charging because there is a similar fee for the health and dental plan.

Financial Affairs Officer replied no.
5.2 FAO report to the council, September 2015

Here is my monthly report to the council and also the new template of the budget that I promised to deliver.

Financial Affairs Officer mentioned that there are 4 types of activities:
1. Society activities
2. Corporate
3. Shared
4. Business

He mentioned that much of his time was allocated to finding a new Student Life Coordinator taking on the financial role on the business side. He also worked with the auditor to produce a financial statement outlining the debt situation. He also participated in the planning of Orientation Week. Corporate and shared activities were also discussed.

He also mentioned that there are new hours for breakfast (9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)

5.3 Equity Commissioner Report

Equity Commissioner noted there is one missing item about the annual institute for gender, sexuality and feminist studies’ welcome reception next week from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

She welcomes feedback and questions about her report or any ongoing projects. She mentioned that the Active bystander workshop is in the preparation process currently (recruitment ongoing).

She also proposed modification on the society affairs manual.

5.4 Member Support Commissioner Report

- Discussions about on-going Member Legal Support Fund (MLSF) application from July
- New MLSF application approved (August)
- Orientation events!

Member Support Commissioner noted that an application was received and approved.

During orientation, he noticed a couple of problems. This included time limitation for students who have reached their allocated time at McGill as well as registration issues. Those who are interested in these matters could go speak with him.
5.5 2015-09-16 Health Commissioner Report - September Council

Health Commissioner went through several events and initiatives that she had been working on. There has been a self help workshop for students as well as board game night and the health insurance information session.

Most of these events went well.

Those who have questions about upcoming events can email her.

5.6 2015-09-16 Environment Commissioner Council Report

The environment commissioners noted that the Model Climate Negotiation Conference (Model UNCCC) will be a central initiative this year.

They also talked about the community garden where the bees are back. They are hoping to institutionalize the bee garden.

Another priority this year would be to move forward with the Divest Campaign. Next week is fossil fuel free week at McGill. Special speaker, rallies will happen next Thursday on Sept. 24th.

It will take place at Community Square, first rally starts on Monday.

Green Drinks a type of organization that promotes networking and education will also continue on this year.

5.7 2015-09-16 Secretary General Report to Council

I apologize for the delay in posting!

Lots of updates including proposed bylaw changes and a work plan!

Many of her reports involved meetings with different bodies of McGill (report explained this) Those who want to bring these issues to various bodies, please contact the Secretary-General.

Bylaw revisions are at work right now. Those who have input should contact her.

Speaker asked the Secretary-General to ask Senate about more gluten free options around campus.

Chantal dude. Access all the live stream until next senate meeting.

5.8 2015-09-16 Member Services Officer Report to Council
The Member Services Officer mentioned that her hand is getting better. A new Study Sunday coordinator has been recruited this year. There is a possibility of opening this to undergraduates as well with possibility of extension. Mental health awareness week is coming up on October 15 - 23. The videos for this event have been finalized. She mentioned that she has been meeting up with the SSMU President to discuss the daycare initiatives. Another initiative this year would be the McGill playground. Good prospects for this year.

5.9 2015_09_16_EAO_Report

The External Affairs Officer mentioned that he has been discussing with student federations and austerity measures. Anti-Austerity week this week and he encouraged everyone to check it out.

5.10 Report from the Academic Affairs Officer

Appointments board met on Tuesday
- Trevor (Cyclical review - Department of Law)
- Fatima (Department of Pediatrics/Ob/Gyn)
- Andrew (Faculty of Arts Council)
- Elizabeth (had to forego the position)

Motion to approve the appointments board

The Academic Affairs Officer explained the Milestones project, where they are trying to create an interface for students to track their academic progress.

He also mentioned that two weeks ago they were looking for a new Dean for the Faculty of Law and the School of Music. They are looking for representatives to sit on these selection committees. You do not need to be a member of the faculty. There will also be a reappointment for VP external and Dean of Students and PGSS representatives are needed for that as well.

Those who are interested can contact him. Deadlines are coming up.

5.11 2015-09-16 Internal Affairs Officer Council Report

Summary:

The first year of McGill Graduate and Postdoctoral Orientation Week is coming to an end and it has been very well received. Along with Graduate and Post-Doctoral Studies, Teaching and Learning Services, Campus Life and Engagement, the Post-Graduate Students’ Society, Career Planning Services, and the McGill Writing Centre/Graphos, we have been working tirelessly to organize two weeks of events for incoming graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. Events included a Montreal Bar Tour, a Montreal Food Crawl, the Thomson House (Warming) Party, a Montreal Bike Tour, and more. There was also a
Departmental Ambassador program to help give information about services to graduate students during Departmental Orientation Sessions throughout August and September.

2015-09-09 2015-09-16 Internal Affairs Officer Council Report

The Internal Affairs Officer mentioned that the PGSS events are subject to change but he encouraged everyone to put them up in students spaces. His summer initiative was to create the first Graduate and Post-Doc orientation week which turned out to be successful.

Other initiatives include the Environmental Scan which helps benchmark what orientation should be like for universities.

There has been a Bar Tour (5 bars), Montreal food crawl (5 restaurants) Thomson House(Warming) Party (attendance of 72 people, great turnout)

Academic expectations: Discover McGill happened before school started. There has also been an Information session about funding and fellowships.

He also mention that they moved the "One Day Thomson House Walk through" out of Thomson House to Redpath Hall due to space limitations.

Secretary-General asked everyone to give the Internal Affairs Officer a round of applause for his exceptional work.

6 Discussion

6.1 Discussion - Understanding the Enrolment Policies

The Academic Affairs Officer will present a brief, less than two minute presentation, on his understanding of a complex situation regarding program enrolment and some of the unintended consequences. He will stand for questions following the short presentation.

Academic Affairs Officer explained how decisions are made for enrolment. He mentioned that there are plans for growth in enrolment because there is space to do so. With this growth, they will need to build up the budget to accommodate for the enrolment increase. He noted that they want want to ensure quality of education and services while increasing enrolment.

6.2 Discussion of the 2015-2016 Executive and Commissioner Work Plan

The 2015-2016 Work Plan of the Executives and Commissioners will be presented. The Academic Affairs Officer will first provide a brief overview of the work plan, and then take questions from the floor. Questions may be directed to any of the Executives or Commissioners regarding the presented work plan.

The Academic Affairs Officer explained the work plan. He mentioned that Secretary-General has been revising bylaws for the objective governing documents and policies.

Financial Affairs Officer has been review financial policies also. - reviewing policies also

The corporate relations objective would be promote PGSS in corporate side in terms of the business side. Advocacy objective is under the MSO portfolio.
Those who have questions about the division of tasks and those who have questions regarding certain projects can contact the task leaders.

7 New Business

7.1 Motion Regarding PGSS Support of a Traditional Territory Acknowledgement at McGill University

Whereas, McGill University is situated on land that has long served as a place of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabeg nations,

Whereas, the Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity, Subcommittee on Equity for First Peoples, developed a proposed Traditional Territory Acknowledgement Policy throughout the 2013-14 academic year in consultation with Indigenous McGill community members, the Kahnawake Cultural Centre, Indigenous Studies scholars, and offices of Indigenous affairs at peer institutions,

Whereas, this proposed policy states that “acknowledging the traditional territory and its history strengthens the relationship between post-secondary institutions and Indigenous communities … [and] also educates the University community on Indigenous peoples in Canada, and provides a welcoming environment for Indigenous students, staff, and faculty to engage with the academy,”

Whereas, it is a policy of the PGSS to promote equity and diversity,

Be it resolved, that the PGSS supports the efforts of students and groups at McGill University seeking the adoption of a traditional territory acknowledgment by the university administration.

Motion Regarding PGSS Support of a Traditional Territory Acknowledgement at McGill University

External Affairs Officer explained the proposal for Traditional Territory Acknowledgement Policy

He encouraged everyone to bring this forward and to support this effort while adopting this statement.

Speaker called this motion to a vote.

Motion passed with 1 abstention from EMGSS.

Environment Commissioner asked whether the administration has spoke about this matter.

External Affairs Officer proposed an amendment to the wording.

F. Armstrong spoke against this and stated that the statement should speak more about the purpose.

Amendment withdrawn from External Affairs Officer.

Speaker called this motion to a vote.

Motion passed.

7.2 Motion: Adoption of Bylaw Changes

Whereas, the Bylaws, as currently written, contain some information that is vague, ambiguous, or incorrect.
Whereas, the current Bylaws have not been subject to a major overview since their adoption in 2012.
Whereas, the current Bylaws do not address issues such as virtual meetings and electronic motions.
Whereas, the proposed revisions include the addition of previously missing definitions, provisions for electronic motions and virtual meetings, and rephrasing of previously unclear articles.
Whereas, the proposed revisions have been approved by the Executive Committee.

BIRT, the PGSS Council adopt the proposed amendments to the Bylaws subject to their approval by the Board of Directors and then at the General Meeting.

BIFRT, the proposed amendments take effect immediately following approval at the General Meeting.

**Motion: Adoption of Bylaw Changes**

*Secretary General explained that the changes outlined are more housekeeping changes (definitions are clarified, making sense of whole document).*

*Document: Left (current) Right (proposed changes are in bold, deletions are stricken, red - commentary by Secretary-General)*

**Motion to amend section 7 article 2.5 - 2.6**

Change to: “By resolution of council...”

Amendment passed.

*Equity Commissioner explained this documents clarifies the purview of governing bodies of PGSS. She also emphasized the importance of these changes.*

*Secretary-General mentioned that commissioners are currently not in the bylaws.*

*Secretary-General explained that the process of getting bylaws approved, where it goes through the Board of Directors then to the AGM.*

*Speaker called this motion to a vote.*

*Motion passed with 1 abstention from F. Armstrong (PPSMUA)*

### 7.3 Referendum Dates

Whereas the PGSS Executive is proposing referendum question(s) at this current September Council Meeting,

BIRT council approves the following referendum dates:


BIFRT council permit the CRO to accept select referendum questions, approved by the executive, for this by-election, over the following two weeks. These questions will only go to ballot if approved at the October Council meeting.

*Chief Returning Officer noted that everyone would have to approve the referendum dates. He explained the referendum procedure proposed.*

*He wanted to make sure that everyone was alright with the referendum dates. The Chief Returning Officer announced that he needed to recruit for referendum committee. Those who are interested can email the*
Chief Returning Officer. There will be money allocated to those on the committee. He also mentioned that there will be a new system for polling.

Speaker called this motion to a vote.

Motion passed.

8:39 PM 7.4 referendum question; Membership Fee

Whereas the PGSS membership fee was cut by about 37% (Approximately $19 per term) between the 2011-12 and 2012-13 academic years;

Whereas the PGSS has consequently had to reduce its free services to members;

Whereas the current Membership fee does not sufficiently cover the costs of PGSS services;

Whereas a significant number of members have recently moved to the Glen site, where the PGSS does not have a presence;

Whereas accommodating services to all members, including the non-downtown campus based members, is becoming more challenging;

Whereas the PGSS is continuing to maximize cost savings and revenue generating measures to reduce costs to members;

BIRT the following question be put to referendum:

Do you agree that PGSS modify the non-optoutable membership fee of 32.59$ per semester (excluding summer) to 35.85 (an equivalent of 10%), starting in January 2016, and continuing until such time that this fee is brought back to referendum. The membership fee funds general PGSS activities, including Services, Advocacy, and Events. This fee will apply to all PGSS members and be tied to inflation. A no vote will result in a reduction of PGSS Services to members.

referendum question; Membership Fee

Financial Affairs Officer explained about the fee history.

In 2012 there was a referendum where they proposed a more complicated change to the budget.

He noted that it is not a membership problem and that they don’t want to be absorbing deficit without understanding the reasoning behind it.

Hence he proposed $2/$3 increase.

Environment Commissioner asked to clarify the protocol for a referendum.

The Chief Returning Officer answered that the question would usually come from an executive, by petition or membership in general. They would then have to meet up with the Chief Returning Officer to discuss the phrasing. It then goes out to membership to be voted upon. It would then go to the board where they can only override it if it violates legal or contractual obligations.

F. Armstrong (PPSMUA) asked if these fees are fixed to inflation.

The Chief Returning Officer replied that that overall fee is fixed to inflation and goes up by CPI.

Member Support Commissioner asked if this was the only amount tied to the deficit
The Financial Affairs Officer mentioned that there is internal debt between budget lines. However, there is nothing on the line of credit currently.

Speaker proposed to extending council to 9PM

Renada (HGSS) asked whether there will be any project to make the commute to Glen and non-campus students easier.

Financial Affairs Officer mentioned that he is not in charge of allocating expenses but it will be something that will be looked at.

Speaker called this motion to a vote.

Motion passed with 1 abstention.

7.5 Referendum question; Special Projects Fund

Whereas the special projects fund is used for a variety of long-term projects such as IT, daycare construction, external daycare priority placement for members, sustainability and legal cases;

Whereas since the inception of the special projects fund in 2012, it has paid out more money than it has collected in fees;

Whereas this fund is not tied to inflation;

Whereas the nature and reason of this fund (which is to support fiscally responsible long-term projects that make a major impact on the experience of Graduate Students at McGill) requires sufficient future funding;

BIRT the following question be put to referendum:

Do you agree that PGSS modify the non-optoutable Special Projects fee of $4.60 per semester (excluding summer) to $6.60, starting in January 2016, and continuing to and including this fees previously determined end date in 2027. This fee will apply to all PGSS members and be fixed to inflation. At any point, PGSS or its members may bring forward a referendum to reduce or modify this fee.

Referendum question; Special Projects Fund

Special Projects Fund is a budget line that has been made after the referendum ($4 fee put aside for this fund)

In 2010, PGSS decided to get out of CFS (decided to stop paying for CFS and paid lawyers instead)

Special Projects Fund was created in 2013, which included IT special events, daycare, furniture replace, sustainability replace, and CFS (large chunk of the fund)

Deficits accumulated to around $611,000

Half of this fund has been recuperate through other expenditure and hopefully in 5.5 years the whole deficit can be recuperated.

Speaker called this motion to a vote.

Motion passed.
7.6 Equity Amendments to the Society Affairs Manual

Since I started my mandate as Commissioner, I came across a report assessing the sustainability of PGSS, including an assessment of its equity policies and structure. The report mentions that we only almost never mention diversity, in our policies and structure, and that we could broaden our mandate - this is the main purpose of the present amendments.

Equity Amendments to the Society Affairs Manual ()

Equity Amendments to the Society Affairs Manual ()

Equity Commissioner explained the changes. It broadens mandates of executives and commissioners. She reminded everyone that this is the first reading.

Speaker called this motion to a vote.

Motion passed.

7.7 Motion - Establish the Intellectual Property Working Group

WHEREAS, Under Chapter 5 Section 1 Article 2 of the Society Activities Manual (SAM) special committees may be created “for the purpose of examining specific questions and reporting about their answers when no appropriate standing committee exists or is available for doing so”; and

WHEREAS, Issues surrounding students’ rights to their own intellectual property have recently emerged; and

WHEREAS, The Policy on Intellectual Property (Attached to this Motion) has not been reviewed since June 26, 2001; and

WHEREAS, This policy outlines protections from academic staff, however, in Section 3 it clearly states the policy does not apply to students unless they have collaborated with an employee of McGill University; therefore,

BIRT, A special committee, henceforth named the Intellectual Property Working Group, be formed to review policies on intellectual property at McGill University and other sister universities; and

BIFRT, The composition of this working include the Academic Affairs Officer as Chair, and six graduate students with one being from the Faculty of Law; and

BIFRT, The Intellectual Property Working Group provide Council a report of their findings during the May meeting.

Motion - Establish the Intellectual Property Working Group

Academic Affairs Officer explained that this involves the intellectual property policy at McGill

Motivated in favour of this motion.

Speaker called this motion to a vote.

Motion passed.
7.8 Motion to allocate $600 Towards Fall 2015 PGSS Green Drinks Events and Thomson House Bee Housewarming Party

8:42 PM

Whereas the PGSS has historically hosted monthly Green Drinks events to promote educational and networking opportunities for the PGSS and larger McGill community,

Whereas the PGSS Environment Commissioners have schedule Green Drinks for the following academic year starting on Tuesday September 15 2015,

Whereas the Dandelion Collective would like to promote the bee hives at the Thomson House through a special “Bee Housewarming Party” with honey made available by the bees,

Whereas the PGSS Environment Commissioners would like to utilize a budget line item other than the join Exec-Commissioner budget for these events,

BIRT that $600 be allocated from the Events category of the 2015-2016 budget to be spent on providing food for Green Drinks Events and a housewarming party for the Thomson House Bees during the Fall 2015 academic term.

Speaker noted that this is considered as budget amendment, require 2/3 majority vote.

Environment Commissioner noted the tight resources available for promoting services to the committee (Green Drinks) . There has been consensus with the structural problem the budget has created, which does not reflect the mandate given to commissioners.

Financial Affairs Officer noted that there is a discretionary fund for commissioners and asked why this is not put into use.

Environment Commissioner explained that the Discretionary fund is less than $3000 and is jointly discussed with executives.

Financial Affairs Officer expressed that he does not think it would be good idea to take money from another account to support another project.

Environment Commissioner expressed that they wanted to make sure there are enough funds to organize the Green Drinks event.

Secretary-General noted that an electronic motion could be put into place.

Internal Affairs Officer asked which budget line this event was used for last year.

Environment Commissioner answered that he is not not sure but noted that there was around a $3000 budget.

Financial Affairs Officer answered that it was from the discretionary budget.

Speaker called this speaker to a vote.

Motion does not pass.

8:57 PM Adjourned