Post-Graduate Students' Society of McGill University
3650 McTavish Street, Montreal, Quebec
C13-06-#13
Council Minutes
Approved
June 12th, 2013, 6:48 pm

Executives

Jonathan Mooney Secretary-General, Erik Larson Financial Affairs Officer, Adam Bouchard Academic Affairs Officer, Michael Krause Internal Affairs Officer
Elizabeth Cawley Member Services Officer, Navid khosravii Ashemi External Affairs Officer

Councillors


Commissioners and non-voting members

Murielle Akpa Equity Commissioner, Amanda Winegardner Environment Commissioner

Regrets

Gretchen King, Karin Siegel, Shalaka Shah, Thomas Dilenardo, Brandy Vanderbyl, Emma Vincent

Gallery and Guests

None
B. Rocque became Speaker.

Call to Order 6:48 pm

1. Approval of the Agenda

   Agenda approved.

2. Speaker’s Report

   She filled in as Speaker last week and filled Council in on her rules.

3. Announcements

   3.1. Budget Presentation (Finance Officer)

   Secretary General has seven minutes to present the budget in absence of the Finance Officer.

   Motion passed.

   Council was given time to give feedback to Finance Officer after the draft budget proposal from last meeting.

   Secretary General presented the final budget.

   Secretary General moved that Council approves the Shared and Society Activities elements of the proposed 2013-2014 PGSS budget. D. Meadows seconded.

   Motion passed.

4. Approval of the Minutes

   Minutes from last meeting were not ready.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders

   5.1. Motion R12-05-#089 · PGSS Response to Proposed Library Closures
   (Education Graduate Student Society (EGSS))

   WHEREAS McGill University Library website states that the “McGill Library has become a 24-hour hub for student life, study, and group learning. More than 100,000 people use McGill’s 13 libraries and special collections daily to conduct research, study, or collaborate on group projects”.

   WHEREAS libraries are essential in educational institutions both to provide materials and resources to foster learning and the advancement of knowledge, and to provide a physical study space for students;

   WHEREAS PGSS Secretary-General Jonathan Mooney was quoted in the Montreal Gazette (April 16th, 2013) stating that, “For graduate students, the library is an essential service”

   WHEREAS on May 23rd, 2012, the PGSS Council passed a motion to donate approximately half a million dollars from the Library Improvement Fund (paid for by graduate students) to the
university libraries;
WHEREAS the Student Society of McGill University (SSMU) collected $651,848 for the Library Improvement Fund in the Summer 2012 with approximately $77K donated to Education Library’s Improvement Project;
WHEREAS in a report dated April 12th, 2013, the CBC reported that McGill University is considering shutting down libraries at two of its faculties –Education and Life Sciences– in the face of a $1.8 million budget cut to the university library system;
WHEREAS the Education Graduate Student Society (EGSS) passed a motion on April 15th 2013 to immediately initiate and coordinate a campaign to prevent the closure of the Education Library;
WHEREAS on April 16, 2013 the Education Faculty Council passed 2 motions deploring the possibility of the closure or merger of the Education Library and committed to supporting all reasonable efforts to avoid this outcome and called for a townhall to take place.
WHEREAS the Education Undergraduate Society (EDUS) released a statement on April 17th, 2013 deploring the proposed closure/merger of the Education Library and Curriculum Resources Centre.
WHEREAS the elimination of library services would negatively impact the ease of access to materials and resources by both undergraduate and graduate students;
WHEREAS the University should consult the student body in decisions that affect students directly;
WHEREAS the PGSS is mandated to work towards improving the quality and accessibility of post-graduate education at McGill;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT (BIRT) the PGSS Council enter into a committee of the whole for 10 minutes to discuss potential library closures;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT (BIRFT) the PGSS members serving on various deliberative bodies within the University community advocate for increased consultation with students and communications regarding any proposed changes to library services;
BIRFT the PGSS seek active participation in discussions regarding changes to any forthcoming changes to university services in lieu of the cuts to the University’s budget;
BIRFT that PGSS support efforts to retain library services for students and to keep library spaces open and available for student use.

Academic Affairs Officer said last meeting Council completed Committee of the Whole. He met with Colleen Cook, Dean of Libraries. He said that 26 support staff was lost in the retirement package. He explained the different sections of the library that will be closing. In this move, $1.2 million of the $1.8 million is cut. The remaining $600,000 will come from reduced hours and reduced cleaning.

C. Melendez moved to divide the question by moving out the middle resolution. G.Boukhaled seconded.

Motion passed.

Council adopted the second resolution.

Council adopted the last resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT (BIRFT) the PGSS members serving on various deliberative bodies within the University community advocate for increased consultation with students and communications regarding any proposed changes to library services;
BIFRT that PGSS support efforts to retain library services for students and to keep library spaces open and available for student use.

The Secretary General mentioned an amendment for the third resolution that he was emailed with: strike “in lieu of” and substitute “in light of”. Also to strike “to any forthcoming”.

C L Conway amended to keep the “forthcoming”.

Member services Officer amended to strike “University’s” and substitute “Library’s”. She said that “Library Services” is in the preamble. The BIFRT is about the budget about the Library, not the University.

C L Conway explained that the intent of the motion was to contextualize the service in light of the budget cut.

C. Melendez spoke against changing it to “Library”.

Member Services Officer, in favor of the amendment, said that we just voted down an increase in student services. We had a discussion on libraries. We should vote on libraries, not student services.  

C L Conway, speaking against the amendment, said that the cut to library’s budget was precipitated by the cut to university’s budget. The cut to the Library budget cut is not isolated from the University budget cut.

Amendment passed.

BIFRT the PGSS seek active participation in discussion regarding forthcoming changes to university services in light of cuts to the Library’s budget.

C. Melendez asked that the movers explain what they mean by “participation” in the motion?

C L Conway said that the motion arose from EGSS’ experience with the library closure. News so essential to students first broke through CBC and public media, instead of through an internal channel. We want to ensure that other groups and faculties don’t have to go through the same battle. We want to put in place an institutional facility for changes to be communicated to students so that students can have input before these decisions are made.

C. Melendez said he doesn’t see the difference between this motion and motion before.

W. Farrell called the question. D. Meadows seconded.

Voting on motion itself:

Motion passed.

5.2. Motion R12-05-#092 · Recognition of Friends of the Society  
(Executive Committee)

BIRT Council approves the recognition of Friends of the Society as outline in Appendix A.

Secretary General asked that Council table this to end of meeting.
6. Executive Reports

6.1. Academic Affairs Officer

G. Lord asked the Academic Affairs Officer why he wanted to build a Thompson House on the moon.

Academic Affairs Officer said that one of the major driving documents is to unlock the potential of earth and space and the universe.

C L Conway asked about the security audit. It was brought forward in last year’s AGM. There was a motion of censure brought forward for this particular task. What is the status of it’s not in the workplan.

Academic Affairs Officer said the Secretary General and he were working together on that. In early November, he realized that costs were too large for that project. The Board is required for a project that large, so since November 2012, this has been with the Secretary General.

Secretary General said in the AGM of March 2012, there was a motion passed that PGSS should do an audit of McGill Security Services. The Administration was not keen to do this audit. They said no official complaints for security and didn’t want to participate. The Board at the end of 2012 put together a RFP that was issued out to 11 different experts, of which some were experts in private security. All 11 said that the group being audited must be involved. Unfortunately, because McGill Security Services isn’t participating, the experts say they can’t do the audit.

6.2. Internal Affairs Officer

G. Lord said there used to be a Councillor Appreciation Day. He wonders why there isn’t one this year as he feels underappreciated.

Internal Affairs Officer apologized that there isn’t one this year and will look for the next Council to do that.

G. Lord said there also used to be a Volunteer Appreciation Day.

Internal Affairs Officer said he will make sure to appreciate people.

6.3. Secretary-General

No questions.

7. Commissioner Reports

7.1 Health Commissioner

No questions.

8. Other Reports

8.1. Governance Committee

Motion being discussed is regarding the External Affairs Officer job description.
Secretary General, upon motivation, advocated for the proposed change from the Governance Committee. He explained that the External Affairs Officer would not only represent PGSS at meetings like the FEUQ, but also Anglophone associations; perhaps it’s a better idea to write that the External Affairs Officer work with all associations, and put attention to Anglophone associations.

Amendment passed.

Representation
1.1.2. Represent the PGSS at all meetings of student associations of which the PGSS is a member and at all meetings with other student associations.
1.1.2.1 Work with other Anglophone student associations to build a coalition within the Quebec student movement.

Communication
1.2.1. Represent the PGSS at all meetings of student associations of which the PGSS is a member and at all meetings with other student associations.

Campaigns
1.3.1. Be responsible for effectively communicating and implementing relevant programs and research projects that are consistent with the policies and positions of the PGSS, and that are developed in collaboration with groups of which the PGSS is a member and with other student associations.”

Motion passed.

5.1. Motion R12-02-#064 · Motion Regarding External Affairs Officer Job Description
(External Affairs Officer)
WHEREAS the structure of PGSS is similar to other Anglophone student associations in Montreal;
WHEREAS the demographics and composition of the PGSS student body is similar to other Anglophone student associations in Montreal;
WHEREAS the External Affairs Officer has regularly met and worked with the other Anglophone student associations in Montreal because of these similarities;
BIRT the PGSS Society Activities Manual, Section 3: External Affairs Officer, be amended to read,
“Representation
1.1.2. Represent the PGSS at all meetings of student associations of which the PGSS is a member and at all meetings with other Anglophone student associations in order to build a coalition of Anglophone student associations within the Quebec student movement.
Communication
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Campaigns
1.3.1. Be responsible for effectively communicating and implementing relevant programs and research projects that are consistent with the policies and positions of the PGSS, and that are developed in collaboration with groups of which the PGSS is a member and with other Anglophone student associations.”

8.2. Language Policy Committee

The first reading of the bylaw changes was reviewed by Council.

Motion passed.
8.3. Board of Directors

G. Lord, upon motivation, said that employment is currently under the purview of the Board. If this motion is passed, the employment of this new person is still dependant on the purview of the Board. It would make more sense to make Council vote on the goal of what we want to achieve and let the Board decide on the means. This motion institutionalizes stability.

Motion passed.

9. Question Period

Y. Bresler asked the Member Services Officer about the budget cut.

Member Services Officer said student services include CAPs, Mental Health, all services in the Brown building. We made a decision to not increase the fees so there will be changes occurring to Student Services. Contact her for suggesting changes you would like to see. In terms of university budget, the Executives can always call emergency meeting in July.

Secretary General said that in the next few months, Executives will put together the Workplan for the 2013-2014 year. Basic contracts of right and responsibilities of supervisors will be laid out so that they are clear from the outset.

D. Meadows asked the Academic Affairs Officer about library space.

Academic Affairs Officer gave an explicit update on how the space in libraries will be used.

W. Farrell asked if Executives would include the Thompson on the Moon project on the Workplan that was stricken last year.

10. New Business

10.1. Motion R13-06-#001 · Motion Regarding Ensuring Diverse Representation on the AGM Agenda
(W. Farrell/G. Boukhaled)

WHEREAS there currently exists no standards within the PGSS governing documents specifying a procedure for adding motions to the agenda of the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
WHEREAS this task is currently done on an ad hoc basis at the discretion of the Board of Directors (BoD), in accordance with the Quebec Companies Act Section 91.2 (e)1

WHEREAS it is essential for the democratic foundation of the PGSS that motions brought to the agenda of the AGM reflect the will of PGSS’ diverse membership.

BIRT Council hereby recommend to the BoD that the following text be added to the Corporate Operations Manual:
For a regular member to place a motion on the agenda of the general meeting, the motion must be submitted to the Board of Directors by the submission deadline and carrying the names, signatures, faculties, and student numbers of forty (40) PGSS members, of whom no more than 25% required may be from any single faculty.
W. Farrell, upon motivation, said that when looking at governing documents in submitting motions to AGM, there are no institutions in place. It is decided by Board of Directors on a whim. Right now there is no threshold for adding motions to the AGM. He is proposing something that is done in SSMU right now, which makes sure that the motions that are on the AGM are motions that should be there.

C. Melendez asked what the vote signature is to call a special general meeting.

Secretary General said to call an AGM meeting, one that is not scheduled, we would need 7% of membership or 525 signatures, whichever number is lower.

D. Meadows, speaking in favour of the motion, said that this makes sure that the things discussed at AGM are what is supposed to be discussed.

G. Lord said he understood that the threshold of 50 ensures diversity, but asked what if there is specific interest for a particular faculty.

W. Farrell explained the motivation behind the number and said when he was in undergrad, he submitted many motions. Submitting motions was how he began to understand what appealed to the general public. Members of PGSS are not unsympathetic. If movers explained the motivation behind certain motions, the general public will be able to judge if it is suitable for the AGM.

C. Melendez proposed to amend faculty to PGSA. G. Lord seconded.

W. Farrell spoke against the amendment. He had considered the same change of wording but decided on faculty level because there are so many different PGSAs. There are people from all different parts of campus in the faculty level, from which we can obtain a more diverse sample.

G. Lord, spoke in favour, and said this is a good compromise. We don’t want to make it too hard either to run after people for signatures.

External Affairs Officer asked how many motions have been put forward in previous year that deal with making motions.

Secretary General said on average a year of four or five.

M. Akpa spoke against the amendment. She is from the Faculty of Medicine of which there are many GSAs but for a Faculty for which there is only one GSA like Education, it is more difficult to obtain signatures from other GSAs.

D. Meadows called the question. G. Boukhaled seconded.

Question called.

Amendment failed.

Motion passed.

10.2. Motion R13-06-#001 · Motion to specify amendment procedure for the Policy Manual
(G. Lord/Secretary-General)

WHEREAS Bylaw 5.4.1 specify that "[e]ach governing document must specify its own
WHEREAS the Policy Manual only specifies that "[p]olicy may be created or amended by council as per Bylaw 2.8";
WHEREAS Bylaw 2.8 does not exist;
WHEREAS clarity is urgently needed as to procedures for adopting new policies.

BIRT Council amend the preamble of the Society Policy Manual to adopt the following procedure for amending the Manual:
Amendments to this Manual may only be entertained during the period from October 1st through March 31st of the following year, unless Council votes by special resolution to entertain an amendment outside of this period.
2. Any amendments to this Manual must be proposed through Council:
2.1. First Reading: Council
2.1.1. Notice of a proposed enactment, amendment, or repeal of any part of this Manual shall be given to the Secretary-General at least two (2) weeks before the meeting of Council at which the motion is to be introduced.
2.1.2. Notice of the wording of the proposed motion must be given to Council members at least five (5) days before the Council meeting at which the motion is to be introduced and debated.
2.1.3. The motion shall be read a first time at Council. The motion shall be debated and amended if so desired, and approved in principle by a simple majority vote.
2.2. The Governance Committee
2.2.1. The motion, as approved in principle by Council, shall be conveyed in writing to the Governance Committee within one (1) week.
2.2.2. The Governance Committee shall consider the motion.
2.2.3. Within ten (10) working days of having received notice, the Governance Committee shall notify the Secretary-General in writing of any recommended changes to the proposed Manual. If no such changes are recommended, the Secretary-General shall be notified of that fact.
2.2.4. If the Governance Committee submits no changes within ten (10) working days, then the proposed amendment shall go forward to be read a second time at Council.
2.3. Second Reading: Council
2.3.1. The Secretary-General shall ensure that the proposed amendment and the recommendations of the Governance Committee are included for second reading at a Council meeting, and that this agenda be given to all Council members at least forty eight (48) hours before the meeting.
2.3.2. Council shall debate and consider the proposed motion, and any recommendations made by the Governance Committee.
2.3.3. The Speaker shall not permit Council to consider any further amendments from the floor, other than those recommended by the Governance Committee.
2.3.4. The proposed motion shall be approved by a special resolution of council and the changes shall take effect immediately upon such approval.
3. The Secretary-General shall oversee updates to the Manual as required.

G. Lord, upon motivation, said that the bylaws specify the amended procedures. The process in this motion is reasonable.

G. Lord proposed to amend to strike the first paragraph and to strike 2.3.1. which is a redundant clause.

Secretary General seconded.
Amendment passed.

Motion passed.

5.2. Motion R12-05-#092 · Recognition of Friends of the Society  
(Executive Committee)

BIRT Council approves the recognition of Friends of the Society as outline in Appendix A.

The Secretary General, upon motivation, said these people are people who worked for the university who have gone above and beyond. He recommended that Council approve the list and send them thank you cards.

G. Lord said this motion is about bringing back an old tradition. The issue he sees is that Council has no idea who these people are. There is a description of the people but Council needs time to read it. This Friends of Society award is usually just for one person a year, now we are giving 12 in a single year which dilutes the meaning of this award. It would be nice if Council could have a framework of who deserves the award.

B. Keith spoke in favour of the motion as he doesn't see anything wrong with giving people thank you cards. Council doesn't have enough time to read this document line by line but by skimming the list, we can see that this is something benign.

Member Services Officer explained that because we haven’t done this for a couple of years so the people who need to be acknowledged have accumulated.

G. Lord motioned to table this motion. C. Melendez seconded.

B. Keith spoke against tabling as it is in the best interest of the society to honour these people.

Secretary General said names appeared last Council meeting.

Amendment failed.

Motion passed. G. Lord opposed.

Council adjourned at 8:44 pm
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Gallery and Guests

None
B. Rocque became Speaker.

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1. Approval of the Agenda

Agenda approved.

2. Speaker’s Report

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3. Announcements

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Secretary General has seven minutes to present the budget in absence of the Finance Officer.

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Secretary General moved that Council approves the Shared and Society Activities elements of the proposed 2013-2014 PGSS budget. D. Meadows seconded.

Motion passed.

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Minutes from last meeting were not ready.

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( Education Graduate Student Society (EGSS) )

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university libraries;
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Voting on motion itself:

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(Executive Committee)

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6.3. Secretary-General

No questions.

7. Commissioner Reports

7.1 Health Commissioner

No questions.

8. Other Reports

8.1. Governance Committee

Motion being discussed is regarding the External Affairs Officer job description.
Secretary General, upon motivation, advocated for the proposed change from the Governance Committee. He explained that the External Affairs Officer would not only represent PGSS at meetings like the FEUQ, but also Anglophone associations; perhaps it’s a better idea to write that the External Affairs Officer work with all associations, and put attention to Anglophone associations.

Amendment passed.

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1.1.2. Represent the PGSS at all meetings of student associations of which the PGSS is a member and at all meetings with other student associations.
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(External Affairs Officer)

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WHEREAS the demographics and composition of the PGSS student body is similar to other Anglophone student associations in Montreal;
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BIRT the PGSS Society Activities Manual, Section 3: External Affairs Officer, be amended to read, “

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8.2. **Language Policy Committee**

The first reading of the bylaw changes was reviewed by Council.

Motion passed.
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(W. Farrell/G. Boukhaled)

WHEREAS there currently exists no standards within the PGSS governing documents specifying a procedure for adding motions to the agenda of the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
WHEREAS this task is currently done on an ad hoc basis at the discretion of the Board of Directors (BoD), in accordance with the Quebec Companies Act Section 91.2 (e)1.

WHEREAS it is essential for the democratic foundation of the PGSS that motions brought to the agenda of the AGM reflect the will of PGSS’ diverse membership.

BIRT Council hereby recommend to the BoD that the following text be added to the Corporate Operations Manual:
For a regular member to place a motion on the agenda of the general meeting, the motion must be submitted to the Board of Directors by the submission deadline and carrying the names, signatures, faculties, and student numbers of forty (40) PGSS members, of whom no more than 25% required may be from any single faculty.
W. Farrell, upon motivation, said that when looking at governing documents in submitting motions to AGM, there are no institutions in place. It is decided by Board of Directors on a whim. Right now there is no threshold for adding motions to the AGM. He is proposing something that is done in SSMU right now, which makes sure that the motions that are on the AGM are motions that should be there.

C. Melendez asked what the vote signature is to call a special general meeting.

Secretary General said to call a AGM meeting, one that is not scheduled, we would need 7% of membership or 525 signatures, whichever number is lower.

D. Meadows, speaking in favour of the motion, said that this makes sure that the things discussed at AGM are what is supposed to be discussed.

G. Lord said he understood that the threshold of 50 ensures diversity, but asked what if there is specific interest for a particular faculty.

W. Farrell explained the motivation behind the number and said when he was in undergrad, he submitted many motions. Submitting motions was how he began to understand what appealed to the general public. Members of PGSS are not unsympathetic. If movers explained the motivation behind certain motions, the general public will be able to judge if it is suitable for the AGM.

C. Melendez proposed to amend faculty to PGSA. G. Lord seconded.

W. Farrell spoke against the amendment. He had considered the same change of wording but decided on faculty level because there are so many different PGSAs. There are people from all different parts of campus in the faculty level, from which we can obtain a more diverse sample.

G Lord, spoke in favour, and said this is a good compromise. We don't want to make it too hard either to run after people for signatures.

External Affairs Officer asked how many motions have been put forward in previous year that deal with making motions.

Secretary General said on average a year of four or five.

M. Akpa spoke against the amendment. She is from the Faculty of Medicine of which there are many GSAs but for a Faculty for which there is only one GSA like Education, it is more difficult to obtain signatures from other GSAs.

D. Meadows called the question. G. Boukhaled seconded.

Question called.

Amendment failed.

Motion passed.

10.2. Motion R13-06-#001 · Motion to specify amendment procedure for the Policy Manual (G. Lord/Secretary-General)

WHEREAS Bylaw 5.4.1 specify that "[e]ach governing document must specify its own
WHEREAS the Policy Manual only specifies that "[p]olicy may be created or amended by council as per Bylaw 2.8";
WHEREAS Bylaw 2.8 does not exist;
WHEREAS clarity is urgently needed as to procedures for adopting new policies.

BIRT Council amend the preamble of the Society Policy Manual to adopt the following procedure for amending the Manual:
Amendments to this Manual may only be entertained during the period from October 1st through March 31st of the following year, unless Council votes by special resolution to entertain an amendment outside of this period.

2. Any amendments to this Manual must be proposed through Council:
2.1. First Reading: Council
2.1.1. Notice of a proposed enactment, amendment, or repeal of any part of this Manual shall be given to the Secretary-General at least two (2) weeks before the meeting of Council at which the motion is to be introduced.
2.1.2. Notice of the wording of the proposed motion must be given to Council members at least five (5) days before the Council meeting at which the motion is to be introduced and debated.
2.1.3. The motion shall be read a first time at Council. The motion shall be debated and amended if so desired, and approved in principle by a simple majority vote.
2.2. The Governance Committee
2.2.1. The motion, as approved in principle by Council, shall be conveyed in writing to the Governance Committee within one (1) week.
2.2.2. The Governance Committee shall consider the motion.
2.2.3. Within ten (10) working days of having received notice, the Governance Committee shall notify the Secretary-General in writing of any recommended changes to the proposed Manual. If no such changes are recommended, the Secretary-General shall be notified of that fact.
2.2.4. If the Governance Committee submits no changes within ten (10) working days, then the proposed amendment shall go forward to be read a second time at Council.
2.3. Second Reading: Council
2.3.1. The Secretary-General shall ensure that the proposed amendment and the recommendations of the Governance Committee are included for second reading at a Council meeting, and that this agenda be given to all Council members at least forty eight (48) hours before the meeting.
2.3.2. Council shall debate and consider the proposed motion, and any recommendations made by the Governance Committee.
2.3.3. The Speaker shall not permit Council to consider any further amendments from the floor, other than those recommended by the Governance Committee.
2.3.4. The proposed motion shall be approved by a special resolution of council and the changes shall take effect immediately upon such approval.
3. The Secretary-General shall oversee updates to the Manual as required.

G. Lord, upon motivation, said that the bylaws specify the amended procedures. The process in this motion is reasonable.

G. Lord proposed to amend to strike the first paragraph and to strike 2.3.1. which is a redundant clause.

Secretary General seconded.
Amendment passed.

Motion passed.

5.2. Motion R12-05-#092 · Recognition of Friends of the Society
(Executive Committee)

BIRT Council approves the recognition of Friends of the Society as outline in Appendix A.

The Secretary General, upon motivation, said these people are people who worked for the university who have gone above and beyond. He recommended that Council approve the list and send them thank you cards.

G. Lord said this motion is about bringing back an old tradition. The issue he sees is that Council has no idea who these people are. There is a description of the people but Council needs time to read it. This Friends of Society award is usually just for one person a year, now we are giving 12 in a single year which dilutes the meaning of this award. It would be nice if Council could have a framework of who deserves the award.

B. Keith spoke in favour of the motion as he doesn’t see anything wrong with giving people thank you cards. Council doesn’t have enough time to read this document line by line but by skimming the list, we can see that this is something benign.

Member Services Officer explained that because we haven’t done this for a couple of years so the people who need to be acknowledged have accumulated.

G. Lord motioned to table this motion. C. Melendez seconded.

B. Keith spoke against tabling as it is in the best interest of the society to honour these people.

Secretary General said names appeared last Council meeting.

Amendment failed.

Motion passed. G. Lord opposed.

Council adjourned at 8:44 pm
Post-Graduate Students' Society of McGill University
3650 McTavish Street, Montreal, Quebec
C13-08-#14
Council Minutes

August 21st, 2013, 6:48 pm

Executives

Jonathan Mooney Secretary-General, Erik Larson Financial Affairs Officer, Adam Bouchard Academic Affairs Officer, Michael Krause Internal Affairs Officer, Elizabeth Cawley Member Services Officer, Navid khosravi Ashemi External Affairs Officer

Councillors


Commissioners and non-voting members

Murielle Akpa Equity Commissioner, Amanda Winegardner Environment Commissioner, Vikrant Bhosle Member Support Commissioner, Amanda Winegardner Environment Commissioner, Emily Yung Health Commissioner, Nida Nizam Council Speaker, Sharon Gai Recording Secretary

Regrets

None

Gallery and Guests

Jonathan Tremblay CSGC, Sharif Behrang, Dana Wray The Daily
Call to Order 6:48 pm

1. Approval of the Agenda
   
   Motion approved.

2. Speaker's Report
   
   Speaker outlined general rules of Council, allotting speaking time of 1 minute.

3. Announcements
   
   Internal Affairs Officer said in the fall, there will be a discussion panel with new and old graduate students writing their theses. Spots have been filled for the science side. If you have a social science background, email him internal.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca to be included in the project.

4. Approval of the Minutes
   
   No minutes from last meeting.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders

6. Executive Reports

   6.1. External Affairs Officer
   
   6.2. Academic Affairs Officer
   
   6.3. Internal Affairs Officer
   
   6.4. Finance Officer
   
   6.5. Member Services Officer
   
   There are two info sessions on insurance plans for students who have questions on their plans. Dates and times will be advertised around campus.

   Sustainability Action Plan has been provided for Council's feedback.

   Financial Officer presented funding options for the Plan.

   Secretary General said we could start a new budget line called Sustainability.

   L. Harvey asked what the Thompson House fee of $0.75 goes to.

   Financial Officer said it goes to regular maintenance such as repainting, fixing floors.

   6.6. Secretary-General

7. Commissioner Reports
7.1. Equity Commissioner  

7.2. Environment Commissioner  

7.3. Health Commissioner  

7.4. Member Support Commissioner  

This committee is currently recruiting. Contact Jacinthe or Marilou to apply.

8. Other Reports  

8.1. Policy and Structure Advisory Committee  

Secretary General presented the report.

Draft of Member Code of Conduct and harassment policy was brought forward for discussion.

G. Lord asked what constitutes as a “conflict of interest”. He also asked who was consulted in the development of this report.

Secretary General defined the conflicts as financial. Input from internal Legal Council was received as consultation in the two months that PSAC worked on this report.

Member Services Officer said the report needs to clarify the scope of “PGSS members” as PGSS memberships can be bought and associate members also exist. Who the report would specifically apply to needs to be clarified. She made a friendly amendment to change “7 days” to “7 business days”.

Secretary General thanked the Member Services Officer for her comments. He said that associate members would be included and “7 business days” has been changed. He added in his response to G. Lord’s question that the Associate Provost Policies and Procedures Equity was also consulted.

N. Hyba asked if there was anything to prevent harassment.

Secretary General said there has been discussion that mandatory trainings be implemented.

B. Schmidt said Point 7 in Part 3 has a typo and is ambiguously worded.

Secretary General thanked B. Schmidt for catching the mistake. The committee will re-draft accordingly.

G. King asked how we are defining evidence as there were previous instances when this was confusing. She asked about the HEC Committee. She also asked why this was a Committee of the Board.

Secretary General responded by saying that “evidence” is defined in Section 5 regarding investigation. Regarding counter allegations, Section 5 outlines the procedures. Mediation training will be given by someone from the Bar of Quebec. It is a committee of the Board because it touches PGSS liability.
G. King asked if the bar de Quebec has such a training service.

Secretary General responded that there is by consultation of the Legal Council.

G. King asked what the next step in the policy will be.

Secretary General this will go back to Council and the Board after redraft by PSAC. Council would be seeing this draft in about a month.

Secretary General introduced the second thing in the report – bylaw changes. The first change is to remove the motion to censure. Right now this motion can be brought by anyone. The change in this bylaw is to have the motion to censure be supported by ¼ of voting members of the voting assembly or be put forth by a committee.

L. Harvey asked what would be considered a governing body in the text.

Secretary General said the bylaws state that a governing body could be Council, the Board, any committee, or the General Assembly.

G. Lord asked the applicability of provision 6.1.2. in case another body want to recommend censure to Council.

Secretary General said yes. Just to have something moved and seconded at one of this committees would probably require ¼ of voting members.

J. Irwin asked how the number of ¼ of the quorum was generated.

Secretary General said the two bodies that number would most likely apply to are General Assembly and Council. He explained the quorums for both bodies.

J. Irwin clarified his question further. He asked how is ¼ of the quorum decided to be the standard.

Secretary General said they looked at other student associations such as SSMU.

G. King said there are different privileges of different bodies. An equity committee has ten people while Council has 80+.

Secretary General said there is a reason that it is a percentage rather than a number. One fourth is a good number to make sure that it is a motion worth talking about.

K. Charamba said there are too many discrepancies between committees and the number of signatures required would be always fluctuating depending on the committee.

Academic Affairs Officer said there is a misreading for 6.1.2. The number is ¼ of the quorum and the quorum is 1/3. If there are approximately 107 members in Council, the number of signatures required would be approximately 9, not 36.

G. King moved to amend the motion to at least 4 signatures of that governing body.
W. Farrell spoke against the amendment. The math to calculate the necessary number of signatures is not difficult to do. He proposed that a percentage is good as it ensures motions are not brought forward frivolously.

M. Akpa spoke against the amendment, pointing out that not every single committee has the same number of people. She asked what a committee with less than 4 people would do.

Academic Affairs Officer, spoke against the amendment, and said he was confident that every member is able to do the math.

Motion brought to a vote. Motion failed.

M. Xhignesse was unclear about the scope this motion touches on.

Secretary General said a Committee might want to bring forward a motion on one of its members for the General Assembly or Council to consider. The scope would cover a member of the society at large such as an Officer, a member of the Board, or a Councillor.

**PSAC Motion 1 passed with 2/3 majority.**

Secretary General presented proposed SAM change for discussion. Upon motivation, he defined terms that touched on the power of the steering committee. Parliamentary language, as defined in Roberts’ Rules, is insulting another member of Assembly; liability would be regarding something that has potential to get us sued.

Y. Bresler asked what the result is if this exercise was done right.

Secretary General said there is something in our bylaws that says Committees should report regularly to Council their activities. Whenever Steering Committee has done something beyond changing the order of the motions, Steering Committee has to submit a report.

Speaker said Steering Committee would inform movers of smaller grammatical errors and ask if those changes should be made. Minutes are also taken at Steering Committee.

M. Bouchard asked if this content that is submitted happens often or if it was just precautionary.

Secretary General said generally it is precautionary.

**PSAC Motion 2 passed with 2/3 majority.**

Motion 3 was brought forward.

Upon motivation, Secretary General said PSAC recognized discrepancies been SAM and bylaws. Instead of two different documents of different things, PSAC combined it into one and decided to put it in the SAM.

G. Lord asked a member of the Committee for clarification on Line 5 of the policy regarding referendums to have the power to remove a Commissioner or Officer.

Secretary General said the goal is to get rid of contradictions. Bylaws say that the only way to remove and Officer is through a motion and not a referendum.
W. Farrell asked would redefining Commissioners as having more of an employee status redefine the hierarchy and party to report to. Would it be more of a Board matter rather than something we have control over Council.

Secretary General said this change that we are voting on would not change the hierarchy. We could possibly discuss this in October.

K. Charamba said sometimes the reason why there are two separate documents for things is that they are different in nature. He asked the committee to explain why there were two different documents in the first place.

Secretary General said up until June 2012, we had one big constitution; since then there were several documents developed. Currently we are not sure where councillors should fall under, if it is a political position or an employee position.

**PSAC Motion 3 passed with 2/3 majority.**

### 8.2. Environment Committee

Environment Commissioner developed the work plan for the PGSS Environment Committee.

Y. Bresler asked if the committee has considered the ban to sell bottled water.

The Environment Commissioner said the Committee had not considered that before but if there is enough interest, we could move forward in that direction.

### 9. Question Period

G. Lord said he was deeply troubled that the supporting documents were submitted late for the third time in a row. The length of two days makes it impossible to consult the members to gather their opinion on the matter.

The Speaker explained that for this particular meeting, she was in the hospital for a week that led to the delay.

Secretary General explained that the time for steering committee was also set late.

G. King said this transition period is difficult without visibility to approved minutes. She suggested that reports that are not in the package can be delivered orally by Officers and Commissioners.

Secretary General said there can be uniformity of reports as we do have a template. Minutes will be updated on the website accordingly.

### 10. New Business

**10.1. Motion R13-06-#002 - Motion to specify amendment procedure for the Policy Manual**

(G. Lord/Secretary-General)

BIRT Council amend the preamble of the Society Policy Manual to adopt the following procedure for amending the Manual:
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   2.3. Second Reading: Council
   2.3.1. The Secretary-General shall ensure that the proposed amendment and the recommendations of the Governance Committee are included for second reading at a Council meeting, and that this agenda be given to all Council members at least fortyeight (48) hours before the meeting.
   2.3.2. Council shall debate and consider the proposed motion, and any recommendations made by the Governance Committee.
   2.3.3. The Speaker shall not permit Council to consider any further amendments from the floor, other than those recommended by the Governance Committee.
   2.3.4. The proposed motion shall be approved by a special resolution of council and the changes shall take effect immediately upon such approval.

3. The Secretary-General shall oversee updates to the Manual as required.

G. Lord, upon motivation, said that this motion was brought forward to correct a bylaw that was supposed to exist.

Motion passed.

10.2. Motion R13-08-#003 · Motion to specify terms of appointment
(Secretary-General/ D. Meadows)

WHEREAS the PGSS governing documents do not specify the terms of appointments
WHEREAS the previous PGSS constitution specified a one year term for appointments
WHEREAS under the status quo, members will serve ultimate terms
New SAM clause 54.6.2: Appointments shall end one year from the date of appointment.
New SAM clause 12.4.10: Appointments shall have a term of one year
Secretary General, upon motivation, said if you are appointed to a university committee, you are appointed for life. We want to go back to the one year term.

G. Lord said he could not find this SAM clause on the online version of the SAM.

Secretary General said these are new clauses that we need to add with a new number.

Academic Affairs Officer moved to amend the second clause regarding university committees.

K. Charamba said there is nothing wrong with serving life terms.

L. Harvey asked if May 31st is a definite finish date for all committees, and that they don’t have summer meetings.

Academic Affairs Officer said it is rare that university committee meetings are meeting over the summer. If there are meetings, they are ad hoc meetings.

B. Wiles said he is part of the grievance committee which has ad hoc committees.

W. Farrell amended “until the person is filled.”

Amendment:
New SAM clause 12.4.10: Appointments shall have a term of one year. **Appointments shall have a term ending May 31st or provisionally until the position is filled.**

Academic Affairs Officer called question.

Amendment adopted.

Motion passed.

10.3. **Motion R13-08-#003 · Motion regarding 2013-2014 workplan**
(Executive Committee)

BIRT the draft outline of the 2013-2014 Executive Workplan be approved

*Draft workplan outline*

**SG**
- Review bylaws and society affairs manual with Policy and Structure Advisory Committee (PSAC) and bring changes forward
- Review elections regulation with PSAC and Chief Returning Officer and bring changes forward
- Streamline governance via online content management system (CMS): integrate aspects of PGSS governance (council, committees) into PGSS website and CMS
- Develop PGSS harassment policy with PSAC
- Ensure constructive relations with SSMU and other university partners by ensuring consistent communication and collaboration on research projects and common causes
- Improve appeal of Thomson House by working with management and Board of Directors
- Oversee projects including research, business initiatives, and legal matters

IAO
• Improve outreach by sending one PGSS exec to attend a GA or exec meeting of each PGSA
• Surveying PGSA workplan items
• Speaker series: senior grad students
• Review social media strategy for each portfolio (twitter, Facebook, YouTube)
• Coordinate further development of emergent postgraduate cultural associations
• Board focus on TH “fun” and restaurant improvement
  - weekly/monthly BBQ in the summer months
  - marketing TH
  - branding
  - games night, settlers with Senior Nacho

MSO
• Define role of commissioners/execs
• Rename and redefine roles of commissioners
  - make job reflective of # of hours
  - make job expectations reflective of number of hours
  - working on “branding” of caucuses and committees
• Effects of referendum questions failing – how to deal with these cuts and what can be done next year.
• Exec-commissioner communication: retreats and meetings
• Adoption of the MSPN and expansion of their work for grad students. Combining Family Care and MSPN.
• Daycare application process
• Mental health initiatives. Particularly working on Peer Support, Mental Health Conference and at Thomson House implementation and training of the High Five (“safe space”) campaign.
• Student Services (always) - helping with RFPs, referenda, grad specific programming.
• Focus on mental health and financial aid - their role for grad students isn't always clear.
• Integration and prep for post doc services if/when their referendum passes.
• Renegotiate Health and Dental Insurance Plan
• Creating info sessions and more awareness about our plan.

AAO
• University reps – reporting and orientation
• Athletics – lobby DPSLL to support audit of activities
• McGill Writing Center
• Content management project for university representatives, online database
• Supervision workgroup
• Implementation of supervision pilot project
• Organize “know your rights” session
• University committee orientation package
• Focus on strategy to lobby for reduced enrolment (control student population)

EAO
• Develop communications and public relations strategy
• Communicate FEUQ issues and campaigns to exec and coordinating activities;
• Voter registration at Thomson House
• Tax week
- Research on socially responsible investing
- French language – accessibility
- University reinvestment campaign
- Election research
- FEUQ conference at Thomson House in November

**FO**
- Negotiating new Thomson House Lease
- Legal matters
- Business metrics reporting
- Exploring Finance/Investment Options for Special Projects
- Reworking Grants program based on GPS contributions
- Funding for 'Full Moon Party at TH' as a focus group for Moon Vision 2030 needs/goals
- Evaluation and implementation of business advertising needs to improve business revenue
- (specifically event revenue)

Secretary General appreciated councillors coming out this meeting. These are the projects for the year. If you want to add anything, please approach the Executive.

L. Harvey said this looks like a great work plan. She asked the Member Services Officer about the effects of referendums failing. She also asked about information on Post Doc services.

Member Services Officer gave a background on the failed referendum question to raise fees: that SSMU passed it and PGSS didn’t. Janna Luker will be consulted to find out the areas that will be cut. Member Services Officer will inform Council in September. She met with the Deputy Provost a few days ago. They figure out the fees a month in advance. Students will be asked the referendum question again in the fall now that we have more information. We have been working on the Post Doc issue.

G. King asked if this was a draft.

Secretary General said another draft will be coming to Council in Sept.

Motion passed.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm**
Unapproved Council Minutes
September 18th 2013

Executives
J. Mooney Secretary-General, E. Larson Financial Affairs Officer, A. Bouchard Academic Affairs Officer, M. Krause Internal Affairs Officer, E. Cawley Member Services Officer, N. Ashemi External Affairs Officer.

Councilors

Commissioners and non-voting member
M. Akpa Equity Commissioner, V. Bhosle Member Support Commissioner, A. Winegardner Environmental Commissioner, E. Yung Health Commissioner, N. Nizam Chair, C. Briggs Chief Returning Officer & Recording Secretary, R Simons Parliamentarian.

Guests

Call to Order 5:43 pm

1. Motion to approve Agenda
   Motion approve, no abstentions/opposed

2. Speaker’s Report
   Chair introduces Parliamentarian, R Simons, and explains her role.
3. Announcements

Internal Affairs Officer discusses upcoming Scavenger Hunt
March 2013 closed minutes will not be presented due to a delay in publication

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 March 2013 (open session)
   Approved, no abstentions/opposed

4.2 May (1st) 2013 (closed session)
   Approved, no abstentions/opposed

4.3 May (29th) 2013
   Approved, no abstentions/opposed

4.4 June 2013
   Approved, no abstentions/opposed

4.5 August 2013
   Approved, no abstentions/opposed

5. Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders

   No items

6. Executive Reports

6.1 Academic Affairs Officer
   Not present, report postponed

6.2 Internal Affairs Officer
   No comments/questions

6.3 Member Services Officer
   Not present, report postponed

6.4 Financial Affairs Officer
   No comments/questions

6.5 External Affairs Officer
   No comments/questions

6.6 Secretary-General
   No comments/questions

7. Commissioner Reports

7.1 Environment Commissioner
   Referred council to read her report, which, as she believes, summerises her committee’s efforts better than she could in word. No questions

7.2 Member Support Commissioner
   No comments/questions

7.3 Health Commissioner
   No comments/questions

7.4 Equity Commissioner
   No comments/questions
8. Other Reports

8.1 Appointments Board Recommendations

Internal Affairs Officer explained process of appointing new committee members.

- Appeals Board vacancy, Juan Pinto, Anoop Saxpn, Kuzi Charambal running. Council approved candidacies. Internal Affairs officer explains that the bylaws state preference should be given to law students, but as a raffle system is used, said process is hard to apply. Internal Affairs officer proposed granting law students three ballots in the draw, and other students only one. Council approved; no abstentions/opposed. Juan Pinto was elected by draw.

9. Question Period

No questions

10. New Business

10. Motion R13-09-#006 · Motion regarding 2013-2014 workplan

Secretary-General explained the Executive Work Plan’s purpose and goals.
Chair called for questions.
G. Lord (Economics), asked the Academic Affairs Officer about university space projects.
Secretary-General responded (Academic Absent) with information regarding the University space inventory and their plan to optimize space usage as to permit graduate students to have greater access to office space.
Chair called to vote on the Executive Work Plan.

Motion Passed

10.2 Motion R13-09-#007 · Motion to permit the recall of elected officers by petition

Secretary-General motivated for the Recall Petition amendment, a changed which clarifies some confusion in the present clause permitting officers to be recalled.
G. Lord (Economics), motioned to amend (addition is underlined) the BIRT clause to “A petition to call a meeting or referendum to remove a person from any position within the PGSS must be framed as follows: “Do you agree that X be removed from the position of Y?” wherein X is the name of the person, and Y is the name of the position.”
Chair calls motion to a vote. Approved, no abstains/opposed.
Chair calls amended BIRT clause to a vote

BIRT A petition to call a meeting or referendum to remove a person from any position within the PGSS must be framed as follows: “Do you agree that X be removed from the position of Y?” wherein X is the name of the person, and Y
is the name of the position.”

Motion passed

10.3 / 10.4

Postponed

10.5 Motion R13-09-#010 · Motion to specify terms of appointment

Secretary-General motivated for the amendment (new SAM clause 56:6:2; 12:4:10) to the Society Activities Manual which would limit terms of committee members to one year from appointment for appointments, and the PGSS Member year (May 31st) for university and other committees.

Chair called to vote

Motion passed

Chair calls to Adjourn; approved, no abstains/opposed. Council adjourned at 6:03 pm.
October Unapproved Minutes

Executives
Jonathan Mooney Secretary-General, Erik Larson Financial Affairs Officer, Adam Bouchard Academic Affairs Officer, Michael Krause Internal Affairs Officer, Elizabeth Cawley Member Services Officer, Navid Khorasvih Ashemi External Affairs Officer.

Councilors

Commissioners and Non-Voting Members
M. Akpa Equity Commissioner, V. Bhosle Member Support Commissioner, A. Winegardner Environmental Commissioner, E. Yung Health Commissioner, C. Briggs Chief Returning Officer & Recording Secretary, R Simons Parliamentarian.

Guests

Secretary-General ask for approval of acting chair
Acting Chairs called meeting to order at 6:49 pm.

1. Approval of the Agenda
   Chair called Agenda to a vote.
   *Agenda approved.*

2. Speaker’s Report
   No comments.

3. Announcements
   Member support and Internal Affairs presented the PGSS Digital Handbook, Events Calendar, and Paintball events.
   Remarks from Principal Suzanne Fortier (with opportunity for questions) tabled for her arrival.

4. Approval of the Minutes
   4.1 Approval of May 2013 Closed Session Minutes.
      Secretary-General discusses publicity process of the closed minutes.
      *Motion Carried.*

5. Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders
   5.1 Appointments Board
      Motion to accept the recommendations of the appointments board. No comments.
      *Motion Carried.*

6. Executive Reports
   6.1 Academic Affairs Officer
      No comments.

   6.2 Internal Affairs Officer
      No comments

   6.3 Secretary-General
      Presented information about PGSA training and policy, also discussed supervision of supervisors and the increased quantity of tuition waivers. No comments for councilors.

   6.4 Member Services Officer
      No comments

   6.5 Financial Affairs Officer
      No comments.
6.6 External Affairs Officer
   No comments.

7. Commissioner Reports
   7.1 Environment Commissioner
   No comments.

   7.2 Health Commissioner
   Chair inquires about CIBC run for the cure team. Funds are still being accepted.

   7.3 Equity Commissioner
   No comments.

   7.4 Member Support Commissioner
   Not present. Postponed.

8. Other Reports
   8.1 Appointments Board
   No content

   8.2 Letter regarding the Charter of Values
   Secretary-General outlined the generalities of the letter prepared, namely the associations support for state secularism; however, our opposition for the ban on religious clothing for state workers.
   Equity Commissioner pointed out grammatical errors, for which the Secretary-General apologized and of which he redacted.
   G Lord, MEGA, highlighted the lack of discussion on our support to any portion of the charter.
   K. Bouayad-Gervais, GASP, noted grammatical errors in the document.
   Secretary-General explained that any errors will be rectified and that they exist due to the short time to develop the letter.
   Chairs calls for vote to ratify the report.
   *Motion Carried.*

   8.3 McGill Writing Centre Usage and Satisfaction
   Academic Affairs explained the pertinence of the Writing Centre data to the referendum proposals.
   Chairs calls for vote to ratify the report.
   *Motion Carried.*

   8.4 Sustainability Action Plan
Member Services Officer presented the Sustainability Action Plan.

Chairs called for vote to ratify the report.

*Motion Carried.*

9. **Question Period**

Secretary General asked PGSA executives if they felt greater financial autonomy would benefit their PGSA. M Bouchard, **MLISSA**, stated his support for greater autonomy, but expressed his appreciation for the work of the manager of the present system.

A Chen, **MGSSEAS**, expressed his concern with the transient nature of PGSAs in managing funds, and thusly expressed his support of the present system. He also stated his appreciation for the work of the current PGSS staff.

A Best, **GSAMS**, expressed her support for the current system, but frustration with the need to follow procedures for petty billing.

**Discussion tabled to permit a Guest.**

**3.1 RESUMED**

S Fortier, **Principal**, introduced herself, her background, and her role at McGill – including her shadowing programme, which she has yet to do with a graduate student. The speaker underlined the administration’s goals to continue working to support McGill students as the centre of their objectives, as well as to maintain the universities reputation. She invited members to provide her office with feedback regarding academic, financial, and community matters. The principal further added that future projects include exploring student supervision and funding for graduate students.

Chair opened the meeting for questions.

G Lord, **MEGA**, inquired about office space for graduate students, especially the differentiation between various departments.

S Fortier, **Principal**, claimed she was not aware of this issue; however, mentioned that space itself is an ongoing issue for McGill, with infrastructure being goal, and this being added to future discussion. The speaker also invited input from members.

A. Chen, **MGSSEAS**, inquired on the importance of mental health services, and inquired about the haphazard, and perilous funding for the social equity and diversity programme.

S Fortier, **Principal**, claimed university will be exploring solutions for mental health services at the upcoming retreat as well as for social equity projects.

W Farrel, **CEGSS**, expressed his frustration with the office space issue. The student mentioned that new hires are often engaged before office space can be provided. The member added that expansion needs to be done in tandem with reasonable special planning.

S Fortier, **Principal**, responded by “the continued expansion of McGill in past years has caused issues with space.” She mentioned McGill would be looking to rectify these issues.

Financial Affairs Officer asked the principal to elaborate on McGill’s financial footing.

S Fortier, **Principal**, replied that McGill was on stable footing until the recent government cuts as a
The result of the recession. She added that stable grant increases in the past have since dried up, causing financial challenges for the institution.

Unspecified member discussed the budgeting patterns of McGill’s past administration, specifically the prioritization of projects like the “new Milton gates” or inefficient white elephant laboratory renovations. He asked the principal about her goals in terms of funding and infrastructure.

S Fortier, Principal, replied that, while infrastructure is an attractive venue to explore, her goals stand around people, specifically the faculty-student ratio. She added that living within our means is her policy.

A. Kazarine, CGSS, expressed his concern with the Automass ventilation renovations, which have led to constant interruptions from construction workers without any notices coming from faculty management or other Administrators.

S Fortier, Principal, stated she would look into it.

J Ouellet, GSANS, inquired if McGill will be using any of the vacated space from the Royale Victoria Hospital.

S Fortier, Principal, explained that this would be prohibitively expensive.

E Vincent, Postdoctoral Studies, asked if the principal has seen the survey from the Canadian Post Doctoral Fellows association. As she had, the member expressed her concern with the low morale amongst post docs.

S Fortier, Principal, said she believes many of the issues come down to funding. The speaker mentioned that political pressure is being put on levels of government to increase this funding.

F Strohschein, NGSA, inquired if supervision will be a continued project for administration.

S Fortier, Principal, stated that the University wishes to take a student-centred approach, which is personalized, as to support student development within the McGill community.

Chair called for any objections with continuing discussion, despite being over time.

No objections.

L Bourdages, CAOS, inquired on McGill’s goals for making use of alumni and other donors for future funding.

S Fortier, Principal, highlighted the socioeconomic differences between Canada and the US in terms of donations to educational institutions. McGill is looking to increase funding through donations, but she does not believe this is an end in itself.

Chair thanked the guest and returned discussion to item 8.

**Item 8 Resumed**

M Bouchard, MLISSA, claimed PGSS administration of funding helps to provide better records and more secure management.

M Chen, MGSSEAS, expressed some of the challenges with the present system due to the obligation of using certain officers to sign certain documents.

W Farrel, CEGSS, mentioned his concerns with having a transitory body handle a rigid, bureaucratic process.

M Bouchard, MLISSA, inquired about policies or guides for PGSA elections.

Secretary-General replied that the Student Life Coordinator does have literature to explain constitution, election and procedural elements. He also invited the CRO to also respond to the question.
Chief Returning Officer mentioned that materials are being developed to support PGSAs with the planning and execution of their elections. He also added that PSAC and the executive along with this officer is looking into proposing some changes to streamline the process.

10. New Business

10.1. Motion R13-10-#013 · Motion regarding referendum question for the McGill Tribune.

Member Services Officer motioned to extend speaking rights to the McGill Tribune Members. Chair called motion to a vote.

Motion carried.

Secretary-General motivated for the change, adding that the Tribune does not currently receive funding from PGSS.

Unknown member inquired why is one not being allowed to opt out.

Secretary-General replied that the administration does not approve of opt-outable fees.

J Trembley, CSGS, asked about the spring referendum results.

Secretary-General replied it was about 48 percent in favour to 43 percent opposed.

C Manocheti, McGill Tribune, explained their future goals with the PGSS are centred around increasing coverage of PGSS affairs. If the Tribune was to receive more funding, they would also like to increase graduate representation on staff, and increased accessibility.

J Tremblay, CSGS, inquired if undergraduate students pay fee to the tribune and if, without a yes vote, would the Tribune cease to exist.

C Manocheti, McGill Tribune, replied that undergraduates presently pay a fee of three dollars per semester, and that a no vote would merely continue to hinder coverage, especially of graduate events.

M Quashie, EEGSS, inquired about the newspapers funding model.

C Manocheti, McGill Tribune, replied that advertising comprises a portion of their budget, but the SSMU subsidy represents a larger portion.

A Chen MGSSEAS called to question.

Chair calls the motion to question

Motion Passed

10.2. Motion R13-10-#014 · Motion regarding McGill Writing Center fee

Academic Affairs Officer motivated in favour of the centre. He claimed that many people opposed the previous attempt at passing this referendum was due to the lack of a sunset clause. The presenter added that PGSS members presently use 800 hours of the service.

S Kusher McGill Writing Centre, added that originally the centre was funding as a pilot project by the Administration; however, its tutorial services has since sought to be funded by student bodies as the pilot project funding has ceased.

K Bouayad-Gervais, GASP, motioned to amend the question to remove the “with the understanding….” section as it creates a bias in the referendum.

W Farrel, CEGSS, disagreed with the previous speaker, claiming the tail of the question speaks about a factual consequence, rather than a biased addition.

S Kusher. McGill Writing Centre, spoke against the amendment as it would limit information to voters –
B Sharif, PGSA-Physiology, asked if SSMU funds it?

S Kusher, McGill Writing Centre, replied that SSMU currently funds it, but the centre cannot use their SSMU funding to fund PGSS projects.

Chair called the amendment to vote.

Motion to Amend Failed.

G Dupuis, MGAPS, noted that the referendum lacks discussion of whether it is opt-outable.

Academic Affairs Officer motions to include opt outable after “institute a…”

B Sharif, PGSA-Physiology, inquired about the usage ration between undergrads and grads.

S Kusher, McGill Writing Centre, provided data that demonstrated that 34% of users are graduate students.

Financial Affairs Officer motioned to amend the referendum to include its commencement starting from Winter 2014.

Chair called for vote on amendment.

Motion Carried.

Chair called the motion to a vote, including the optoutable and winter commencement amendments.

Motion Carried

10.3. Motion R13-10-#015 · McGill Writing Centre Tutorial Funding for Fall 2013

Academic Affairs Officer motivated in favour of the motion as the budgetary situation of the Centre is precarious due to a lack of funding from PGSS. Namely that PGSS members have not funded the writing centre as of late, whilst using the services of the tutors. This funding would cover the void.

Member Services Officer motivated against the motion as given that the writing centre funding failed at referendum, and this would result in an underhanded attempt to fund the centre against the member’s will. She added that is seems peculiar that PGSS can fund the Writing Centre, but not mental health services.

S Relallick, RSGS, inquired on where this proposal came from.

Academic Affairs Officer replied that the budgetary information was learned of in researching the writing centre’s upcoming referendum. PGSS has proposed it.

A Olanreqaju, BMESS, discussed the previous referendum question’s failure was the result of lack of information, not an opposition to the centre.

F Strohschein, NGSA, asked if PGSS has, in the past, given money to support services in the case of a failed referendum.

Internal Affairs Officer replied they had not.

W Farrel, CEGSS, asked the Academic Affairs officer what justified an exception being made to fund this project.

Academic Affairs Officer noted that this motion is extremely direct in its scope, namely the monies go directly to certain projects, with PGSS control. He added this situation is unique as the Centre had been covering the service costs with the assumption that PGSS would be able to provide bridge funding or that a referendum would pass.

B Schmidt, MGAPS, spoke against this motion as it works against the collective will that was expressed in the referendum.
S Kusher, **McGill Writing Centre**, claimed a lack of bridge funding would impede the Writing Centre’s ability to see graduate students, as well as upset planning policy, resulting in a potential loss of staff, or future budgetary or staffing issues.

W Farrel, **CEGSS**, asked if the bridge funding would prevent layoffs.

S Kusher, **McGill Writing Centre**, replied yes and no: as the tutorial service employees are Contractual, there would be no de jure layoffs; however, staff would see their hours cut, resulting in, perhaps, the departure of some staff.

N Barashi, **ADAMS CLUB**, expressed her concern about juxtaposing Writing Centre services with Medical Services. Both issues are problems, and we should not seek to race to the bottom.

Member Services Officer reminded counselors that voting should reflect the will of members.

Chair called the motion to a vote.

*Motion failed.* 14 in favour / 18 opposed.

Chair calls for a motion to extend council.

*Motion passed.*

10.4 **Motion R13-10-#16 – Motion regarding Mandatory Institution Fee Policy for sub-groups of PGSS members.**

Secretary-General motivates for the motion, explaining its goals are to develop a procedure for PGSA based fees.

J Tremblay, **CSGS**, asked what authority does PGSS have to use these structures.

Secretary-General replied that there is government regulations on this matter.

G Lord, **MEGA**, motioned to amend, adding “and voting” after campaigning in clause 5.

*However, only students to whom the fee would apply shall be entitled to participate in campaigning and voting.*

Chair called to vote.

*Amendment adopted.*

G Lord, **MEGA**, inquired about the second BIFRT clause.

Secretary-General responded that this clause seeks to address the policy applied within the university.

J Tremblay, **CSGS**, What is the current policy, and why is the clause limited the specific groupings

Secretary-General said that the university wishes to approve things by committee, but this violates the law. This structure aims to permit interested parties, namely PGSS, to control their FIOs (obligatory auxiliary fees). He added that, at present, PGSS is in a policy void; all past FIOs were done in the context of a past law; this policy grants PGSS control over the policy.

F Strohschein, **NGSA**, posed the question of who would vote on fees charged for specific classes.

Secretary-General responded that voting would be based on class, and not be permanent; each class would need to approve voting.

J Tremblay, **CSGS**, stated his concern that course-based fees would be rushed and confusing.

Secretary-General insisted this structure would permit for speedy processing of specific fees.

G Lord, **MEGA**, asked what this policy would foresee - examples.

Secretary-General furnished the examples of a simulation based computer lab and a field trip.

J Tremblay, **CSGS**, asked if this exist for undergraduates?
Secretary-General responded that law applies universally, but he does not yet know if SSMU has found a way to apply this rule.

W Farrel, CEGSS, inquired if this would be a procedure for universities to download fees onto students.

Secretary-General replied that it probably is; however, this policy would at least permit feedback to administration.

G Lord, MEGA, asked if there are any protections against the downloading of fees.

Secretary-General replied the law specifically defines the FIOs, and PGSS must endorse the FIO referendum.

J Tremblay, CSGS, called to question.

Motion Carried.

Chair invited the CRO to make announcement.

The CRO called for the formation of referendum committees for the Tribune, Writing Centre and Post-Doctoral Fees.

Equity Commissioner called to adjourn.

Motion Carried.

Council Adjourned.
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Attending

6:48 PM Call to order

1 Floor Items

1.1 Motion to amend to add recognition of the Mining and materials engineering student society to the agenda

Carried

6:51 PM 1.2 Announcements

Financial Affairs Officer asked if we should order pizza. Council supported this initiative.
Member Services Officer explained the Flu Shot programme.
Internal Affairs Officer explained centraid raffle

6:54 PM 1.3 MMGES A approval

M-C Noel, MMGES A motivated in favour of recognition
G Lord asked if people can speak from their seat
Chair approved.
M Bouchard, MLISSA, asked if there is a limitation to seat at council or recognition of PGSAs.
Secretary-General replied that no seats would be lost, but council would gain two seats.
T Wilfong, MGSS, asked who currently represents MMGES A.
M-C Noel, MMGES A, replied no one.
Y Bresler, MGAPS, asked what the approval rate was.
M-C Noel, MMGES A, 93 % with 20 % voting
Chair called to question
This motion passed.
Passed
1.4 MSO Report

D Meadows, HGSS, asked what would the postdoc student fee referendum result in if passed.

Member Services Officer replied that it would create specific programming, and it would grant Postdocs access to McGill services, including international student services, mental health, physician services, and employment support services.

debrosse GASP asked about the usage of mental health services for grads

MSO replied grads use the services more, and pgss is working on publicity. McGill and PGSS are looking to develop early detection and intervention services as to prevent issues from being exacerbated.

2 Approval of the agenda

6:49 PM

Approved

3 Speaker’s report

6:49 PM

Speaker (R. Simmons) introduced herself and her background. She also presented the acting parliamentarian (K. Simmons).

4 Approval of the minutes

6:52 PM

4.0.1 Motion to amend the agenda to move 8.4 to item 4 (MMGES)

CARRIED

5 Reports

6:58 PM

5.1 Report of the External Affairs Officer

Report of the External Affairs Officer

R Debrosse, GASP, asked if the referendums passed at the FEUQ meeting.

External Affairs Officer replied that no agreements were reached.
5.2 Report of the Academic Affairs Officer

Report of the Academic Affairs Officer

L Daieff, MGAPSS, asked about what happened at the apple picking.

Academic Affairs Officer replied he ate several apples

5.3 Appointments Board report

Appointments Board report

W Farrel made a friendly amendment to fix the spelling of his name in the report. Carried.

Academic Affairs Officer asked if the Board of Directors ever come to council.

Sec-Gen replied in the affirmative.

G Lord, MEGA, motioned to edit the end of the motion as the mention of the Board of Directors member should not be included.

Chair replied that one cannot edit the document as it is pdf, but the name will not be in the actual motion. Chair called to vote. Motion passed.

5.4 Report of the Policy and Structure Advisory Committee

Report of the Policy and Structure Advisory Committee

(motions included)

Secretary-General motivated for the harassment policy. He explained it has been vetted by countless McGill, PGSS and community groups. He added how the committee would be appointed and how they would operate.

T Wilfong, MGSS, asked how the policy compares to the McGill policy.

D Meadows, HGSS, explained that McGill’s policy does not cover PGSS. She added this policy only covers the grey zone between the legal definition and a social definition.

J Pinto, GLSA, asked about confidentiality in the policy, namely does the policy prevent people from other recourse or mental health services.

Secretary-General replied the policy is meant to prevent complaints from being used for political or hostile means, and not to work against medical or legal services; moreover, the officer believes people can maintain anonymity whilst speaking to a support group.

J Pinto, GLSA, retorted that the policy, from a legal point of view, does not permit such action, and, as such, the wording needed to be changed to take into account legal and health recourse.
D Meadows, HGSS, asked Pinto if support groups do not maintain confidentiality anyways.

J Pinto, GLSA, replied that, regardless, the wording of the policy prevents external discussion point blank. It needed to be rephrased as to prevent the interdiction of recourse.

Secretary-General suggested that an amendment should endorse this policy with a caveat that the board take into account the implied gag order.

A Best, GSMAS, replied that the equity committee would like to look at this further.

J Pinto, GLSA agreed with the Secretary-Generals proposal that the endorsement be approved with a footnote requesting the analysis of the gag restriction.

Chair outlined that there is a motion to amend with a note included that limits the confidentiality clause.

Member Services Officer, spoke against this policy going directly to the Board of Directors for final approval; she advised that council should retain final say.

J Pinto, GLSA, emphasized the legal concerns of this policy as it is likely against the law; he added it is necessary that modifications are made by a legal expert - council does not have the legal knowledge to address this.

Chair reminded councillors that there is a two minute speaking limit

W Farrell, CEGSS, asked if voting against the motion would permit council to later add amendments.

Secretary-General suggested that this policy be sent back to PSAC as so they can take into account the discussion of council.

G Lord MEGA, raised a point of information to ask if the policy would be in the corporation manual or something else.

Secretary-General replied he wishes it to be a Board policy, but PSAC wished to have council’s endorsement.

F Stohschein, NGSA, suggested adding phrasing that permits legal recourse such as “all parties are required to maintain confidentiality within the limits of the law.”

Secretary-General outlined the goals of the policy are being separate from a legal route. It is not intended to interfere with the law.

T Wilfong, MGSS, explained as a layperson, he feels this policy reads poorly to someone in a situation of emotional distress. He suggested this policy be changed as so it is more accessible to a layperson.

J Pinto, GLSA, suggested point 6.3 (Both the complainant, the respondent, and the Dean of Students of McGill University shall be notified of the outcome of the investigation ) is not congruent with the confidentiality policy. This councillor moved to strike the said motion.

M Bouchard, MLISSA, asked if there is motion on the table to refer it to PSAC.

Chair replied there is.

W Farrell, CEGSS, asked if confidentiality is intended to be only for the process or for ever.

Secretary-General replied forever.

B Wiles, BGSS, replied that McGill must be included under McGill policy.

Secretary-General replied they are included as to coordinate with the administration; particularly for reasons of larger scale harassment, sensitivity programming, and PGSS protection.

L Daieff, MGAPSS, called to question

Chair asked if we have on the floor an amendment to strike 6.3
Council confirmed motions, specifically:
A motion to send the policy back to PSAC
A motion to strike 6.3
Call to question
passed
Motion to strike 6.3
Motion failed
Motion to refer to PSAC
Motion carried
CRO presented election reform package. This officer explained that the reforms include fixing logical errors and contradictions, together with minor changes such as a $100 deposit
M Quashie, EEGSS, asked why the officer wished to limit the powers of the elections committee
Chief Returning Officer replied that he wished for the opposite - instead he is trying to extend their scope to an advisory body.
G Lord, MEGA, asked who can speak or vote with these new changes
Chief Returning Officer replied that the change on speaking rights refers the limitation only to the Parliamentary Rules applied, and thus, this would permit this officer to speak as a committee chair (and to motion as such)
G Lord, MEGA, inquired into who wrote the motion
Chief Returning Officer responded that he did with the assistance of PSAC and the Executive.
G Lord, MEGA, asked, seeing as their are several points in this motion, could the CRO summarise the major points.
Chief Returning Officer requested a few moments to review the motion.
Chair invited more questions whilst this officer read.
M Bouchard, MLISSA, reminded council that this package was sent out several days ago, and that, as such, now was not the time to be reading.
Y Bressler, MGAPS, asked how the officer choose which interpretation to go with in terms of contradictions?
Chief Returning Officer replied, in speaking Generally on contradictions, he went with common sense and what council would have likely meant. He also looked to provincial, federal, union and municipal legislation or rules.
B Wiles, BGSS, added that PSAC had quorum when they analysed and approved this package.
T Wilfong, MGSS, asked for a further explanation for the clause regarding the $ 100 deposit.
Chief Returning officer replied that his position needs teeth and clearer regulations. The deposit grants a mechanism for preventing violations that are not specifically grounds for disqualification. At present, this officer believes he has no recourse against violations except, in extreme cases, disqualification.
A Best, GSAMS, inquired if there are guidelines for how to chose organizations for which a candidate can volunteer in lieu of sacrificing the deposit in cases of violations.
Chief Returning Officer replied the motion keeps things more general, as to leave discretion to the Elections Committee. He intends the guidelines to restrict the organisations to those which are benevolent, well received, charitable and do not represent a political or religious ambition.

D Leung, BGSA, asked if the Elections Committee would have full discretion on the revoking of the deposit. Chief Returning Officer replied in the affirmative, but added that the appeals board exists.

B Wiles, BGSS, called to vote

motion passed

Library improvement Fund

Academic Affairs Officer motivated for the change to the library improvement fund policy, particularly about the changes which work against legacy projects and white elephant projects.

M Malcolm, EGSS, asked why PGSS should continue to contribute when the education library was done away with it.

Academic Affairs Officer replied the subsidy has been reduced. He added the money given to McGill continues to be used, but the future funding will not be directed to new projects as of the cancelling of the library.

A Bouchard MLISSA, raised a point of information, asked if any members of library advisory committee come from MLISSA.

Academic Affairs Officer replied a one ‘Ann’ is on the committee. He is currently seeking more members from MLISSA but it is not codified; the appointments board will likely give preference to MLISSA members.

M Malcolm, EGSS, inquired about the level of awareness of this fund.

Academic Affairs Officer replied the committee has not done tons of publicity as they are still working to negotiate policies with the university. After this policy is approved, publicity will increase. He added the fund helps to support a wide range of library services that most PGSS members uses, including journals, study areas, and online services.

Chair called to question

Motion passed.

8:21 PM 5.5 Report on CFS legal case

Report on CFS legal case

CFS legal case report

Internal Affairs officer outlined the case. He explained the timeline of PGSS’s inclusion and attempt at leaving, including the legal avenues, and the CFS reply. He explained the CFS had failed to provide certain documentation to PGSS before holding the referendum, and failed to reply to countless attempts at contacting them or failed at doing so in a timely manner. He suggested this was a stall tactic. This officer went on to add that PGSS held a referendum under their bylaws, the CFS contested this. PGSS took this to court, as PGSS members overwhelmingly wished to leave. The CFS has since attempted to block the PGSS’s attempts at receiving legal authority to leave the group.

Certain pgss members have recently once again tried to run a petition in favour of leaving the CFS.
GESA, MMGESA, explained the delay involved in the court case and how, at present, PGSS members are still paying fees to a membership contingency fund. He and other members have recently submitted another request to leave the CFS. They are awaiting a reply from the organisation.

M Bouchard, MLISSA, suggested that members do a google search of the organisation. He inferred that the CFS has garnered a great deal of bad press due to complaints from members in trying to leave or engage.

Chair opened the floor to questions.

B Willes, BGSS, asked if having another petition serves any end.

Internal Affairs Officer replied that the CFS has two members, institutional and individual. This present petition is individual, the former was institutional.

J Pinto, GLSA, asked if we are currently paying fees to CFS, and said that this new petition is only a moral stance, and not a legal one.

Internal Affairs Officer replied that we are only paying into a PGSS managed contingency fund. These monies are held by PGSS and/or McGill.

K B-G, GASP, asked if anyone has successfully left the CFS.

Gesa, MGESA replied in the affirmative.

D Meadows, HGSS, asked how much the CFS has paid in court fees.

M Bouchard, MLISSA, replied that we do not know as the CFS does not post its financial information.

F Stohschein, NGSA, asked what is going to happen to our fees.

Internal Affairs Officer replied the monies are being held in the special projects fund.

Financial Affairs officer added the contingency fund is actually in several accounts.

Internal Affairs Officer went on to add that the previous referendum was rejected by the CFS as they did not view it as valid, however, he argued this is a stall tactic that PGSS contests.

B Sharif, PGSA-Physiology, asked how the money is billed

GeSa, MMGESA, replied that the money is billed to PGSS member accounts as something else, but held for the CFS.

Y Bresler, MGAPS, asked if the new petition would negate the previous one.

Pinto GLSA replied that a new referendum would duplicate the process, as the first is distinct from the second. The two would remain as distinct from each other from a legal perspective.

5.6 Sustainability Action Plan Implementation Report

Sustainability Action Plan Implementation Report

D Meadows, HGSS, presented the report and invited the council to raise questions.

M Quashie, EEGSS, asked about the implementation of this report.

G Lord, MEGA, explained that the majority of the report concerns PGSS staffers and the corporation (in terms of implementation). The implementation report is a detailed analysis of the process.
5.7 **Report of the Internal Affairs Officer**

This officer reminded the council to vote in the elections. He invited questions, none were posed.

5.8 **Report of MSO**

No questions, comments, or presented information.

5.9 **Report of the Financial Affairs Officer**

No questions, comments, or presented information.

5.10 **Report of the Secretary-General**

This officer informed council of the town hall event at McGill on November 18th at 4 PM, being held in Thomson House. During the event, McGill administration and community leaders will be present. The meeting will serve as an opportunity to provide input to administration and community leaders. All PGSS members are invited.

5.11 **Report of the Equity Commissioner**

A member of the committee stood in place of the commissioner. No questions, comments, or presented information.

5.12 **Report of the Member Support Commissioner**

Invited people to join the committees.
No other questions, comments, or presented information.

8:38 PM 5.13 Report of the Environment Commissioner

Report of the Environment Commissioner

This commissioner was not present. The Secretary-General stood in. No questions, comments, or presented information.

8:39 PM 5.14 Report of the Health Commissioner

Report of the Health Commissioner

No questions or comments.

This officer reminded members that the Health and Dental Survey is now online at ihaveaplan.ca/survey/pgss. It permits members to submit an evaluation of the plan. It is open to all pgss members.

6 Question Period

8:41 PM

Financial affairs officer asked the Member Services Officer of her wedding plans.

She replied they are going great, followed by a nonchalant shrug.

7 New Business

7.1 Motion to provide financial resources to the Association of Postdoctoral Fellows

8:51 PM

(Secretary-General)

WHEREAS the Association of Postdoctoral Fellows (APF) is a semi-autonomous association which frequently organizes events and activities targeted at and responding to the needs of postdoctoral fellows at McGill

WHEREAS the APF has no budget and must currently apply for a grant or special funding from the executive committee for each individual event or activity, which has led to delays and logistical challenges in planning events

WHEREAS postdoctoral fellows have specific needs and problems which neither the PGSS nor McGill is fully capable or responding to

WHEREAS providing easily accessible financial resources to the APF would enable it to better address the unique needs of postdoctoral fellows

BIRT a new budget line titled "Grant to Association of Postdoctoral Fellows" of $1500.00 under the category "services" be created, to be provided to to the APF following the signing of a contract between
the PGSS and APF designating the funds for the exclusive use of activities and events for postdoctoral fellows organized by the AFP

BIFRT the current budget line "Events" be accordingly reduced by $1500.00.

Secretary-General explained the motion. He added that postdocs are often excluded from affairs, and projects because of their precarious position as neither students, nor staff. This funding would permit the postdocs to have a steady budget - which they effectively already have; however, at present, all funding requires approval from the executive of PGSS, which is extremely pedantic. The proposed allocated budget comes with a contract that ensures that spending is appropriate. Thusly, this motion serves to reduce bureaucracy without increasing funding.

E Vincent, POSTDOC, motivated in favour. She listed past events, and their impressive popularity.

W Farrel, CEGSS, asked if, currently, does the PGSA levy fees.

Member Services Officer replied in the negative, saying that the money raised from the postdocs fees presently goes to the PGSA based on department, rather than on faculty. Because there are often so few postdocs in a given Faculty, the PGSA often cannot cater to postdocs. IN lieu, the Postdoc Fellow Association offers them services.

G Lord, MEGA, suggested that monies instead be divided based on the person, with the postdoc association receiving half and the departmental (Faculty, etc) PGSA receiving half.

Secretary-General replied, while this is a great idea, it requires too much time to process at the moment, and may exceed the amount needed at present. The 50-50 project is an excellent project for the future.

C Lee, ESGSS, asked how the postdocs are contacted.

E Vincent, POSTDOC, said that currently people are contacted by a postdoc specific email listserv.

Chair called motion to vote.

Motion passed.

7.2 Motion regarding PGSS policy toward anonymous exams at McGill

(Lorenzo Paul Raphael Daieff)

COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MOTION

WHEREAS the issue of anonymous grading has not been recently brought up at Council, and may benefit from some open discussion.

BIRT Council move into a âœcommittee-of-the-wholeâ for 10 minutes to discuss anonymous grading and the following motion.

MOTION TO DISCUSS

WHEREAS many if not most exams are not anonymous at McGill (in the sense that graders can see the name of the student they grade).

WHEREAS âœA series of studies in 1990s is generally considered to have demonstrated beyond reasonable doubt that bias in marking can occur for several reasonsâ The most significant reasons are preconceptions about gender or race and personal knowledge of the candidate.â (Manchester Metropolitan University, Learning and Teaching Unit: Anonymous Assessment of Coursework, 2007, p.1).

WHEREAS non-anonymous grading exposes graders and teaching assistants to accusations of bias, endangering their credibility and reputation.

WHEREAS exams are already anonymous at McGill’s Law Faculty.
WHEREAS the Association of Graduate Students Employed at McGill (AGSEM) voted to "strongly support" a move towards a system of anonymous exams.

BIRT PGSS strongly support in principle that McGill move towards a system of anonymous exams, in order to protect the rights and interests of both its grading members and the assessed students.

BIFRT Council mandate the executive committee to take the matter to McGill's senate and to report to Council in due time. L Daieff, MGAPSS, motivated in favour of the motion. He added that some undergraduate exams are anonymous, as are exams at other institutions. For graduates, this is not the case, which could lead to bias based on personal vendettas. Studies have demonstrated that knowledge of the name can bias the exam due to an ascribed status (e.g. ethnicity) or a personal relationship. He went on to say this would also protect TAs and graders, two groups which have recently passed a motion similar to this one.

G Dupuis, MGASS, inquired about coursework.

L Daieff, MGAPSS, replied it is presently only intended for exams, though this could be possible

J Pinto, GLSA, added this works well in the law faculty, where it is currently employed.

K White, SPOT-PGSS, inquired about the cost of this.

L Daieff, MGAPSS, replied there is not any data at the moment, but the changes would appear to have minimal start-up costs. He added the system would completely anonymous.

M Quashie, EEGSS, asked if this would affect non-written exams.

L Dieff, MGAPPS, replied this is only intended for discretionary exams, although, he does not see the need to limit it.

Chair proposed adding written to the motion (written exams).

C Li, ESGSS, asked if SSMU has been contacted.

L Dieff, MGAPSS, said they have not, but it is included in the motion

Call to question

Motion passed.

7.3 Motion regarding McGill Committee to Advise on Matters of Social Responsibility

9:13 PM

(Environment Commissioner)

Preamble: The McGill Committee to Advise on Matters of Social Responsibility (CAMSR) meets on an ad hoc basis to "receive and review expressions of concern from the University community on matters of social responsibility with respect to University investments.1 CAMSR âœreport[s] to the Board of Governors on the nature of the social issue or issues raised and the extent of the concern about the issue among members of the University community based on the documents presented and represented made to the Committeeâ. WHEREAS: CAMSR is currently undergoing a Terms of Reference review.

WHEREAS: The CAMSR Terms of Reference review is primarily inclusive to the committeeâ™s members and Board of Governors.

BIRT: PGSS encourages CAMSR to incorporate an open consultation process into the Terms of Reference review.

1. Committee to Advise on Matters of Social Responsibility (CAMSR)


Secretary-General proposed removing the motion.

Motion passed.

2:05 PM  **Adjourned**
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Attending

Executives:
Jonathan Mooney (Secretary-General), Erik Larson (Financial Affairs Officer), Navid Khosravi Hashemi (External Affairs Officer), Michael Krause (Internal Affairs Officer), Adam Bouchard (Academic Affairs Officer), Elizabeth Cawley (Member Services Officer).

Councilors:
C. Beard (ADAMS CLUB), N. Barshi (ADAMS CLUB), F. A. Lorrain (ADELFIES), S. Tabatabae (AHCS-GSA), K. Hamelin (BGSA), E. Pedersen (BGSA), Y. Chen (BGSS), B. Wiles (BGSS), A. Olanrewaju (BMESS), L. Bourdages (CAOS), W. Farrell (CEGSS), A. Kazarine (CGSS), J. Tremblay (CGSS), V. Reinharz (CSGS), M. Matos (DDSS), J. S. Rodriguez (DDSS), N. A. Delgado (DGSS), S. Mah (EBOSS), S. Bhatnagar (EGSS), M. Quashie (EGSS), Z. L. Liu (EGSS), A. Slobogian (EGSA-English), M. Malcolm (EGSS), Y. S. Huang (EGSS), C. Turnbull (EGSS), M. Accardi (GAPTS), L. Nikolajev (GAPTS), J. Irwin (HCGSA), G. Shapiro (GASP), N. Hope (GASP), R. D. Debrose (GASP), L. Ribaudo (GGS), J. C. Pinto (GLSA), A. Mullick (GRSS), J. Ouellet (GSAN), M. Cressati (GSAN), A. Fernandez (GSAN), J. Marton (HGSS), M. Akpa (HGSS), K. Reimer (GSAMS), A. Best (GSAMS), M. Mitzel (MGSS), L. Sutherland (MGSS), D. Wray (MGCS), A. Waglay (MGCS), P. Zanet (MGCS), A. M. Shah (MGSS), L. Daieff (MGAPSS), G. Dupuis (MGAPSS), B. Schmidt (MGAPSS), K. Lawson (MGSS), T. Wiffong (MGSS), S. Thomson (MGSS), N. Otis (MGSSA-Sociology), A. Chen (EASPGSA), S. Burugu (MIGSA), L. Cohen (MILSSA), D. Phung (MMGA), M. C. Noel (MMGESA), J. Templeton (MMGESA), F. Strohschein (NGSA), B. Sharif (PGSA-Physiology), E. Yung (PGSA-Psychiatry), K. White (SPOTGSA), K. Race (SPOTGSA), A. Blumenthal (SWAGS), M. M. Chaineu (Postdoctoral Studies), E. Vincent (Postdoctoral Studies), Y. Nazarenko (Postdoctoral Studies).

Commissioners and Non-Voting Members:
M. Akpa (Equity Commissioner), V. Bhosle (Member Support Commissioner), A. Winegardner (Environment Commissioner), E. Yung (Health Commissioner), C. Briggs (Chief Returning Officer), C. Liu (Recording Secretary).

Guests:
Jonathan Karpetz (AHCS-GSA), Gretchen King (AHCS-GSA), David Murray (EASPGSA), Emma Windfeld (McGill Tribune), Lilith Wyatt (MOSS), Antoine Soulé (CSGS), Christopher Manfredi (Dean-Faculty of Arts), Chitra Narayanan (McGill Writing Centre).

6:37 PM Call to order

6:37 PM 1 Approval of the agenda

Motion to amend agenda

Move item 8 to item 1. Motion regarding support staff relocation under “Business Arising” will be discussed.

Agenda Approved.
2 Speaker’s report

Chair (Rachel Simmons) introduced herself.

3 Floor Items

3.1 Announcements

Member Services Officer offered free items provided by Healthy McGill.

3.2 Final Announcement

Secretary-General informed council about vacancy on the PGSS board of directors for a counsellor.

4 Announcements

4.1 Committee Recruitment

There are vacancies to fill - The Appointments Board is looking to Councillors to represent PGSS on:
Council on Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
Committee for Member Support
CAPS - Graduate Career Services Advisory Board
Advisory Committee on Alcohol Policy
There are more, but this would be a great start.

Academic Affairs Officer asked for volunteers for two positions:
1. Advisory Committee for CAPS
2. Sub-Committee of Academic Policy Committee for professional programs (recruiting people from departments of MBA, Master of Architecture, PhD in Biochemistry, Master of Arts in Counselling Psychology, Master of Science in Occupational Therapy, Master of Science for Nurse Practitioner, Master of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders, Master of Sciences in Physical Therapy, PhD in Clinical Psychology or Child Psychology, Master of Social Work, and Master of Urban Planning.

Man in the back and reluctant girl were recruited. Interested candidates can sign up later.

4.2 Budget Update

Society figures up to November 2013

Financial Affairs Officer discussed main points in annual budget. Revenues from member fees were slightly above projected amount and society related revenues were at expected value. Financial Affairs
Officer predicted that budget will have surpassed revenue figures by the end of the year and that the advertising revenue from the online handbook will also bring in extra revenue for next year. Expenses so far are on track with expected expenses value. Remarks were also made about the Special Projects Fund with regards to the CFS court case expenses. Legal fees amounted to $50,000 out of the total $80,000 in expenses. This resulted in putting on hold plans to upgrade Thomson House with new windows, air conditioning units, improvements to make it more sustainable.

Member Services Officer inquired about changes to leisure courses.

Financial Affairs Officer responded that Meditation Hour would be incorporated into the leisure courses offered.

K. Bouayad-Gervais (GASP) inquired about the reason why the audit fees were higher than budgeted.

Financial Affairs Officer responded that when Deloitte conducted their audit, they had many requests for clarification, which resulted in them having to spend more time working on the file. PGSS will be looking into finding a medium sized firm to increase efficiency and reduce costs for next year’s audit.

K. Bouayad-Gervais (GASP), also asked about reason behind high expenses in cost of goods sold for Thomson House food and beverage.

Financial Affairs Officer replied that in reality only 50% of the expected cost of goods sold and stated that it is an internal accounting error that needs to be corrected. He also pointed out that our COGS this year was slightly higher than projected.

K. Bouayad-Gervais (GASP), inquired about McGill’s high bad debt fee.

Financial Affairs Officer responded that it is actually lower than expected and that McGill did collected as much as projected.

6:51 PM 4.3 Update on Sustainability Projects Fund

A 5 minute presentation by Lilith Wyatt on the SPF for purposes of transparency, accountability, and visibility.

Sustainability Officer from McGill’s offices of sustainability introduced herself. She explained about sustainability and role of the SPF at McGill: it is designed as a support structure and is a mandate for culture change. She also highlighted that we are currently 45% through the timeline and raised possibilities for graduate student involvement and can be contacted via lilith.wyatt@mcgill.ca for questions.

6:57 PM 5 Approval of the minutes

4.1 September minutes 2013

Approved, no abstentions/opposed

4.2 October minutes 2013

Approved, no abstentions/opposed

4.3 November minutes 2013

Approved, no abstentions/opposed
6 New Business

6.1 Motion Regarding Support Staff Relocation

Whereas last spring, Dean of Arts Christopher Manfredi announced the People, Processes & Partnerships plan to amalgamate academic support staff in Leacock;

Whereas there is a worrying lack of evidence presented to stakeholders to suggest the viability of this plan, whether in terms of documented cost-savings, demonstrable efficiencies, or student, staff, and faculty satisfaction with such arrangements at universities comparable to McGill;

Whereas at a town hall meeting on the subject in March faculty, students and staff expressed strong opposition to this plan;

Whereas a petition initiated by the departments of Anthropology and History & Classical Studies raised over 200 signatures protesting the proposed restructuring;

Whereas the Faculty of Arts meeting in April passed a motion against the clustering of support staff and their removal from departments;

Whereas in spite of this negative feedback, the Leacock consolidation is moving ahead and other restructuring efforts are planned in Ferrier for May 2014 and in total the departments of Economics, Political Science, Philosophy, Anthropology, Sociology, History and Classical Studies, Jewish Studies, Art History and Communication Studies, Département de langue et littérature françaises, English, French Language Centre, Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, East Asian Studies, and Islamic Studies all stand to be affected by such measures.

Whereas the precedent set here, moreover, may soon spread across faculties and affect all of McGill;

BIRT the PGSS take action before December 14th and again at the beginning of Winter Semester to inform PGSS members about this issue (using all means: e-newsletter, info screens, website, etc.) and encourage their participation in the Town Hall on Tuesday, January 14th (5:35pm in Arts W-215);

BIFRT the PGSS send a letter of concern about the restructuring by December 14th to Dean of Arts.

Motion Regarding Support Staff Relocation

5.1 Dean Manfredi

Motion to grant Dean Manfredi speaking rights.

G. King (ACHS-GSA), raised point of order:

1. Permission to discuss motion without Dean’s presence. Chair granted request.

2. Asked Dean to be available for questions on set of the debate but be excused from the room during debate. Request was granted.

Motion carried.

8.2 Motion Regarding Support Staff Relocation

G. King (AHCS-GSA) motioned to request PGSS to alert members and write a letter to administration addressing the concerns of students towards this plan.

Secretary-General requested Dean to explain the action that has been taken to respond to the concerns raised about this issue.

C. Manfredi (Dean-Faculty of Arts), explained background of project and the need to come up with a solution to deal with current and future losses of support staff. He also addressed the details of the voluntary retirement plan that McGill has implemented to deal with the Quebec budget cuts for university
and its impact on the support staff. Different options to the problem were explained and re-matching of positions were to be expected.

Environment Commissioner asked for a clearer explanation clarifying what has been done to address the negative view and concerns of staff and students on this issue.

C. Manfredi (Dean-Faculty of Arts), explained that the letter published in the McGill Daily dealt with an already abandoned plan and that administration is currently working to come up with a better solution.

A. Chen (EASPGSA) inquired whether the Dean has a solution to better understand the concerns of staff and students about departmental moves, the grievances that were not addressed, and the lack of accessible graduate student base.

C. Manfredi (Dean-Faculty of Arts) expected departments to keep departments to keep students informed and to write to address their concerns. He also raised the issue of the possibility of an underused graduate student base.

S. Tabatabae (AHCS-GSA) addressed concerns about moving regarding staff support and wanted more details of the cost.

C. Manfredi (Dean-Faculty of Arts), gave a breakdown of the cost and informed about online disclosure of this information.

L. Daieff (MGAPSS), inquired about different views and opinions on this plan and future discussions about final details of the move.

C. Manfredi (Dean-Faculty of Arts), expressed that there are positive impacts but disruptions are inevitable.

G. Shapiro (GASP), inquired about reasons why there are three departments excluded from the plan.

C. Manfredi (Dean-Faculty of Arts) explained that there practical concerns where Linguistics, Social Work, and Islamic Studies are geographically isolated.

Secretary-General questioned about allocation and impact of the 8% government increase in university budgets.

C. Manfredi (Dean-Faculty of Arts), explained possible uses of the increased dollars in the budget, while stating that a more robust system is needed to be able to sustain the external shock.

5.3 Motion for Dean to leave meeting

Motion approved.

G. King (AHCS-GSA), noted the lack of knowledge of the student body about the PPP and raised concerns about the unanswered question about specific costs. She is concerned about the rush of this plan without proper consultation.

A. Slobogian (EGSA-English), emphasized that the complaints were indeed addressed towards the new plan issued and expressed on behalf of EGSA English department that they were not in favour of details of the new plan.

Chair called for vote on motion.

Motion carried.

8:09 PM 6.2 Ratification of Appointments Board Reccomendations

BIRT GeSa be ratified as a PGSS representative to the Appeal Committee for Student Grievances and Discipline
Academic Affairs Officer moved to amend the motion as to set Vikrant (Member Support Commissioner) and Ge Sa as third members of the committee

Chair called the amendment to vote.

Amendment passed

W. Farrell (CEGSS), explains bylaws of filing appeals and changes needed to increase clarity.

L. Daieff (MGAPSS), questioned concern about complications in bylaws hinders the appeal process

W. Farrell (CEGSS), responded appeal would not be initiated until information is fully gathered and that more information allows for concerns to be properly addressed.

Chief Returning Officer asked appeals board whether it is expected PSAC will send the claim as it is or whether modifications would be made. Response is that PSAC is welcomed to modify the proposal.

K. Bouayad-Gervais asked about how many days are allowed before appeal a decision.

Response was that it is dependent on the department. Sometimes there is no time limit.

B. Wiles (BGSS) supported motion but does not support including these action as best practices. Motion to amend remove best practices clause.

Chair calls to vote on amendment.

Amendment approved.

Chair calls to vote on motion.

Motion Passed with revision

8:14 PM 6.3 Motion Regarding Appeals Board Notification

Moved by: William Farrell

Seconded by: Juan Pinto

WHEREAS it is in the best interest of the Society for the Appeals Board to hear cases in a timely and thorough manner.

WHEREAS it often takes a number of days of correspondence to secure statements and documents from the relevant parties.

BIRT Council directs PSAC to incorporate the following changes into the SAM in the appropriate sections:

- The notice of appeal must include a written statement from the petitioner detailing the specific reasons for the appeal including but not limited to the ways in which the responsible committee is believed to have erred and any pertinent clauses in the governing documents which are believed to have been broken.

- The prospective appellant shall be made aware of this procedure at the time he or she is made aware of his or her right to appeal.

- Upon notice of appeal, the chair of the committee that rendered the decision in question shall also be duly notified and shall supply a statement detailing the justification of their decision along with all relevant documentation within 24 hours of the notice. Documents should include all correspondence with the appellant, a written statement describing the reasons for their decision and the bylaws upon which they are based, as well as any other pertinent information.

BIFRTPSACdrafttheseproposedchangesandreturnthemtoCouncilnolaterthantheFebruarymeeting.

BIFRT in the time before the possible inclusion of these changes into the bylaws, Council recommend this procedure to the PGSS Office as a set of non-binding best practices when notified of an Appeal.
W. Farrell (CEGSS), explains bylaws of filing appeals and changes needed to increase clarity. L. Daieff (MGAPSS), questioned concern about complications in bylaws hinders the appeal process W. Farrell (CEGSS), responded appeal would not be initiated until information is fully gathered and that more information allows for concerns to be properly addressed. Chief Returning Officer asked appeals board whether it is expected PSAC will send the claim as it is or whether modifications would be made. Response is that PSAC is welcomed to modify the proposal. K. Bouayad-Gervais asked about how many days are allowed before appeal a decision. Response was that it is dependent on the department. Sometimes there is no time limit. B. Wiles (BGSS) supported motion but does not support including these action as best practices. Motion to amend remove best practices clause. Chair calls to vote on amendment. Amendment approved. Chair calls to vote on motion. Motion Passed with revision

6.4 Motion regarding McGill Committee to Advise on Matters of Social Responsibility

(8:27 PM)

(Enviroirnment Commissioner)

Preamble: The McGill Committee to Advise on Matters of Social Responsibility (CAMSR) meets on an ad hoc basis to “receive and review expressions of concern from the University community on matters of social responsibility with respect to University investments”.1 CAMSR “report[s] to the Board of Governors on the nature of the social issue or issues raised and the extent of the concern about the issue among members of the University community based on the documents presented and represented made to the Committee”.

WHEREAS: PGSS passed a motion at the 2013 AGM to “lobby McGill University to divest its holdings in companies engaged in fossil fuel production”.2

WHEREAS: CAMSR is currently undergoing a Terms of Reference review.

WHEREAS: The CAMSR Terms of Reference review is primarily inclusive to the committee’s members and Board of Governors.

BIRT: PGSS encourages CAMSR to incorporate an open consultation process into the Terms of Reference review.

1. Committee to Advise on Matters of Social Responsibility (CAMSR)


Environment commissioner explained the need for consultation on matters of social responsibility and the importance of the PGSS passing a motion to have consultation for people outside the McGill community. Secretary-General raised questions about who to consult with about this consultation.

Environment Commissioner suggested any major student societies should be included as well as anyone who is interested in these matters.

Chairs calls to vote on motion.

Motion Passed.
6.5 Motion to Remove Member Services Committee from Society Activities Manual (second reading)

8:31 PM

(Member Services Officer)

Background:

In 2012 the position of Member Services Officer (MSO) was created so that a position on the PGSS Executive existed to increase the level of service offered by the PGSS as well as advocate for improved services at the University level. In addition to the Executive position a committee was written into the Society Activities Manual to be chaired by the MSO and to have a representative from all relevant service areas of PGSS and the Student Services.

Preamble:

Whereas the Member Services Committee is unusually large, and in practice could include over 30 members and,

Whereas the diverse range of members and the unique nature of each Student Service unit and PGSS service would make it impossible develop one cohesive services strategy and

Whereas the objectives of the Member Services Committee are/can be adequately or superiorly addressed by existing PGSS committees (e.g. the PGSS grants program by the Committee on Monetary Affairs)

Action:

BIRT the Society Activities Manual Chapter 5: Committees of Council Section 4: Member Services Committee (MSC) be removed.

BIFRT the Grants Program be removed from the purview of the Member Services Committee and fall under the duties of the Committee on Monetary Affairs and Chapter 5: Committees of Council Section 7: Committee on Monetary Affairs (CMA) be amended to include “1.1.3. Administer the Grants Program including production of a monthly report to Council of funded grants, applications received, grants awarded, and applications rejected or delayed following procedures described in this Manual.”

Section 7: Committee on Monetary Affairs (CMA)

1. Purpose

1.1. The Committee on Monetary affairs shall:

1.1.1. Consider and make recommendations to the relevant governing bodies on all financial aspects of the operation and administration of the PGSS, including but not limited to PGSS budgets, administration of all funds and programs financed from them, corporate and business activities, and all fees levied by the University on behalf of the PGSS;

1.1.2. Be responsible for helping the Finance Affairs Officer prepare all necessary
financial documents, analyses, and budget.

1.1.3 Administer the Grants Program including production of a monthly report to Council of funded grants, applications received, grants awarded, and applications rejected or delayed following procedures described in this Manual.

Chairs called for voting on motion.

Motion carried with 2/3 majority.

8:33 PM 6.6 Motion Regarding Duties of the Health Commissioner (second reading)

(Member Services Officer)

Background:

In 2012 the position of Member Services Officer (MSO) was created so that a position on the PGSS Executive existed to increase the level of service offered by the PGSS as well as advocate for improved services at the University level. A key component of the MSO portfolio is the relationship with our insurance broker and maintenance of the Health and Dental Insurance Plan, a task previously under the VP Finance portfolio.

Preamble:

Whereas a key component of the Member Services Officer is the maintenance and management of the Health and Dental Insurance Plan in addition to the management of services at PGSS and advocate for Services at McGill University, and

Whereas previously the Health Commissioner was significantly involved in the Health and Dental Insurance Plan because of an obvious disconnect between the VP Finance and the health needs of the student population

Whereas this disconnect has been rectified with the creation of the Member Services Officer

Whereas the Health Commissioner, given the limited hours that should be worked by commissioners, should not be occupied by addressing questions and concerns better addressed elsewhere and whereas the Executive would like this position and the Health and Wellness Committee to focus on Health and Wellness events, advocacy and outreach,

BIRT the Society Activities Manual Section 2: Commissioners Section 4: Health Commissioner be amended to remove 1.1.3. Assist the Executive Committee in negotiating health, dental, and vision insurance plans for the Society to offer its members,

Section 4: Health Commissioner

1. Duties of the Health Commissioner.

1.1. The Health Commissioner shall:

1.1.1. Be the Health and Wellness Committee’s direct liaison to the Executive Committee;
1.1.2. Represent the PGSS' interests in all health and wellness issues on campus;
1.1.3. Assist the Executive Committee in negotiating health, dental, and vision
insurance plans for the Society to offer its members;
1.1.4. Under the direction of the Member Services Officer, ensure that the PGSS is
represented on University committees, subcommittees, and workgroups
whose mandate includes health or wellness issues, including but not limited to the Committee
for Student Services, the Health Services Advisory Committee, the Mental Health Services
Advisory Board, and the Advisory Committee.
BIFRT the Society Activities Manual Section 4: Committees of Council Section 12: Health and
Wellness Committee (HAWC) 1.1.4 be amended to read “Advise and make
recommendations to the Member Services Officer on the state of the PGSS Health and
Dental Insurance Plan”
Section 12: Health and Wellness Committee (HAWC)
1. Purpose
1.1. The Health and Wellness Committee shall:
1.1.1. Survey, assess, monitor and work towards improving the health and wellness
of the PGSS community;
1.1.2. Be responsible for the education and promotion of health and wellness issues;
1.1.3. Collaborate with other health and/or wellness groups;
1.1.4. Advise and make recommendations to (Council) the Member Services Officer on the state of the PGSS Health and Dental Insurance Plan;
1.1.5. Make recommendations to Council on any health related matters.
Member services officer explain the just of this motion would transfer some duties of the health commis-
sioner to the executives.
Chair called to vote on motion.
Motion carried.
Motion Passed.

6.7 Motion Regarding Duties of the Environment Commissioner (second reading)

8:33 PM

(Environment Commissioner)
Acronyms:
PEC = PGSS Environment Committee
WHEREAS the current role and actions of PEC are not in line with the purpose and duties outlined in
Chapter 2 Section 3 of the PGSS Society Affairs Manual;
WHEREAS Chapter 5 Section 11.2.3 is written in a confusing manner such that it is not clear whether it is referencing two specific committees or the type of committee that PEC should appoint representatives to;

WHEREAS the Subcommittee on the Environment referenced in Chapter 2 Section 3 1.1.5 was dissolved in Fall 2011;

BIRT Chapter 2 Section 3 of the Society Affairs Manual be amended to read:

Section 3: Environment Commissioner

1. Duties of the Environment Commissioner
1.1 The Environment Commissioner shall:

1.1.1 Be the Environment Committee’s direct liaison to the Executive Committee;
1.1.2 Represent the PGSS’ interests in all environmental issues on campus;
1.1.3 Monitor the implementation and success of the PGSS’ policies with respect to environmental concerns;
1.1.4 Be the liaison with the SSMU Environment Commissioners;
1.1.5 Represent the PGSS on the Sustainability Coordinating Group;
1.1.6 Under the direction of the Member Services Officer, ensure that the PGSS is represented on University committees, subcommittees and work groups whose mandate includes environmental issues.

Chair asked to vote on motion.

Motion carried

8:34 PM

6.8 Motion Regarding Duties of the Environment Committee (second reading)

whereas the current role and actions of the PGSS Environment Committee (PEC) are not in line with the purpose and duties outlined in Chapter 5 Section 11 of the PGSS Society Affairs Manual;

WHEREAS the role of PEC has grown and this committee has been given additional responsibilities over the past year such as maintaining the Thomson House permaculture and vegetable gardens and organizing the Green Drinks Montreal Chapter events;

WHEREAS the added responsibility outlined above has had a positive impact by allowing more opportunities for PGSS member engagement and education through events and workshops;

WHEREAS the composition of PEC outlined in Chapter 5 Section 11.2 has too few positions to be able to complete the tasks being undertaken; currently there are two volunteers other than the regular members sitting in on committee meetings, participating in event planning and execution;

WHEREAS the PGSS Society Affairs Manual should reflect the updated role of PEC;

WHEREAS the role of PEC should explicitly include providing advice to the PGSS on environment related issues;

BIRT Chapter 5 Section 11 of the Society Affairs Manual be amended to read:

(Enviro

Environment Commissioner)
Section 11: PGSS Environment Committee (PEC)

1. Purpose

1.1. The PGSS Environment Committee shall:

1.1.1. Assess, monitor and make recommendations for the improvement of the PGSS’ operations in relation to the environment;

1.1.2. Elicit opinions of PGSS members on the environment;

1.1.3. Collaborate with other environmental groups and offices;

1.1.4. Be responsible for the education of PGSS members on environmental issues;

1.1.5. Make recommendations to the PGSS on environmentally related matters.

2. Composition

2.1. The Environment Commissioner (chair);

2.2. Five (5) at-large regular members of the PGSS;

2.3. All society representatives to:

2.1.1. The Senate Committee on Physical Development (SCPD);

2.1.2. The Sustainability Projects Fund (SPF).

Chair called the motion to a vote.

Motion carried.

7 Reports

7.1 External Affairs Officer report December 2013

Reported the highlights of the FEUQ Congress held by Thomson Town Hall Meeting last month pertaining to the Quebec Charter of Values. PGSS is still awaiting on what FEUQ members’ stance on the issue is. There was also an approval of the study on Insurance and Health Services Cost for International Students. He also noted the removal of many regulations for referendums to join and leave FEUQ to allow for easiness and ensuring democracy and fairness of future referendums. The FEUQ Board of Directors decided to send experienced members to hold another referendum to ensure fairness. He also gave thanks to those who joined the protest in Ottawa which would be further discussed by Secretary-General. No questions.
7:42 PM  7.2 December report from Financial Affairs Officer

December report from Financial Affairs Officer

No questions or comments.

7:42 PM  7.3 December Report from Academic Affairs Officer

December Report from Academic Affairs Officer

No questions or comments.

7:42 PM  7.4 December report from Member Services Officer

December report from Member Service Officer

No questions or comments.

7:43 PM  7.5 Report of the Secretary-General

Report of the Secretary-General

Addressed good news with regards to concerns about flexibility and autonomy given to PGSA about finances and that flexibility is expected to be granted next year in January. He also expanded participation of PGSS members in the protest at the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students and the positive outcome of that.

W. Farrell (CEGSS), commented about the petition sent to create pressure on CFS. He was not happy with the delayed and messy response.

F. Strohschein (NGSA), inquired whether autonomy of PGSA is mandatory or does it simply open up more options.

Secretary-General responded that this change allows PGSA the liberty to do own their events. Current services offered will still be retained.

7:49 PM  7.6 Health Commissioner Report December 2013

Health Commissioner Report December 2013

Informed about PGSS mental health policy and contact information at health.pgss.mcgill.ca. No questions or comments.

7:49 PM  7.7 Report of the Member Support Commissioner

Report of the Member Support Commissioner

No questions or comments.
7:49 PM 7.8 Report of the environment commissioner

Report of the environment commissioner

No questions or comments.

7:49 PM 7.9 Report of the Policy and Structure Advisory Committee: revised draft PGSS harassment policy

Policy and Structure Advisory Committee: revised draft PGSS harassment policy

G King (AHCS-GSA), inquired about concerns with regards to appeal process. Response was that this was the first time an appeals process has been brought up and it is an extensive process. She also expressed concerns about not keeping complaint records on file and the issue of faculty in HCC members.

Secretary-General responded that the legal reason by this is to eliminate bias. He also explained the conflict of interest policy that outlines the two faculties and will consult legal counsel.

G King (AHCS-GSA) also inquires whether member code of conduct binds people in PGSS only or around campus? Recommended striking that clause two and suggested adding PGSS shall respect laws and does not restrict freedom of speech. She also noted discrimination is not mentioned anywhere.

Secretary-General responded that this could go outside the realm of PGSS’s control and will bring these concerns through the legal counsel.

J. Pinto (GLSA), questioned about appeal committee the review claims under code of conduct. He suggested that not storing the complaints or make them open to the public due to legal complications.

C. Turnbull (EGSS), Noted typing error and questioned why HCC cannot take actions themselves.

Secretary-General responds that there is a provision that already exist that talks about who has access to Thomson House and the board must not accept recommendations as they retain ultimate liability.

W. Farrell (CEGSS) asked about relationship between the board and HCC on the confidentiality of names.

Secretary-General responded confidentiality is included in the process of fiduciary responsibility.

Secretary-General. clause 2 - clarify does not restrict people freedom of speech.

recommended by legal council, do not want complaints on record due to bias issues.

if someone attempts mediation, they shouldn’t be part of committee because again, bias.

difficult to conflict of interest, run through legal council

8:04 PM 8 Question Period

T. Wilthong (MGSS), asked who is writing a letter with regards to the support staff.

Secretary-General responded that Executive committee drafts it.

G. Dupuis (MGAPS), inquired about the next steps of the CFS issue.

Secretary-General responded that a vote would be scheduled as to whether students want to remain in CFS or not.
T. Wilthrong (MGSS), asked about update about anonymous exams at McGill and effects on the Music Graduate Counsel.

Academic Affairs Officer and Secretary-General responded that the phrasing should be blind grading and not anonymous grading, which is specifically applied to written exams, makes it difficult to apply to certain situations when grading music exams.

8:37 PM  **Adjourned**
2014-01-15 - Minutes - January 15th Council Meeting -
Approved

Published: May 7, 2014

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   7.1 Applications

Post Graduate Students Society of McGill University
3650 McTavish Street, Montreal, Quebec
6:35 PM  Call to order

6:36 PM  Speaker’s report

Approval of the Agenda:

Environment Commissioner presented an amendment to add in Environment Commissioner Report to the Agenda.

Speaker proposed to add report to a newly created section 6.85.

Speaker called Agenda to a vote.

Agenda Approved.

Speaker’s Report:

Chair announced that picture day would take place during the next council meeting and advised everyone to look beautiful and dashing to avoid judgement from others. This would take place promptly at 6PM at the lobby.

2  Approval of the minutes

Announcements:

Member Services Officer reminded Council members about the Winter 2014 Activities brochure and advised everyone to take a poster to help promote the event.

Internal Affairs Officer announced that there would be a Porto tasting event on Friday, January 17 at the bar with a live band playing acoustic rock songs.

Chief Returning Officer reminded Council members about the nomination period for the executive elections and the referendum process and notified everyone about the procedure where nomination forms were to be submitted to him one week before the elections. An information session would also be held on Tuesday, January 21 where smoked salmon would be served.

Presentation by the Provost:
Professor Anthony C. Masi introduced himself as the provost of McGill University and thanked Council members for giving him the opportunity to discuss issues regarding the university’s perspectives on both the budget and the mission of the university and called for questions.

L. Daieff (MGAPSS) asked about the progress of the motion passed two council meetings ago regarding blind grading.

Professor Masi replied that this motion was referred by Senate Steering to the Academic Policy Committee where it was not favorably received because, although it made sense in some units where it had been employed, as a university-wide practice, it would be difficult to implement and it was not clear that it was based on sound pedagogical or assessment research. He added that in general, blind grading was not a practical solution to the problem of bias. More detailed notes would be provided in a report of the Academic Policy Committee that will be sent to Senate for information.

Secretary-General requested the Provost's thoughts, as the chief academic officer after the Principal, regarding the initiatives undertaken by the PGSS with the Dean of Graduate Studies and the series of recommendations concerning graduate student supervision.

Professor Masi emphasized that supervision of graduate students at McGill was a great concern. There had been progress in attempts to improve the relationship between professors and graduate students, which included a new webpage on supervision available to faculty members. This would be developed as a new skill set that would be introduced to current and new professors hired.

Financial Affairs Officer asked about the long term outlook for government reinvestment in universities and post-secondary education.

Professor Masi mentioned that he and McGill had been criticized for taking budget cuts seriously. He pointed out that there had been a $57 million loss in revenue over two years. The Quebec government announced that the reinvestment appears to be just a reinstatement of the cut with additional constraints. Around 20 million dollars in cuts would be added back into the university’s budget but there would be restrictions on spending. Most funds would be focused on undergraduates while a small fraction would probably be spent towards research for graduate students. He states that an 8% reinvestment is not realistic, and that it appears as if it would be closer to the 5.2% cut in the first place. The budget for the 2014-2015 fiscal year would be similar to the budget during 2011-2012 year. Tuition increases have also not been reinstated, which accounts for an additional loss. However, McGill now has the obligation to pay deficits.

Member Services Officer asked about student services at McGill, since over the past couple of years, students have been asked to pay for overhead and building maintenance at the Brown Building and the Maclean's ratings have ranked McGill as one of the lowest on the list of universities that make contributions to student services.

Professor Masi replied that Quebec had restricted tuition fees and the ability of universities to contract directly for additional services from students. All student services fees are subject to referenda and it is important for students to have clear expectations regarding the services they want and which could be cut in order to meet the essential needs of students. He explained that the university has a deficit and could not continue subsidizing everything. The commitment this year was to fund an additional position on coordination related to sexual abuse and assaults and that mental health issues are addressed. McGill also places an emphasis on student aid that benefits graduate students rather than student services.

B. Sharif (PGSA-Physiology) asked about the possibility of investment in order to make music classes more available to graduate students in other disciplines.

Professor Masi replied that the music faculty is an extremely expensive one to fund, and that students in the performance programs levied on themselves an additional fee to pay for the additional private performance based lessons associated with their program. To make this possible, additional charges would apply, and that funding would need to be implemented which would mean cutting in other areas. Finding a donor to
fund it may also be an option. There could be a further discussion about this matter between the Dean of Music and interested students to explore fundraising.

B. Sharif (PGSA-Physiology) pointed out that even if a student wanted to pay the additional fees, there’s no means for a student outside that faculty to register for music classes. Professor Masi replied that he could look in to why there was a limit placed on registration.

M. Bouchard (MLISSA) asked about the future of libraries at McGill over the next five years.

Professor Masi replied that because of the changing nature of libraries over the years and the cost involved in maintaining them, it’s likely that library collections would continue to decrease. Law students have also issued complaints about "snails" (students who are not part of the faculty) and that library has made efforts to limit access to law students only during exams. Libraries are used more now as study spaces, students are borrowing items less frequently, but students still need access to resources. More money has been spent on licensing for electronic access of books online. Open browsing could be expected to not be available within the next 10 years and study spaces would also be increased in the future. The number of librarians has increased while shelving staff and lower level technical support have decreased. Any additional money would not be put in to peripheral libraries, but a repository type library would be the emphasis in the future.

Financial Affairs Officer asked if the PGSS bursary would continue to be matched by the university in the future.

Professor Masi replied that if one of the conditions imposed by the government for financing matching the bursary, they would do so. The university could not make a commitment to match the fund due to loss of cash flow over the last two years. However, once the funds permit, McGill would be interested in reinvesting in that department.

Secretary-General asked about how students’ interests could be best represented during the budgeting process.

Professor Masi answered that the best way for graduate students to express their concerns is with the Dean of Graduate Studies so that they could be addressed during budget meetings. He also reminded Council members that despite the struggles the university is facing with funding, it is still a university that performs extremely well and has a good student-centered reputation.

M. Bouchard (MLISSA) asked about the challenge of graduate students in finding office space.

Professor Masi said that the key to increasing office space would be to have professors and departments better understand the importance of scheduling classes, mainly at the undergraduate level. The government is convinced that McGill has too many classes and therefore less space dedicate to research and graduate students. The government has a 50% rule when scheduling courses: if less than 70% of the seats filled 70% of the time from 8:30am to 5:30pm, then it is considered excess space. Essentially, more efficient scheduling would be the key. The government prediction is that we would be lacking 500,000 sq ft of academic space in the next 5 years.

Professor Masi continued with presentation of the Provost.

McGill has continued to hold a high standing in its university rankings and maintained its international diversity. He explained his role in the university, to which some referred to as the ("Dean of Deans"). He further talked about the financial situation of McGill and that we were currently down 300 positions in staff. He suggested that we make conscious choices in our operation and workforce planning. We further needed to undertake more deficit in our budget. Hence, right now there would be more restrictions in our budget allocation. Objectives for the future include new directions in hiring, innovative delivery of education, focusing on strengths in graduate programs, increasing career opportunities, providing services and being diverse. The edX partnership also showed how massive online courses have changed the approaches of professors’ teaching ways. Upgrading technology and training would need to be implemented. Course evaluation policy projects should be an interesting subject for graduate students.
3 Floor Items

7:34 PM 3.1 Business Arising

There were no new business items to be discussed.


7:41 PM

Financial Affairs Officer January Report:
K. Bouayad-Gervais (GASP) asked for clarification on the Ubriety Project.
Financial Affairs Officer explained that the Ubriety project is the website development project for PGSS. Online registration was introduced this year. This has been and will be an ongoing project and further implementation of new features would be added to the PGSS website, including the governance module.

External Affairs Officer Report January 2014:
Not present. No questions or comments.

7:46 PM 3.3 Environment Commissioner January 2014

Environment Commissioner added that she is now the PGSS representative for the university committee, the Cycling Working Group, where they will be studying cycling on the lower downtown campus. Any comments, concerns or questions can be emailed to cycling@mcgill.ca. She also announced that there would be an event held by McGill Net Positive on Friday, January 24 from 3-4pm in Bronfman 151 about re-imagining space on campus as it relates to sustainability and green building.

No questions or comments.

7:49 PM 3.4 Member Support Commissioner Report 2014

Member Support Commissioner report was missing from the Agenda.
No comments or questions.

8:01 PM 3.5 Report of the Appeals Board

No questions or comments.

4 Reports

7:36 PM 4.1 Report of the Internal Affairs Officer / Report of the Academic Affairs Officer

Report-PDF

Report of the Internal Affairs Officer
R. Debrosse (GASP) asked about the space meetings.

Internal Affairs Officer responded David Syncox and the Academic Affairs Officer were present and that it was a fruitful meeting where they discussed plans to adjust the use of space resulting from technological transitions.

Report of the Academic Affairs Officer

No questions or comments.

4.2 Report: Apprendre le francophone

Report of the Appeals Board

Report of the Governance Committee

Chair moved item 6.3 to section 8.1(b) after Secretary-General forgot to motion to amend the agenda.

Report - Apprendre le francophone

4.3 Member Services Officer January Report

Member Services Officer January Report

Member Services Officer Report:

No questions or comments.

Member Services Officer clarified a statement made by the the Provost: "If you want more services, you would have to vote for it in a referendum." However, when student services fees are increased, the revenue sometimes goes towards overhead costs such as human resources and building maintenance. Hence, be informed about where the money will actually be spent and vote wisely.

4.4 Report of the Secretary-General

Report of the Secretary-General

Secretary-General announced that there was good progress being made with the Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning) with the PGSA's managing their own finances and allowing for more flexibility. He also had a meeting with the Dean of Graduate studies who committed to move forward with many major reforms to supervision at McGill. He also mentioned the link to the National Post article regarding the ongoing issues with the Canadian Federation of Students and we were receiving support from Pierre Arcand, one of the members of the National Assembly of Quebec, on the matter.

K Bouayad-Gervais (GASP) asked about the subject of the meeting with Louis S

4.5 Equity Commissioner Report January 2014

Equity Commissioner Report January 2014

No questions or comments.
4.6 Health Commissioner January 2014 Council Report

Health Commissioner announced that the PGSS Mental Health Policy Committee is being formed and is currently looking for 5 applicants. Interested candidates could apply with CV and short paragraph outlining reasons for interest and application could be sent to pgssmentalhealth@gmail.com by January 17. Health Commissioner also introduced "Exercise for Mood" which is a 10-week program specifically catered to graduate students to help improve mood. Those who would be interested in joining could register on the counselling website.

Speaker said Health Commissioner is adorable.

No questions.

4.7 Report of the Appointments Board

Academic Affairs Officer motioned to ratify the names of all people on the list on the Report of the Appointments Board and the two additional names, Andrew Doyle and Regine Debrosse, presented. He mentioned that there were still vacancies on the awards for graduate supervision and teaching excellence committees that needed to be filled.

Secretary-General asked for volunteers to fill the positions on the two awards committees that recognize good supervisors. He also made mention that there were six vacant seats on the Council of Graduate and Post-doctoral Studies that meets once a month to address all issues relating to graduate and post-doctoral life at McGill.

N. Barshi (ADAMS CLUB) requested more details about the committees

Secretary-General gave examples on issues that were dealt on the committee, including any reforms made, and that any new graduate course would be needed to be approved by this committee.

Andrew Doyle:
- Coordinating Committee for Educational Technologies
- STL working group in Distance Education
- Teaching and Learning Spaces Working Group

Regine Debrosse:
- Committee for Member Support
- David Thomson Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching & Supervision, the Carrie M. Derick Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching & Supervision and the Award for Excellence in Service:
  - Matthew Bouchard
  - Behrang Sharif
  - Julien Ouellet
  - Krista Reimer
  - Regine Debrosse

GPS Council:
Burak Ozkosem
Aditi Mullick
Ana Best
Julien Ouellet
Ana Fernandez

Chair motioned to have all the members listed above to be added to the respected committees.
Motion Passed.

8:10 PM 4.8 Report of the Governance Committee

Report of the Governance Committee

No questions or comments.

5 Question Period

8:01 PM

Y. Bresler (MGAPS) asked about the missing Council meeting minutes and how members could gain access to them in a timely manner.

Secretary-General replied that the content management system provider, Ubriety, was in the process of updating the system and as a result, the minutes were not in the meeting package. However, they could still be accessed under the documents tab on the PGSS website.

R. Debrosse (GASP) asked all the officers submitting reports if there could be fewer acronyms and the full names of committees used instead.

Academic Affairs Officer announced that he had been asked a question about a committee application submitted online and the approval system was still under the testing stage. If an application was submitted online using the My Account → Vacancies → nomination form and no response was heard, it was an indication that it was not delivered. If that was the case, email academic.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca or society.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca with any questions or for more information.

6 New Business

8:04 PM 6.1 Motion to amend the society activities manual

Second reading, requires 2/3 majority

Motion to amend the society activities manual

Secretary-General explained the contents of the Society Activities Manual. Two amendments were motioned to be changed which included election regulations and spending choices for the library improvement fund. Motioned the question on whether we want to extend nomination period when only one person applied to the position.

K. Bouayad-Gervais (GASP) commented that we should try other ways to gather more candidates.
Chief Returning Officer commented that the changes made to the manual did not take out 5 day minimum period.

Secretary-General motioned to pass all changes made in the second reading with the exception that all clarification and grammatical changes made by governance would be accepted.

Motion Passed.

7 Applications

8:16 PM 7.1 Applications

PGSS Committee Application Votes

| Committee | Applicant | Status |

8:18 PM Adjourned
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Call to order

1 Approval of the agenda

Added the reports of the Member Services Officer and the Internal Affairs Officer.

Chair removed the AGSEM Bargaining proposal tabled due to scheduling issues.

Speaker motioned to amend the agenda by moving the referendum questions regarding the health insurance and application fee to the beginning of the business section and adding a 5 minute question period regarding PGSA funding.

Motion Passed.
2 Speaker’s report

Chair introduced herself. Any questions could be sent to council.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca.

3 Announcements

3.1 Financial Awareness week

External Affairs Officer introduced the Financial Awareness Week that will be taking place during February 25 to February 27. There would be a series of workshops on financial aid and information on tax filing. He encouraged councilors to spread the word about this program.

He invited everyone to email him for access to a series of links to tools regarding federal tax reporting.

3.2 5-Minute Discussion Period Regarding PGSA Funding

H. Erythropel (CHEGSS) explained that there are now stricter rules placed on PGSAs and PGSS now has to approve every event they want to hold. He asked whether there could be an easier way to allow PGSAs to run their events.

Secretary-General replied that there is an unlimited liability clause in the MOA with McGill regarding activities of the PGSAs so all events and expenditures have to be pre-approved. There have been efforts made to try to make the process easier, however, an agreement has not been reached with McGill.

J.C. Pinto (GLSA) said they had to modify their constitution due to this issue and has voiced concerns with fees and long administration process. He asked what steps the administration has taken to address this issue.

Ollivier Dyens (Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning)) replied that this issue is a question of liability and responsibility. PGSS, as a corporation, can raise their own student fees through a referendum process. Common ground has not been reached but negotiations are in process.

M. Bouchard (MLISSA) asked what the motivation was for the decision to centralize PGSA funding through the PGSS and whether it was understood that it would facilitate processes for McGill rather than for the GSAs.

Ollivier Dyens (Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning)) replied that McGill’s fee collection is included in the MOA that was negotiated and signed in 2011 or 2012 in good faith. There are still negotiations ongoing, but there are still legal and liability issues that need to be resolved.

G. Sa (MMGES) said he also had funding issues with GSA and asked whether GSAs could become incorporated and accredited and have control of their own finances.

Ollivier Dyens (Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning)) responded that McGill could not stop GSAs from doing so. However, doing so would mean having to levy their own fees, sign their own MOA with McGill, audit their finances, report to McGill, and provide proof of adequate insurance that would be burdensome processes. They were trying to deal with the larger student bodies so they can take on some of the burden of the individual associations.

J. C. Pinto (GLSA) asked what exactly is being done to solve this problem and why has nothing been settled to date.
Ollivier Dyens (Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning)) replied that the current MOA was signed and is in effect until 2016, and he is currently meeting with the executive to negotiate, and he will not negotiate in public.

Chair reminded everyone that questions regarding negotiations could be addressed to their officers.

Chair extended the question period for 2 minutes.

M. Bouchard (MLISSA) stated that now, if only one GSA did not take care of its own finances, that means PGSS, including all other GSAs would be liable for them, and asked if this was taken into account.

Ollivier Dyens (Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning)) responded that this issue is not new, and it was already approved by Council in 2004. There was an emphasis again about the ongoing lack of agreement, but that there were still negotiations going on.

Speaker thanked the guests.

4 Approval of the minutes

Chair motioned to approve the minutes from January’s Council.

Motion Passed.

5 Business Arising

5.1 Graduate Application Fee Referendum

Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and Associate Provost (Graduate Education), Martin Kreiswirth, introduced himself along with Mark Quinsey (uApply Project Management Team), Ollivier Dyens (Deputy Provost), Kathleen Massey (University Registrar and Executive Director of Enrolment Services).

Mark Quinsey described the new application process for graduate students. uApply is the new admission system and he introduced the revamped application process. Advantages for the new applicants include more effective means of communication to guide applicants through the admissions process, frequent status updates, document upload functionality, and submission of electronic references. Implementation of uApply would bring changes to the application fees. There would also be a new chat system creating a direct link to department’s graduate program coordinator to respond to any questions and concerns of applicants. uApply also streamlined the application process to speed up both the decision and notification processes. Those interested in looking at the system are invited to visit mcgill.ca/uapply.

Martin Kreiswirth explained that uApply was an attempt at addressing the issue that McGill was not being competitive with their peers in providing timely application decisions to applicants, and that many qualified applicants did not accept positions at McGill not only because of lack of funding, but because it took too long to get an offer. He also informed councillors that the new application process will allow applicants to pay one fee when applying to two different programs. This would affect nearly 1400 applicants. Masters students who want to fast track to PhD programs would not have to apply twice nor pay an additional application fee with this new system. He opened the floor to questions.

Y. Bresler (MGAPS) asked whether students who got their Masters at McGill and wanted to stay here to pursue their PhD but not fast track their PhD studies would still have to pay. Y. Bresler (MGAPS) asked why the process is different than fast tracking.
Martin Kreiswirth replied that because a fast tracking student not having completed a Masters would still be considered a student in the system, otherwise they would be treated as a new applicant and reported differently.

H. Watkins (SWAGS) asked if qualifying year to Masters students would have to pay a second time to apply for PhD programs under the new application process.

Mark Quinsey replied that qualifying year students would still have to pay the application fee because they are considered to have completed their program after their qualifying year. He further clarified that qualifying to Masters is a change of level of studies.

G. Shapiro (GASP) asked how the reduced revenues from application fees collected by the University would affect students.

Martin Kreiswirth clarified that there was in fact an increase to the application fee. That is the purpose of the referendum.

Secretary-General explained that as a result of a recommendation made by McGill’s legal counsel, there was a modification made to the referendum question specifying that this new application fee would only be applicable to new applicants and not to those fast tracked.

Question and answer period ended. The Speaker thanked the guests and opened the floor to a debate on this motion.

Secretary-General clarified that should councilors approve the referendum question posed by McGill, they were agreeing to ask the student population whether or not to increase the fee.

W. Ferrall (CEGSS) asked whether the question of the referendum would be a binding question.

Secretary-General replied it would be a binding question. He explained that the rules of the Ministry of Education are that if McGill wants to increase the fee beyond inflation, they would need the approval of the student body. If this was approved, this fee increase would pass.

Chair called motion to a vote.

Motion Passed.

7:39 PM 5.2 Election Dates

Business Arising:

Motion to approve proposed Election dates:

BIRT council approves the following dates, as proposed by the Elections Committee, for the 2014-2015 General Election and Referendums: March 13th to March 21th, 2014.

Chief Returning Officer reminded everyone of the election date.

Secretary-General asked why the election date is a Thursday.

Chief Returning Officer replied it was a good balance between campaign times and voting.

Chair motioned to approve election dates.

Motion Passed.

7:41 PM 5.3 Needs based bursary endowment proposal
Needs based bursary endowment proposal

Secretary-General explained McGill and PGSS would each contribute $150000 to the bursary. He noted that this bursary would only be available to full time students and would not be available to Post-Docs.

H. Watkins (SWAGS) asked about the process of applying for this bursary. Secretary-General replied that this is a need based bursary and students with families would have priority. This was also an additional grant to the already existing grants that were available to students.

7:45 PM 5.4 Report of the Academic Affairs Officer

Academic Affairs Officer - January Report - PDF

No questions or comments.

7:45 PM 5.5 Financial Affairs Officer January Report

Financial Affairs Officer January Report

No questions or comments.

7:45 PM 5.6 External Affairs Officer report January 2014

External Affairs Officer report January 2014

No questions or comments.

6 Floor Items

7:25 PM 6.1 Health and Dental Plan Referendum

Chair motioned to extend speaking rights to guests.

Callan Davey (Program Manager for PGSS’ Health and Dental Plan) introduced AS

7:56 PM 6.2 Internal Affairs Officer Report

No questions or comments.
7  New Business

7:47 PM 7.1 Report of the Member Services Officer

Report of the Member Services Officer Feb 2014

Member Services Officer reported that the Dean of Graduate Studies supports the mandatory online orientation course for graduate students. She asked for ideas and recommendations for the online website.

I. C. Rodriguez (APF) suggested to include a section for Post-Docs specifically.

B. Vanderbyl (NGSA) informed everyone about the PhD support group.

N. Barshi (ADAMS CLUB) asked if it was possible to make the online orientation course not mandatory. She suggested to include Graphos to the online site as well.

H. Watkinss (SWAGS) encouraged to include links to skill sets and library tutorials.

A. Pouzargues (ADELFIES) asked to include information useful to international students. APEGAN: information useful to international students

H. Erythropel (CHEGSS) suggested releasing a booklet of the online material.

N. Barshi (ADAMS CLUB) suggested to add a list of resources for financial support to the online site.

W. Farrell (CEGSS) asked whether this information was already in the handbook.

Member Services Officer replied to N. Barshi (ADAMS CLUB) that this was a recommendation from THE students and not was initiated by the administration. Hence, it would have to be mandatory.

S. Bhatnagar (EBOSS) suggested to have an online handbook or an app be coded.

J. Mooney (EGSS) asked to have information specific to part-time graduate students and restrictions to funding be included. Noted that award was taken away from her because she was a part-time student.

8:17 PM 7.2 Athletics Building Improvement Fund

Whereas Undergraduate students have been contributing to an athletics building improvement fund for the past 30 years

Whereas Graduate students also benefit from the use and improvement of these facilities, and will directly benefit from this contribution

BIRT the PGSS Chief Returning Officer conduct a referendum as part of the Spring General Elections which asks members to approve or refuse the following question:

"Do you agree that, starting September 2014, a non-opt-outable fee of $3 (three dollars) per semester be charged to every full time and part time PGSS member enrolled as a PhD or Masters student up to, and including the Winter 2019 semester to be contributed to the McGill Athletics Building Improvement Fund, understanding this amount will go to improving Athletics Facilities at both campuses."

Academic Affairs Officer explained about the $3 fee to be added to improve athletics improvement fund.

Chair asked for comments regarding amendment.

B. Rocque (GAP) asked whether the park was accessible to all students.

Academic Affairs Officer replied it was indeed.
J. Mooney (EGSS) asked whether this fee affect Post-Docs.
Academic Affairs Officer replied that this does not affect Post-Docs.
F. Strohschein (NGSA) asked whether there would be an option to make this a separate referendum question.
Academic Affairs Officer replied it is possible.
Secretary-General informed council that this would benefit graduate students who are athletes.
Chair called the motion to a vote.
Motion Passed.

7.3 Motion to Approve a Referendum Question on a Midnight Kitchen Student Levy

Motion attached.
Motion to Approve a Referendum Question on a Midnight Kitchen Student Levy

Chair motioned to extend speaking rights to the guest speaker.
Motion passed.

Urooj Nizami introduced herself and the specifics of Midnight Kitchen.
L. Daieff (MGAPSS) explained that Undergraduates pay a fee $3.25 to support the operation of the Midnight Kitchen. He pointed out that since graduate students are regular attendees of Midnight Kitchen, a fee levy should be put into referendum.
Chair asked to extend council by 15 minutes.
Secretary-General asked whether this was applied to students of Mac Campus and students who were at other sites on campus.
L. Daieff (MGAPSS) replied that it was applied to them and that Midnight kitchen was added as a service to their bill.
Secretary-General asked whether there was an indication for the need of Midnight Kitchen for graduate students.
L. Daieff (MGAPSS) responded that there were many graduate students who did use Midnight Kitchen’s services.
M. Accardi (GAPTS) asked whether the projection of fee increases would provide quantitative improvements.
L. Daieff (MGAPSS) responded that there have been thoughts to provide breakfast as well. Staff hours and positions would also be increased with this added fee levy. Equipment would also be replaced.
W. Farrell (CEGSS) inquired about how to raise the presence of midnight kitchen amongst students.
L. Daieff (MGAPSS) replied that students would have to start by entering the SSMU building during lunch hours.
Secretary-General asked whether everyone was aware that PGSS signed a contract with SSMU whereby PGSS pays SSMU so that PGSS members have access to all SSMU services.
Lorenzo said that they were not aware and that most of their fees came from undergraduate students.
W. Farrell (CEGSS) inquired about the fairness to ask graduate students to pay an additional fee on top of the fees they already pay to SSMU.

B. Schmidt (MGAPS) explained that approximately $7000 a year were paid from graduate students to SSMU. He suggested Midnight Kitchen to ask SSMU to get the fee from the amount they already paid.

Secretary-General suggested to revisit this issue when questions are sorted out and addressed.

U. Nizami (Midnight Kitchen) clarified about the confusion of the SSMU fees that were paid.

Chair motion to vote on question.

Motion Passed.

### 7.4 Amend Society Events Revenue and Expenses Budget lines

WHEREAS PGSS has increased event sales and attendance due to demand

WHEREAS PGSS has reached the approved revenue and expenses for events for the 2013-14 Fiscal Year and has plans for putting on many events for the rest of the year

BIRT Council amend the society revenue and expense budget line for Events by increasing each line by $30 000 each

Financial Affairs Officer explained that there were unanticipated events that happened this year and suggested the budget be raised by $30000.

Chair called motion to a vote.

Motion Passed.

### 7.5 Endorsement of PGSS Harassment Policy

BIRT Council endorse the following proposed member code of conduct and harassment policy and send it to the PGSS Board of Directors for approval.

Endorsement of PGSS

Secretary-General suggested to move forward with the harassment policy and to bring this forward to the PGSS Board of Directors

Chair called motion to a vote.

Motion passed

### 7.6 Endorsement of Smoke-Free McLennan Redpath Terrace

Whereas the Libraries have reached out in consultation with the University for feedback on launching the rebuilt McLennan Redpath Terrace as a smoke free environment;

Whereas the plan has been endorsed by the University Health and Safety Committee and the Senate Committee on Physical Development;

Whereas the designation of the Terrace as smoke-free would be reviewed in one year;

BIRT PGSS Council endorse the proposal to have the McLennan Redpath Terrace be smoke-free.
Academic Affairs Officer explained the features and structure of the newly renovated McLennan Terrace and the intention to make this area a smoke free zone.

Chair called motion to a vote.

Motion passed.

7.7 PGSS Fee Structure Referendum Question

WHEREAS, it is prudent to ensure that the fees collected by the PGSS meet the financial needs and obligations of the organization;

WHEREAS, the current and future needs of the PGSS have changed over the last two years and the current fee structure does not optimally meet these needs;

WHEREAS, the PGSS strives to ensure that its members do not pay unnecessary fees, and that the fees that are collected are used efficiently;

BIRT the following question be put to referendum:

Do you agree that PGSS adopt the fee structure outlined in Appendix A which keep the total fees collected the same but reallocates them appropriately.

PGSS Fee Structure Referendum Question

Financial Affairs Officer explained the (“$10,000/year increase) lease with McGill regarding Thomson House. He proposing to increase $1.50 for membership fee due to the increases in expenses.

L. Dafieff (MGAPSS) inquired the reason to have three separate questions and the necessity for the fee increase.

Financial Affairs Officer replied that the goal was to have students pay the same amount for PGSS services and this was a small increase to ensure the same services were provided.

Chair called first motion to a vote.

Motion Passed.

Financial Affairs Officer explained that because of the budget cuts, grant program now received a decrease in funding. The problem without additional funding was the cutting down of events. Hence there was the proposal with the modest increase of $0.81 for the grants program.

H. Erythropel (CHEGSS) stated that students were not informed about the distribution of the funds.

Chair called second motion to a vote.

Motion passed.

Financial Affairs Officer explained the needs based bursary fund and the tentative agreement to increase $30000 to the endowment fund. Interest would be paid out to students with such needs. The suggestion was to reduce to original $1 fund.

B. Sharif (GAP) asked why there were separate questions when the fees would be increased as a whole.

Financial Affairs Officer replied that McGill would only allow 1 fee per question. He also mentioned that these fees were increased 3 years ago.

Chair called third motion to a vote.

Motion Passed.
7.8 October 2013 minutes

Chair called motion to a vote.
Motion passed.

7.9 September 2013 minutes

Chair called motion to a vote.
Motion Passed.

7.10 Health and Dental Insurance Plan renewal referendum question

BIRT the following question be put to referendum
Do you agree that the PGSS Health and Dental Plan be renewed at a annual fee of no more $258.20 for the health insurance component of the plan and no more than $179.62 for the dental insurance component of the plan for a period of 3 years beginning September 2014 and ending August 2017

1) Yes
2) No

Chair called motion to question.
Motion Passed.

8 Reports

8.1 Report of the Secretary-General

Report of the Secretary-General Feb 2014

Secretary-General said that the bursary negotiation was going well and should go through.

There was a negotiation for new 10 year lease for Thomson House and it was going well. Secretary-General explained that the difference between the old and new lease was that the PGSS would have to pay a portion of the utilities in the new lease.

8.2 Report of Health Commissioner February 2014

Report of Health Commissioner February 2014

No questions or comments.
8.3 Report of Member Support Commissioner

Report for February 12th council meeting is attached.

Report of Member Support Commissioner

Member Support Commissioner made an announcement regarding the Dean of Students looking for McGill students to provide feedback on the Senate ad-hoc committee to revise the McGill Charter of student rights before revisions are made to the committee. Interested councilors should contact him at ssc.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca for more information.

8.4 Report of the environment commissioner

For February 12th council, attached.

Report of the environment commissioner

No questions or comments.

8.5 Report of the Policy and Structure Advisory Committee

2104-02-07 Report of the Policy and Structure Advisory Committee

Secretary-General said there was a recommendation from the Appeals Board to update and clarify appeals process. He explained the updates that were made to the by-laws.

W. Farrell (CEGSS) asked whether there could be a more streamline appeals process.

Secretary General replied that it was stated by-laws that any decision in question would have to go through the Appeals Board.

Secretary General suggested to discuss about grants. Committee suggested that subjective criteria should be included.

W. Farrell (CEGSS) stated that there are two fundamental (social and academic) criteria for the grants. He suggested that these two criteria should be considered separately.

B. Sharif (GAP) answered that due to the ambiguity of the nature of the events, it would be difficult to categorize them separately.

Environment Commissioner said that there was no feedback given to rejected grants. She suggested that feedback should be given.

N. Barshi (ADAMS CLUB) suggested to strike out the suggestion of requiring the event be of close proximity to McGill.

Secretary-General responded that this suggestion was to increase the accessibility of the event and the decision was still not decided upon.

W. Farrell (CEGSS) asked the question on whether the goal is to have interdepartmental events. Chair called to vote on this motion.

Motion Passed.
8:12 PM  8.6  Appointments Board - January Report

Appointments Board - January Report

Academic Affairs said there was no report this month.
There are new vacancies for PGSS internal.
Ubriety would be used for recruitment.

8:14 PM  8.7  Academic Affairs Officer - January Report

Academic Affairs Officer - January Report

No questions or comments.

8:53 PM  8.8  Financial Affairs Officer Report

Financial Affairs Officer Report

No questions or comments.

8:54 PM  8.9  External Affairs Officer report February

External Affairs Officer report February

No questions or comments.

8:54 PM  8.10  Report of the Academic Affairs Officer

This report includes notice that a recommendation for a Library Improvement Fund expenditure will be coming to March Council.
Report of the Academic Affairs Officer Feb 2014

No questions or comments.

8:55 PM  Adjourned
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3 Question Period  
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   4.2 Motion to amend bylaws to expand the purpose of the corporation  
   4.3 Motion to amend bylaws to change titles of officers  
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   4.6 Re CMA - Amendment to Bylaw 9.6  
5 Floor Items  
   5.1 AGM Announcement

Post Graduate Students Society of McGill University  
3650 McTavish Street, Montreal, Quebec
Attending

6:20 PM  **Call to order**

6:20 PM  **1 Speaker’s report**

*No comments.*

6:21 PM  **2 Approval of the minutes**

*No minutes to be approved.*

6:21 PM  **3 Question Period**

*No comments.*

**4 New Business**

4.1 **Re Library Improvement Fund Committee - Library Improvement Fund Expenditure - Lockable Space**

 Whereas the Library Improvement Fund committee met on February 21st and unanimously recommends this expenditure for the benefit of graduate students;

 Whereas the details of the expenditure are outlined in the attached document;

 BIRT PGSS Council ratify the recommendation of the Library Improvement Fund Committee to spend $120,140 (one hundred twenty thousand, one hundred forty dollars) from the Library Improvement Fund for the following projects:

 1) Dedicated Grad Zone - "Thesis Room" ($50,200)
 2) Graduate Student Storage - "Lockers" ($23,360)
 3) PhD Room - Updates for more users ($5,440)
 4) Spirit Scanner Upgrade - Efficient, high volume scanners ($25,470)

*Academic Affairs Officer motivated in favour of the motion. The Library Improvement Fund is spent in consultation with the membership and libraries through PGSS Library Improvement Fund Committee.*
There would be two readings done on this matter. The speaker noted that for the first reading, voting was not necessary.

6:22 PM 4.2 Motion to amend bylaws to expand the purpose of the corporation

BIRT the bylaws be amended to expand the purpose of the corporation to include the following text:

Bylaw 2.1.6 "to promote freedom of association within the student movement"

Secretary-General motivated for the motion, explaining that agreeing to the bylaw changes, this would be further discussed in the AGM agenda. He further explained that the purpose and goal of the corporation is work with all students across Canada to promote freedom of association.

Chair called the motion to a vote.

Motion Passed.

6:24 PM 4.3 Motion to amend bylaws to change titles of officers

Be resolved that all governing documents of the PGSS be updated to reflect the following changes to officer titles:

1) Change "Secretary-General" to "President"
2) Change "Finance Officer" and "Financial Affairs Officer" to "Chancellor of the Exchequer"

Motivated to change the "Secretary-General" title and the "Financial Affairs Officer" title to "President" and "Chancellor of the Exchequer" respectively. He explained that when travelling to other universities, the role of the Secretary-General was not well understood. As well, the responsibilities of the Financial Affairs Officer was being called to question and after a significant amount of research, it was decided that Chancellor of the Exchequer fits the title and duties appropriately.

Internal Affairs Officer opposed this motion. He said that the title of the Secretary-General was recently changed two years ago, and that this in general was an inefficient use of time.

J. Marton (HGSS), motioned to amend "Part 2" to change "Chancellor of Exchequer" to "Master of the Coin."

External Affairs Officer agreed that there were legitimate reasons to change "Secretary-General" to "President" but did not agree with the title changes suggested for Financial Affairs Officer. He noted that the term "Chancellor of the Exchequer" was an uncommon term that was used in the British system.

Chair asked to vote on the amendment of changing "Chancellor of the Exchequer" to "Master of the Coin."

Motion Failed.

Internal Affairs Officer stated that it was only necessary to have one title for the President of PGSS when writing official documents. The dual use of "President" and "Secretary-General" raised confusion when the Secretary-General were to speak on behalf of the university. Asked everyone to please vote in favour of changing the title of the Secretary-General to the President.

K. Bouayad-Gervais (GASP), felt indifferent about changing the title of the Secretary-General. He motioned to amend the motion from "Chancellor of the Exchequer" to "Treasurer"

Secretary-General stated that the term "Treasurer" does not exist in law.

N. Barshi (ADAMS CLUB) seconded this amendment.

Motion Failed.
Member Services Officer mentioned that all executives were paid approximately $16,000 annually to represent students. She had previously witnessed a significant amount of emails that were missed due to the name change in titles and believed that this change was unnecessary and would impede efficiency. Motioned to split the question.

Motion Passed.

Chair called first article of motion to change “Secretary-General” to “President” to a vote.

Motion Failed with a 2/3 majority.

Chair called second article of motion to change “Financial Affairs Officer” to “Chancellor of the Exchequer” to a vote.

Motion Failed.

6:35 PM  **4.4 2nd READING - Motion regarding grants process**

WHEREAS the Appeals Board requested that the Policy and Structure Advisory Committee consider changes to the grants funding process

BIRT Society Activities Manual section 13.13.10 be amended to change “applications” to “funding of grants”

Secretary General explained PGSS was recommended by the Appeals Board to make it clear that it was in fact the actual funding and not the applications that were being ranked by the Grants Committee. This was already approved in council and this second reading was to make this point clear in the governing documents.

Chair called this motion to a vote.

Motion Passed with a 2/3 majority.

6:36 PM  **4.5 2nd READING - Motion regarding appeals process**

WHEREAS the Appeals Board requested that the Policy and Structure Advisory Committee make amendments to the governing documents to clarify the appeals process

BIRT a new section 2.2.1 be created, reading, “The notice of appeal must include a written statement from the petitioner detailing the specific reasons for the appeal including but not limited to the ways in which the responsible committee or party is believed to have erred and any pertinent clauses in the governing documents which are believed to have been broken. The prospective appellant shall be made aware of this procedure at the time he or she is made aware of his or her right to appeal.”

BIRT a new section 2.2.2 be created, reading, “Upon notice of appeal, the chair of the committee or the party that rendered the decision in question shall also be duly notified by the Appeals Board and shall supply a statement detailing the justification of the decision along with all relevant documentation within 36 hours of the notice. Documents should include all correspondence with the appellant, a written statement describing the reasons for the decision and the governing documents upon which they are
based, as well as any other pertinent information.

Secretary-General motivated in favour of the motion. He explained that the Appeals Committee recommended that Policy Committee take a look at the appeals process. The new amendment now stated that if a decision were to be appealed, an outline of the broken regulation would be required.

Chair called this motion to a vote.

Motion Passed with a 2/3 majority.

4:37 PM 4.6 Re CMA - Amendment to Bylaw 9.6

WHEREAS it is currently unclear who is authorized to allow spending from a budget line under the PGSS approved budget

BIRT the text of bylaw 9.6 be amended to read

The PGSS may not make any disbursement in a given financial year in the absence of an approved budget for the financial year. The Council must approve the budget for Society Activities and the Board of Directors must approve the budget for Business Activities. Both the Council and the Board of Directors must approve the budget for Shared Activities. Any approved budget must clearly state which party or parties may authorize an expenditure from each budget line and what process is required to disburse funds.

Secretary-General explained that the current budget did not state who was authorized to spend from a particular budget line. The new amendment would be a form of internal control protection.

Chair called this motion to a vote.

Motion Passed.

Academic Affairs Officer asked to vote on item 8.1 concerning the Library Improvement Fund.

Chair called motion to a vote.

Motion Passed.

5 Floor Items

5:09 PM 5.1 AGM Announcement

Member Services Officer explained the details and process of the AGM. When there was a motion to adjourn, the ballroom were to be vacated completely and each member were to sign in as individual PGSS members.

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion Passed.

Meeting Adjourned.
7:55 PM  **Adjourned**
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Attending

Executives:
Erik Larson (Financial Affairs Officer), Michael Krause (Internal Affairs Officer), Adam Bouchard (Academic Affairs Officer), Elizabeth Cawley (Member Services Officer).

Councilors: N. Barshi (ADAMS CLUB), E. Vincent (APF), D. Leung (BGSA), D. Hanson (BGSA), A. Olanrewaju (BMESS), L. Bourdages (CAOS), W. Farrell (CEGSS), A. Kazarine (CGSS), S. Bhatnagar (EOBSS), C. Turnbull (EGSS), L. Nikolajev (GAPTS), A. Brown (GASA), B. Lungo (GASA), G. Shapiro (GASP), N. Hope (GASP), A. Price (GGS), A. Mullick (GRSS), K. Reimer (GSAMS), J. Ouellet (GSAN), J. Irwin (HCGSA), D. Meadows (HGSS), J. Marton (HGSS), P. Simon (MAGSS), I. Sutherland (MCGSS), D. Watt (MCGSS), A. Blakney (MCGSS), A. M. Shah (MDGSS), I. Japaridze (MEGA), L. Daieff (MGAPSS), G. Dupuis (MGAPS), Y. Bresler (MGAPS), S. Burugu (MIGSA), Z. Sabri (MISSC), G. Sa (MMGESA), F. Strohschein (NGSA), E. Yung (PGSA-Psychiatry), B. Rocque (PGSA-Physiology), K. White (SPOTGSA), W. Rinkenbach (SPOTGSA), K. Race (SPOTGSA).

Commissioners and Non-Voting Members:
A. Winegardner (Environment Commissioner), E. Yung (Health Commissioner), N. Nizam (Council Speaker), C. Briggs (Chief Returning Officer), C. Liu (Recording Secretary).

Guests:
Charlie Beard (ADAMS CLUB), Michael Accardi (GAPTS), Karim Bouayad-Gervais (GASP), Regine Debrosse (GASP), Jennifer Murray (EOBSS), Samara Perez (HAWC), Michael Derouo (Islamic Studies), Angela Tam (Integrated Program - Neuroscience), Jessica Fu (McGill Tribune), Alexandra Kueuire (McGill Tribune), Gabriela Torues-Platas.

6:35 PM  Call to order

6:35 PM  1 Approval of the agenda

Chair called agenda to a vote.
Motion passed.

6:36 PM  2 Speaker’s report

Chair introduced herself. She stated that she had not been here for 3 weeks and would like an Economics tutor. Any questions and concerns could be addressed to council.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca.
3 Floor Items

6:37 PM 3.1 Announcements

The Academic Affairs Officer and Internal Affairs Officer introduced their roles as co-chairs for the Appointments Board, responsible for filling all the committees. The Senate Standing Committees currently need to be filled.

In addition, they are in the process of recruiting commissioners, including the Equity Commissioner, Environment Commissioner, Health Commissioner, and Student Support Commissioner. These positions work with the executive, get a stipend, and are expected to be present during monthly councils while maintaining a required workload.

Applications are accepted through the Ubriety system. For the all positions, applicants would look under vacancies.

There are also several Deans positions for the selection committee currently available: Provost, the second in command of the university who is responsible for the budget, for hiring of all professors. This work term for this position lasts from five to ten years.

The committee is also looking for the Dean of Science, Dean of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Dean of Libraries, and Dean of Graduate Studies.

Sign up for committees needs to be done online in the next week.

Next Monday there would also be an Elections Results Party with specials, food and drinks. Everyone is welcome.

D. Meadows (HGSS), introduced herself as Financial Affairs Officer-elect for next year. She informed everyone of the intention to revamp the grants policy. If anyone wants to be involved with this process or has any feedback, please contact her or the Financial Affairs Officer.

4 Approval of the minutes

6:41 PM Chair called approval of the minutes of March Council to a vote.

Motion Passed.

5 Reports

6:41 PM 5.1 Report of the External Affairs Officer

Report of the External Affairs Officer

External Affairs Officer was in Waterloo. No questions.

6:42 PM 5.2 Report of the Internal Affairs Officer

Report of the Internal Affairs Officer

No questions.
5.3  Report of the Secretary-General

Report of the Secretary-General

Secretary-General not present. No questions.

5.4  Report of the Health Commissioner

Report of the Health Commissioner

No questions.

5.5  Equity Commissioner Report

EqC Report

Equity Commissioner was not present. No questions.

5.6  Environment Commissioner report for March Council/AGM

Environment Commissioner Report for March 2014 Council-AGM

Environment Commission got bonus points for being present. No questions.

5.7  Environment Commissioner Report

April council report for the environment commissioner.

Environment Commissioner Report

No questions.

5.8  Report of the Chief Returning Officer

Report of the Chief Returning Officer

Chief Returning Officer mentioned to council that he gets a substantial amount of angry emails from members during PGSS elections and that students can email their council rep. This year’s elections would be fully bilingual. One thing to note about the elections was that many people who ran for the positions were already involved members. Therefore, there was the ongoing lack of concern regarding outside representation.

The Chief Returning Officer also mentioned the concern expressed regarding the wording of questions and the voting system for the referendum. He spoke with the governance committee and the system required members to submit referendum questions one week prior to council to be reviewed by the Chief Returning Officer. The Chief Returning Officer provided a proper instruction on the referendum question structure.
Finally, the preferential voting system was explained.

6:47 PM  5.9 Draft Tuition Policy Briefing Paper

Please find attached a draft tuition policy briefing paper from July 2013. There is a recent advancements section which outlines the main political parties current positions on tuition.

The government currently has a working group in place examining the financing of universities. Please see links below for their most recent publications which includes an overview of their work, the relevant statistical data and a 12 country/province review of university financing. The working group are due to report their findings in June 2014.


Draft Tuition Policy Briefing Paper

Removed from the Agenda as Secretary-General was not present.

6  New Business

6:48 PM  6.1 PGSS Policy on Graduate Student Mental Health

PGSS policy on graduate student mental health

Chair granted speaking rights to the guests.

Samara Perez (HAWC), introduced herself as the co-chair of a mental health policy group established for graduate students. She explained that this initiative began when SSMU developed their own mental health policy there was the realization that the needs of graduate students are different from undergraduates. Currently there is currently no PGSS mental health policy, and the committee worked on developing one.

Chair opened the floor to questions.

I. Japaridze (MEGA), asked what exactly was meant by “mental health policy” and whether this initiative would this require funding from PGSS.

Samara Perez explained that this was an outline of a policy that would govern the mental health needs of PGSS graduate students. They aimed to advocate for services available specifically for graduate students. The proposal was to form a sub-committee under the Health and Wellness Committee that would cater to graduate students’ mental health needs and to create longer term plans to address specific needs. They currently do not require funding. Should this be needed, it would be brought to council later.

Chair called this motion to a vote.

Motion Passed.
6.2 Library Improvement Fund Expenditure - Lockable Space (second reading)

Whereas the Library Improvement Fund committee met on February 21st and unanimously recommends this expenditure for the benefit of graduate students;
Whereas the details of the expenditure are outlined in the attached document;
BIRT PGSS Council ratify the recommendation of the Library Improvement Fund Committee to spend $120,140 (one hundred twenty thousand, one hundred forty dollars) from the Library Improvement Fund for the following projects:
1) Dedicated Grad Zone - "Thesis Room" ($50,200)
2) Graduate Student Storage - "Lockers" ($23,360)
3) PhD Room - Updates for more users ($5,440)
4) Spirit Scanner Upgrade - Efficient, high volume scanners ($25,470)

The Academic Affairs Officer introduced himself as the chair of the PGSS Library Improvement Fund Committee responsible for spending money collected by the Library Improvement Fund, currently $3 per student, per semester. This was brought forward from the committee last council and he motivated in favor of this motion so that the fund could be spent during the summer to carry out the plan to create lockable space in the libraries.

D. Meadows (HGSS), asked for confirmation that this had been approved by committee.
Academic Affairs Officer named a list of people who were involved with this project and confirmed that everything had been approved to be able to commence as soon as possible.
K. Reimer (GSAMS) inquired as to how the amount in the fund is collected.
Academic Affairs Officer answered they would collect the $3 from students that is matched by McGill. They would be leveraging approximately $70,000 per school year into this fund. The plan is to spend as much as what is being brought in. There were no big expenditures in the first few years of the fund collection. Two years ago, there was an expenditure of approximately $300,000 for the humanities library, $100,000 for the education library, there was no major spending last year, at this time next year, there should be a balance of $250,000 for next year's executive's projects.

G. Shapiro (GASP), asked for a detailed explanations of the proposed expenditure for lockers.
Academic Affairs Officer explained that there would be 108 lockers of varying sizes available. He further explained the need for a security camera resulting from consultation with other students.

C. Turnbull (EGSS) asked how there would be accountability after the money is spent.
Academic Affairs Officer explained that when McGill collected money from the e-bill account, it would go directly to the fund. Feedback of usage would be given. With the case of the Education Library, money was spent on chairs, desks, lighting and the library in this proposal is the most heavily used on campus is not expected to be closed.

I. Japaridze (MEGA) asked if there was a policy with regards to distribution the lockers.
Academic Affairs Officer explained that the lockable spaces currently available have been prioritized for students in the Humanities and Social Sciences because traditionally, they least amount of office space. Students doing clinical studies and students writing their theses who have no access to office space would be given priority to lockable space under this proposal. Booking time would be done on a per semester basis.
R. Debrosse (GASP) asked how the members of the committee came to the conclusion that grad students needed the Spirit Scanner Upgrade.

Academic Affairs Officer answered that this was a late addition to the process based on purchases the undergraduate library improvement fund was making. Through the usage of this product, it was agreed that this scanner was a good purchase that would increase efficiency significantly.

N. Hope (GASP) asked if this would take off the pressure on faculties for providing space for graduate students. She questioned the university’s role in this project.

Academic Affairs Officer said that with the collaboration with the Graduate Education Officer of McGill in Teaching and Learning Services, David Syncox, they have seen a shift in the perception in the way students should use office space. The issue that was addressed is that this perception should be changed, and that there are currently around 1,200 PGSS members who do not have access to office space for thesis writing. This proposal is more of a stop-gap measure to compensate for those who do not yet have space, something that McGill is working on.

Chair called this motion to a vote.

Motion Passed.

7:09 PM Adjourned
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9.1 Applications
Attending

Jonathan Mooney (Secretary-General)

Quorum has been satisfied.

Councillors:
N Barshi (Adams Club), I Rodriguez (APF), D Hanson (BGSA), S Cadwell (BGSS), Y Chen (BGSS), W Farrell (CEGSS), J Ann-Pura (ESGSS), M Préau (GAMES), B Sharif (GAP), M Accardi (GAPTS), K. Bouayad-Gervais (GASP), N Hope (GASP), L Ribaudo (GGS), J Pinto (GLSA), K Reimer (GSAMS), A Fernandez (GSAN), J Ouellet (GSAN), M Cressati (GSAN), I Harvey (HCGSA), J Irwin (HCGSA), D Meadows (HGSS), M Akpa (HGSS), P Simon (MAGSS), A Blakney (MGCSS), M O’Neil (MGCSS), I Japaridze (MEGA), L Daleff (MGAPPS), G Dupuis (MGAPS), Y Bresler (MGAPS), S Thomsons (MGSS), N Otis (MGSSA-Sociology), S Burugu (MIGSA), C Cohen (MLISSA), Ge Sa (MMGESIA), J Gabovry (NGSA), K Obas (NGSA), S Retallick (RSGS), A Blumenthal (SWAGS).

Executives:
J Mooney (Secretary-General), E Cawley (Member Services Officer), A Bouchard (Academic Affairs Officer), E Larson (Financial Affairs Officer), N Khosravi-Hashemi (External Affairs Officer).

Commissioners & Staff
A Winegardener (Environment Commissioner), M Akpa (Equity Commissioner), V Bhosle (Member Support Commissioner), A Vincent (Society Affairs Coordinator), C Briggs (Chief Returning Officer, acting Recording Secretary).

Regrets
M Krause (Internal Affairs Officer), C Liu (Recording Secretary), E Yung (Health Commissioner).

Guests
J Murray (Incoming Academic Affairs Officer), Josée Méthot (McGill Office of Sustainability)

6:35 PM Call to order

1 Speaker’s report

6:35 PM

2 Announcements

6:36 PM 2.1 AGSEM Bargaining Committee

J. Irwin, president of AGSEM. Members of the union include all invigilators and TAs. Union has issued avis de negotiation as the collective agreement is coming to an end. Union seeks for a clearer CA, new harassment article with the goal of better protection and record keeping (neutral policy rather than
McGill driven), pay increase of 5 percent per annum, some other benefits (waived fees). Pay increase is reasonable, though more than other unions in Quebec, relative to other Ontario institutions. Index hours to classes. Invites questions. None.

6:54 PM 2.2 Sustainability Projects Fund

Josee Methot from Sustainability McGill - Vision 2020, presented report. Noted the process to apply for funding, vetting process, and finance. She also noted that the fund seeks to build on all aspects of sustainability, not merely green projects. The speaker invited members to contact her organisation should they wish to get involved.

K. Bouayad-Gervais (GASP) asked for examples of projects.

The guest mentioned Feeding McGill, a farm program in which a Mac Campus farms provide produce to the downtown campus.

Guest was thanked for her time

6:39 PM 3 Approval of the minutes

Motion Passed.

4 Floor Items

6:41 PM 4.1 December 4, 2013 Council meeting

Motion Passed.

6:41 PM 4.2 January 15th Council Meeting

Motion Passed.

6:41 PM 4.3 February 12th Council Meeting

Motion Passed.

6:41 PM 4.4 April 2nd Council Meeting

Motion Passed.
5 Reports

6:42 PM 5.1 Report of the Academic Affairs Officer

Report of the Academic Affairs Officer May 2014
No comments or questions.

6:42 PM 5.2 External Affairs Officer report May 2014

2014-05-05 External Affairs Officer Report May 2014
No comments or questions.

6:42 PM 5.3 May 2014 Report of the Secretary-General

2014-05-05 Secretary-General Report May 2014
No comments or questions.


Commissioner absent

6:42 PM 5.5 2014-05-07 - Report of the Equity Commissioner

2014-05-07 - Report of the Equity Commissioner
No comments or questions.


No comments or questions.

6:42 PM 5.7 2014-04-30 Report of Member Support Commissioner (May Council)

2014-04-30 Report of Member Support Commissioner (May Council)
No comments or questions.
5.8 Financial Affairs Officer Report


No comments or questions.

5.9 Report of the Policy and Structure Advisory Committee

BIRT the changes to elections regulations in the attached report be adopted in first reading.

Report of the Policy and Structure Advisory Committee May 2014

Secretary-General motivated in favour of amendments to the Society Activities Manual, noting that the changes have been extensively reviewed, and that the nature of the changes are extremely minor. The Secretary-General noted the election expense subsidy and the change of hustings to scheduled debates.

9:4:2 Passed, no abstentions

9:5:3 Passed, no abstentions

Section 8 Passed, no abstentions (note the change is mass, all mention of hustings becomes scheduled debates).

9:11:1 Passed, 1 abstention, two against

9:15:1 Passed, no abstentions

Two thirds majority for everything,

Motion Passed.

5.10 Health of student supervisor relationships at McGill University

BIRT the attached report by adopted and the recommendations form a new PGSS policy on supervision.

Health of student supervisor relationships at McGill University

The Secretary-General introduced the report: this report is the result of extensive research done by, in part, the PGSS Researcher. Some of these recommendations are going to McGill Senate, such as the use of a third party to oversee complaints, as well as supervision training. PGSS requests Council’s endorsement.

N. Barshi, Adams Club, proposed that grammatical and spelling changes be made. The chairperson proposed that the original drafter of the document make these changes prior to disseminating the document.

Chairperson read aloud the document.,

Called for questions.

Called to vote. Motion passed, with one abstention.

Motion Passed.
5.11 Budget Discussion

Council will need to approve a budget for the 2014-15 FY
Please see the attached documents for discussion purposes

Budget Discussion (1)
Budget Discussion (2)
Budget Discussion (3)
Budget Discussion (4)

Financial Affairs Officer introduced report, noting that Council would be presented the report at the following Council meeting- he further noted budget information is online for members who wish to read any documentation.

The officer added that the budget is largely remaining the same, with two changes: one pertaining to the grants program, the other to the needs based bursary.

Events has generated much more revenue than what was planned. In the future, events are expected to be revenue neutral. The future budget includes funding for a Study Saturday childcare program for students with children. Rent is expected to increase due to administration demands (for utilities, which are now billed, ($10 000) and for increased rent). Thomson House currently costs $24 000 in rent, annually. A CFS budget line has been produced as to best identify the cost affiliated with this. This year the CFS legal battle, and affiliated expenses, have cost $90 000. Since 2009, the cost has been $300 000.

Speaker invited question.

K. Gervais-Bouayad (GASP) asked if there is a forecast for the future.

Financial Affairs Officer replied this has not been done in the past, and is very difficult to do because of political volatility.

6 Question Period

7 New Business

7.1 Ratification of Appointments Board Recommendations

BIRT the report of the Appointments Board to May 2014 Council be approved

2014-05-04 Ratification of Appointments Board Recommendations

Academic Affairs Officer outlined proposed candidates. He noted almost every committee is filled, less the appeals committee and the senate committee on discipline.

Chairperson invited questions.

K Gervais-Bouayad (GASP) noted that his name should not be on the list.
Academic Affairs Officer accepted that the name should be struck.

Environment Commissioner noted that her committee lacks a representative from a specific committee.

Academic Affairs Officer noted a McGill agreement permitting a PGSS official to act in lieu of this member.

Motion Passed.

7:17 PM 7.2 Ratification of Appointments Board Recommendations

BIRT the report of the Appointments Board to May 2014 Council be approved

2014-05-04 Ratification of Appointments Board Recommendations

7:18 PM 7.3 Motion regarding PGSS policy on graduate student mental health

(Health Commissioner, Member Services Officer)

BIRT the following policy be formally be adopted.

Operations/Issues Policy: The PGSS Policy on Graduate Student Mental Health

Preamble:

Mental health can be defined as “the capacity of each and all of us to feel, think, and act in ways that enhance our ability to enjoy life and deal with the challenges we face. It is a positive sense of emotional and spiritual well-being that respects the importance of culture, equity, social justice, interconnections, and personal dignity” (1). The Canadian Association of College & University Student Services and Canadian Mental Health Association have created a guide that outlines a framework for addressing student mental health in post-secondary institutions (2). This guide states that “[m]ental health is essential to students’ academic success as well as their ability to participate fully and meaningfully throughout all aspects of their lives and throughout their lifespan” (2). It is imperative that all student services at McGill University work together to promote a safe and healthy campus with the resources available.

Policy:

The PGSS supports:

1. Increasing awareness and reducing stigma: Inform graduate students of the student services and available resources that provide mental health support as well as the PGSS health insurance coverage for mental health services.

2. Collaborating to promote a mentally positive campus: Coordinate with other McGill mental health groups, McGill Student Services, and McGill administration to facilitate wider access to information and support networks for all students. Also, work with McGill faculty and staff to become more aware and educated on mental health issues and how to support students’ mental health.

3. Advocating for accessible services and resources: Services – shorter wait times, consultation, and feedback with users of these services, and students’ rights to confidentiality and privacy. Resources – offer graduate student specific workshops and strategies for graduate students experiencing mental health issues year-round. Increase access to these specialized resources are necessary around times of stress for graduate students (i.e., thesis submission, crisis management and trauma).

The PGSS opposes:
1. Discrimination towards graduate students seeking help or information relating to mental health.
2. Inequality in services available to different student groups at McGill (e.g., full-time, part-time, international).
3. Implementation and/or increase of monetary fees that would prevent students’ access to mental health services on campus due to financial restrictions.


BIFRT the Society Activity Manual be amended as follows:
In chapter 5, section 12, add a new subsection 2.5, reading, “The representatives to the Mental Health Advisory Board and the Counseling Services Advisory Board shall be expected to attend the meetings of both Boards”
In chapter 5, section 12 add a new subsection 3:
3. Subcommittee on Mental Health
3.1 Purpose: to implement the PGSS policy on graduate student mental health
3.2 Composition:
3.2.1 Chair selected from among the Health and Wellness Committee by the PGSS Appointments Board
3.2.2 The PGSS representative to either the Health Services Advisory Board or the Mental Health Advisory Board, in the event this person is not the Chair
3.2.3 Four at-large members

Second reading.

D Meadows (HGSS) asked the Member Services Officer how the policy would be used in practice (action policies).

Member Services Officer replied that a mental health coordinator would be hired, who could then put into action other aspects of the plan.

Called to vote.

Motion Passed. I Japardize (MEGA) noted his abstention

7:21 PM  7.4  2014-04-27- Motion on the PGSS community garden

2014-04-27- Motion on the PGSS community garden

Environment Commissioner presented the motion. She noted it is a pilot project, done in partnership with the sustainability projects fund, to create a community garden, in which members could have access to gardening space at TH. They seek endorsement.

Chairperson invited questions. None.

Called to vote.

Unanimous support.
Motion Passed.

8 Approval of the agenda

Motion Passed.

9 Applications

7:34 PM 9.1 Applications

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2:41 PM Adjourned

Adjourned at 7:38 pm
Post-Graduate Students' Society of McGill University  
3650 McTavish Street, Montreal, Quebec  
C13-08-#14  
Council Minutes  

August 21st, 2013, 6:48 pm

Executives

Jonathan Mooney **Secretary-General**, Erik Larson **Financial Affairs Officer**, Adam Bouchard **Academic Affairs Officer**, Michael Krause **Internal Affairs Officer**  
Elizabeth Cawley **Member Services Officer**, Navid khosravih Ashemi **External Affairs Officer**

Councillors

Karin Siegel **ADAMS CLUB**, Anne Pasek, Gretchen King, **AHCS-GSA**, Yangchun (Frank) Chen, Benjamin Wiles, Shane Caldwell **BGSS**, Philippe DeCorwin-Martin **BMESS** Line Bourdages, **CAOS** Andrew Komar, **CEGSS** Jorge Lehr, Roya Jamarani, **CHEGSS**, Bentley James Oakes, Vladimir Reinharz, Wu Zhen Zhou, **CSGS** Natalia Aguilar Delgado, **DDSS** Yi Feng, **EEGSS** Guillaume Lord, **EGSA-economics**, Kaitlyn Pinder, Veronica Somos, **EGSA-English** Chris Turnbull, **EGSS**, Sossy Sahakian, Aya Siblini, **ESGSS** Mathieu Préau, Nicolas Krumenacker, **GAMES** Vikrant Bhosle, **GAPTS** Justin Irwin, **History and Classical Studies** Kuzi Charamba, Bradley Por, **GLSA** Danielle Meadows, Jen Marton, **HGSS** Jonathan Degeer, **MAGSS** Ahad Ahmed, **MDGSS** Grace Dupuis, Ben Schmidt, Yony Bresler, **MGAPS** Cedar Wingate, **MGSS** John Brannon, **MIGS** Matthew Bouchard, **MLISSA** Brand Vanderbyl, Katrina Obas, Fay Strohschein, **NGSA** Giselle Boukhaled, **PGSA-Physiology** John Tabaka, Emily Yung, **PGSA-Psychiatry**, Michel Antoine Xhignesse, **PPSMUA** Richard Greydanus, **RSGS**, Stefanie nickels, **SCSD-GSS**, Naomi Hyba, **SWAGS** Emma Vincent, Louise Harvey, **Postdoctoral Studies**

Commissioners and non-voting members


Regrets

None

Gallery and Guests

Jonathan Tremblay **CSGC**, Sharif Behrang, Dana Wray **The Daily**
Call to Order 6:48 pm

1. Approval of the Agenda
   Motion approved.

2. Speaker’s Report
   Speaker outlined general rules of Council, allotting speaking time of 1 minute.

3. Announcements
   Internal Affairs Officer said in the fall, there will be a discussion panel with new and old graduate students writing their theses. Spots have been filled for the science side. If you have a social science background, email him internal.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca to be included in the project.

4. Approval of the Minutes
   No minutes from last meeting.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders

6. Executive Reports
   6.1. External Affairs Officer
   6.2. Academic Affairs Officer
   6.3. Internal Affairs Officer
   6.4. Finance Officer
   6.5. Member Services Officer
   There are two info sessions on insurance plans for students who have questions on their plans. Dates and times will be advertised around campus.

   Sustainability Action Plan has been provided for Council’s feedback.

   Financial Officer presented funding options for the Plan.

   Secretary General said we could start a new budget line called Sustainability.

   L. Harvey asked what the Thompson House fee of $0.75 goes to.

   Financial Officer said it goes to regular maintenance such as repainting, fixing floors.

   6.6. Secretary-General

7. Commissioner Reports
7.1. Equity Commissioner

7.2. Environment Commissioner

7.3. Health Commissioner

7.4. Member Support Commissioner

This committee is currently recruiting. Contact Jacinthe or Marilou to apply.

8. Other Reports

8.1. Policy and Structure Advisory Committee

Secretary General presented the report.

Draft of Member Code of Conduct and harassment policy was brought forward for discussion.

G. Lord asked what constitutes as a “conflict of interest”. He also asked who was consulted in the development of this report.

Secretary General defined the conflicts as financial. Input from internal Legal Council was received as consultation in the two months that PSAC worked on this report.

Member Services Officer said the report needs to clarify the scope of “PGSS members” as PGSS memberships can be bought and associate members also exist. Who the report would specifically apply to needs to be clarified. She made a friendly amendment to change “7 days” to “7 business days”.

Secretary General thanked the Member Services Officer for her comments. He said that associate members would be included and “7 business days” has been changed. He added in his response to G. Lord’s question that the Associate Provost Policies and Procedures Equity was also consulted.

N. Hyba asked if there was anything to prevent harassment.

Secretary General said there has been discussion that mandatory trainings be implemented.

B. Schmidt said Point 7 in Part 3 has a typo and is ambiguously worded.

Secretary General thanked B. Schmidt for catching the mistake. The committee will re-draft accordingly.

G. King asked how we are defining evidence as there were previous instances when this was confusing. She asked about the HEC Committee. She also asked why this was a Committee of the Board.

Secretary General responded by saying that “evidence” is defined in Section 5 regarding investigation. Regarding counter allegations, Section 5 outlines the procedures. Mediation training will be given by someone from the Bar of Quebec. It is a committee of the Board because it touches PGSS liability.
G. King asked if the bar de Quebec has such a training service.

Secretary General responded that there is by consultation of the Legal Council.

G. King asked what the next step in the policy will be.

Secretary General this will go back to Council and the Board after redraft by PSAC. Council would be seeing this draft in about a month.

Secretary General introduced the second thing in the report – bylaw changes. The first change is to remove the motion to censure. Right now this motion can be brought by anyone. The change in this bylaw is to have the motion to censure be supported by ¼ of voting members of the voting assembly or be put forth by a committee.

L. Harvey asked what would be considered a governing body in the text.

Secretary General said the bylaws state that a governing body could be Council, the Board, any committee, or the General Assembly.

G. Lord asked the applicability of provision 6.1.2. in case another body want to recommend censure to Council.

Secretary General said yes. Just to have something moved and seconded at one of this committees would probably require ¼ of voting members.

J. Irwin asked how the number of ¼ of the quorum was generated.

Secretary General said the two bodies that number would most likely apply to are General Assembly and Council. He explained the quorums for both bodies.

J. Irwin clarified his question further. He asked how is ¼ of the quorum decided to be the standard.

Secretary General said they looked at other student associations such as SSMU.

G. King said there are different privileges of different bodies. An equity committee has ten people while Council has 80+.

Secretary General said there is a reason that it is a percentage rather than a number. One fourth is a good number to make sure that it is a motion worth talking about.

K. Charamba said there are too many discrepancies between committees and the number of signatures required would be always fluctuating depending on the committee.

Academic Affairs Officer said there is a misreading for 6.1.2. The number is ¼ of the quorum and the quorum is 1/3. If there are approximately 107 members in Council, the number of signatures required would be approximately 9, not 36.

G. King moved to amend the motion to at least 4 signatures of that governing body.
W. Farrell spoke against the amendment. The math to calculate the necessary number of signatures is not difficult to do. He proposed that a percentage is good as it ensures motions are not brought forward frivolously.

M. Akpa spoke against the amendment, pointing out that not every single committee has the same number of people. She asked what a committee with less than 4 people would do.

Academic Affairs Officer, spoke against the amendment, and said he was confident that every member is able to do the math.

Motion brought to a vote. Motion failed.

M. Xhignesse was unclear about the scope this motion touches on.

Secretary General said a Committee might want to bring forward a motion on one of its members for the General Assembly or Council to consider. The scope would cover a member of the society at large such as an Officer, a member of the Board, or a Councillor.

**PSAC Motion 1 passed with 2/3 majority.**

Secretary General presented proposed SAM change for discussion. Upon motivation, he defined terms that touched on the power of the steering committee. Parliamentary language, as defined in Roberts’ Rules, is insulting another member of Assembly; liability would be regarding something that has potential to get us sued.

Y. Bresler asked what the result is if this exercise was done right.

Secretary General said there is something in our bylaws that says Committees should report regularly to Council their activities. Whenever Steering Committee has done something beyond changing the order of the motions, Steering Committee has to submit a report.

Speaker said Steering Committee would inform movers of smaller grammatical errors and ask if those changes should be made. Minutes are also taken at Steering Committee.

M. Bouchard asked if this content that is submitted happens often or if it was just precautionary.

Secretary General said generally it is precautionary.

**PSAC Motion 2 passed with 2/3 majority.**

Motion 3 was brought forward.

Upon motivation, Secretary General said PSAC recognized discrepancies been SAM and bylaws. Instead of two different documents of different things, PSAC combined it into one and decided to put it in the SAM.

G. Lord asked a member of the Committee for clarification on Line 5 of the policy regarding referendums to have the power to remove a Commissioner or Officer.

Secretary General said the goal is to get rid of contradictions. Bylaws say that the only way to remove and Officer is through a motion and not a referendum.
W. Farrell asked would redefining Commissioners as having more of an employee status redefine the hierarchy and party to report to. Would it be more of a Board matter rather than something we have control over Council.

Secretary General said this change that we are voting on would not change the hierarchy. We could possibly discuss this in October.

K. Charamba said sometimes the reason why there are two separate documents for things is that they are different in nature. He asked the committee to explain why there were two different documents in the first place.

Secretary General said up until June 2012, we had one big constitution; since then there were several documents developed. Currently we are not sure where councillors should fall under, if it is a political position or an employee position.

**PSAC Motion 3 passed with 2/3 majority.**

**8.2. Environment Committee**

Environment Commissioner developed the work plan for the PGSS Environment Committee.

Y. Bresler asked if the committee has considered the ban to sell bottled water.

The Environment Commissioner said the Committee had not considered that before but if there is enough interest, we could move forward in that direction.

**9. Question Period**

G. Lord said he was deeply troubled that the supporting documents were submitted late for the third time in a row. The length of two days makes it impossible to consult the members to gather their opinion on the matter.

The Speaker explained that for this particular meeting, she was in the hospital for a week that led to the delay.

Secretary General explained that the time for steering committee was also set late.

G. King said this transition period is difficult without visibility to approved minutes. She suggested that reports that are not in the package can be delivered orally by Officers and Commissioners.

Secretary General said there can be uniformity of reports as we do have a template. Minutes will be updated on the website accordingly.

**10. New Business**

**10.1. Motion R13-06-#002 · Motion to specify amendment procedure for the Policy Manual**

(G. Lord/Secretary-General)

BIRT Council amend the preamble of the Society Policy Manual to adopt the following procedure for amending the Manual:
Amendments to this Manual may only be entertained during the period from October 1st through March 31st of the following year, unless Council votes by special resolution to entertain an amendment outside of this period.

2. Any amendments to this Manual must be proposed through Council:
   2.1. First Reading: Council
      2.1.1. Notice of a proposed enactment, amendment, or repeal of any part of this Manual shall be given to the Secretary-General at least two (2) weeks before the meeting of Council at which the motion is to be introduced.
      2.1.2. Notice of the wording of the proposed motion must be given to Council members at least five (5) days before the Council meeting at which the motion is to be introduced and debated.
      2.1.3. The motion shall be read a first time at Council. The motion shall be debated and amended if so desired, and approved in principle by a simple majority vote.
   2.2. The Governance Committee
      2.2.1. The motion, as approved in principle by Council, shall be conveyed in writing to the Governance Committee within one (1) week.
      2.2.2. The Governance Committee shall consider the motion.
      2.2.3. Within ten (10) working days of having received notice, the Governance Committee shall notify the Secretary-General in writing of any recommended changes to the proposed Manual. If no such changes are recommended, the Secretary-General shall be notified of that fact.
      2.2.4. If the Governance Committee submits no changes within ten (10) working days, then the proposed amendment shall go forward to be read a second time at Council.
   2.3. Second Reading: Council
      2.3.1. The Secretary-General shall ensure that the proposed amendment and the recommendations of the Governance Committee are included for second reading at a Council meeting, and that this agenda be given to all Council members at least fortyeight (48) hours before the meeting.
      2.3.2. Council shall debate and consider the proposed motion, and any recommendations made by the Governance Committee.
      2.3.3. The Speaker shall not permit Council to consider any further amendments from the floor, other than those recommended by the Governance Committee.
      2.3.4. The proposed motion shall be approved by a special resolution of council and the changes shall take effect immediately upon such approval.
   3. The Secretary-General shall oversee updates to the Manual as required.

G. Lord, upon motivation, said that this motion was brought forward to correct a bylaw that was supposed to exist.

Motion passed.

10.2. Motion R13-08-#003 · Motion to specify terms of appointment
(Secretary-General/ D. Meadows)

WHEREAS the PGSS governing documents do not specify the terms of appointments
WHEREAS the previous PGSS constitution specified a one year term for appointments
WHEREAS under the status quo, members will serve ultimate terms
New SAM clause 54.6.2: Appointments shall end one year from the date of appointment.
New SAM clause 12.4.10: Appointments shall have a term of one year
Secretary General, upon motivation, said if you are appointed to a university committee, you are appointed for life. We want to go back to the one year term.

G. Lord said he could not find this SAM clause on the online version of the SAM.

Secretary General said these are new clauses that we need to add with a new number.

Academic Affairs Officer moved to amend the second clause regarding university committees.

K. Charamba said there is nothing wrong with serving life terms.

L. Harvey asked if May 31st is a definite finish date for all committees, and that they don’t have summer meetings.

Academic Affairs Officer said it is rare that university committee meetings are meeting over the summer. If there are meetings, they are ad hoc meetings.

B. Wiles said he is part of the grievance committee which has ad hoc committees.

W. Farrell amended “until the person is filled.”

Amendment: New SAM clause 12.4.10: Appointments shall have a term of one year. **Appointments shall have a term ending May 31st or provisionally until the position is filled.**

Academic Affairs Officer called question.

Amendment adopted.

Motion passed.

10.3. Motion R13-08-#003 · Motion regarding 2013-2014 workplan (Executive Committee)

BIRT the draft outline of the 2013-2014 Executive Workplan be approved

Draft workplan outline

SG
- Review bylaws and society affairs manual with Policy and Structure Advisory Committee (PSAC) and bring changes forward
- Review elections regulation with PSAC and Chief Returning Officer and bring changes forward
- Streamline governance via online content management system (CMS): integrate aspects of PGSS governance (council, committees) into PGSS website and CMS
- Develop PGSS harassment policy with PSAC
- Ensure constructive relations with SSMU and other university partners by ensuring consistent communication and collaboration on research projects and common causes
- Improve appeal of Thomson House by working with management and Board of Directors
- Oversee projects including research, business initiatives, and legal matters

IAO
- Improve outreach by sending one PGSS exec to attend a GA or exec meeting of each PGSA
- Surveying PGSAs for workplan items
- Speaker series: senior grad students
- Review social media strategy for each portfolio (twitter, Facebook, YouTube)
- Coordinate further development of emergent postgraduate cultural associations
- Board focus on TH “fun” and restaurant improvement
  - weekly/monthly BBQ in the summer months
  - marketing TH
  - branding
  - games night, settlers with Senior Nacho

MSO
- Define role of commissioners/execs
- Rename and redefine roles of commissioners
  - make job reflective of # of hours
  - make job expectations reflective of number of hours
  - working on "branding" of caucuses and committees
- Effects of referendum questions failing – how to deal with these cuts and what can be done next year.
- Exec-commissioner communication: retreats and meetings
- Adoption of the MSPN and expansion of their work for grad students. Combining Family Care and MSPN.
- Daycare application process
- Mental health initiatives. Particularly working on Peer Support, Mental Health Conference and at Thomson House implementation and training of the High Five ("safe space") campaign.
- Student Services (always) - helping with RFPs, referenda, grad specific programming.
- Focus on mental health and financial aid - their role for grad students isn't always clear.
- Integration and prep for post doc services if/when their referendum passes.
- Renegotiate Health and Dental Insurance Plan
- Creating info sessions and more awareness about our plan.

AAO
- University reps – reporting and orientation
- Athletics – lobby DPSLL to support audit of activities
- McGill Writing Center
- Content management project for university representatives, online database
- Supervision workgroup
- Implementation of supervision pilot project
- Organize “know your rights” session
- University committee orientation package
- Focus on strategy to lobby for reduced enrolment (control student population)

EAO
- Develop communications and public relations strategy
- Communicate FEUQ issues and campaigns to exec and coordinating activities;
- Voter registration at Thomson House
- Tax week
- Research on socially responsible investing
- French language – accessibility
- University reinvestment campaign
- Election research
- FEUQ conference at Thomson House in November

**FO**
- Negotiating new Thomson House Lease
- Legal matters
- Business metrics reporting
- Exploring Finance/Investment Options for Special Projects
- Reworking Grants program based on GPS contributions
- Funding for 'Full Moon Party at TH' as a focus group for Moon Vision 2030 needs/goals
- Evaluation and implementation of business advertising needs to improve business revenue
- (specifically event revenue)

Secretary General appreciated councillors coming out this meeting. These are the projects for the year. If you want to add anything, please approach the Executive.

L. Harvey said this looks like a great work plan. She asked the Member Services Officer about the effects of referendums failing. She also asked about information on Post Doc services.

Member Services Officer gave a background on the failed referendum question to raise fees: that SSMU passed it and PGSS didn’t. Janna Luker will be consulted to find out the areas that will be cut. Member Services Officer will inform Council in September. She met with the Deputy Provost a few days ago. They figure out the fees a month in advance. Students will be asked the referendum question again in the fall now that we have more information. We have been working on the Post Doc issue.

G. King asked if this was a draft.

Secretary General said another draft will be coming to Council in Sept.

Motion passed.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm**
Unapproved Council Minutes
September 18th 2013

Executives
J. Mooney Secretary-General, E. Larson Financial Affairs Officer, A. Bouchard Academic Affairs Officer, M. Krause Internal Affairs Officer, E. Cawley Member Services Officer, N. Ashemi External Affairs Officer.

Councilors

Commissioners and non-voting member
M. Akpa Equity Commissioner, V. Bhosle Member Support Commissioner, A. Winegardner Environmental Commissioner, E. Yung Health Commissioner, N. Nizam Chair, C. Briggs Chief Returning Officer & Recording Secretary, R Simons Parliamentarian.

Guests

Call to Order 5:43 pm

1. Motion to approve Agenda
   Motion approve, no abstentions/opposed

2. Speaker’s Report
   Chair introduces Parliamentarian, R Simons, and explains her role.
3. Announcements
   Internal Affairs Officer discusses upcoming Scavenger Hunt
   March 2013 closed minutes will not be presented due to a delay in publication

4. Approval of Minutes
   4.1 March 2013 (open session)
       Approved, no abstentions/opposed
   4.2 May (1st) 2013 (closed session)
       Approved, no abstentions/opposed
   4.3 May (29th) 2013
       Approved, no abstentions/opposed
   4.4 June 2013
       Approved, no abstentions/opposed
   4.5 August 2013
       Approved, no abstentions/opposed

5. Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders
   No items

6. Executive Reports
   6.1 Academic Affairs Officer
       Not present, report postponed
   6.2 Internal Affairs Officer
       No comments/questions
   6.3 Member Services Officer
       Not present, report postponed
   6.4 Financial Affairs Officer
       No comments/questions
   6.5 External Affairs Officer
       No comments/questions
   6.6 Secretary-General
       No comments/questions

7. Commissioner Reports
   7.1 Environment Commissioner
       Referred council to read her report, which, as she believes, summerises her
       committee’s efforts better than she could in word. No questions
   7.2 Member Support Commissioner
       No comments/questions
   7.3 Health Commissioner
       No comments/questions
   7.4 Equity Commissioner
       No comments/questions
8. Other Reports

8.1 Appointments Board Recommendations
Internal Affairs Officer explained process of appointing new committee members.
- Appeals Board vacancy, Juan Pinto, Anoop Saxpn, Kuzi Charambal running. Council approved candidacies. Internal Affairs officer explains that the bylaws state preference should be given to law students, but as a raffle system is used, said process is hard to apply. Internal Affairs officer proposed granting law students three ballots in the draw, and other students only one. Council approved; no abstentions/opposed. Juan Pinto was elected by draw.

9. Question Period
No questions

10. New Business

10. Motion R13-09-#006 · Motion regarding 2013-2014 workplan
Secretary-General explained the Executive Work Plan’s purpose and goals. Chair called for questions.
G. Lord (Economics), asked the Academic Affairs Officer about university space projects.
Secretary-General responded (Academic Absent) with information regarding the University space inventory and their plan to optimize space usage as to permit graduate students to have greater access to office space.
Chair called to vote on the Executive Work Plan.

Motion Passed

10.2 Motion R13-09-#007 · Motion to permit the recall of elected officers by petition
Secretary-General motivated for the Recall Petition amendment, a changed which clarifies some confusion in the present clause permitting officers to be recalled.
G. Lord (Economics), motioned to amend (addition is underlined) the BIRT clause to “A petition to call a meeting or referendum to remove a person from any position within the PGSS must be framed as follows: “Do you agree that X be removed from the position of Y?” wherein X is the name of the person, and Y is the name of the position.”
Chair calls motion to a vote. Approved, no abstains/opposed.
Chair calls amended BIRT clause to a vote

BIRT A petition to call a meeting or referendum to remove a person from any position within the PGSS must be framed as follows: “Do you agree that X be removed from the position of Y?” wherein X is the name of the person, and Y
is the name of the position.”

Motion passed

10.3 / 10.4

Postponed

10.5 Motion R13-09-#010 · Motion to specify terms of appointment

Secretary-General motivated for the amendment (new SAM clause 56:6:2; 12:4:10) to the Society Activities Manual which would limit terms of committee members to one year from appointment for appointments, and the PGSS Member year (May 31st) for university and other committees.

Chair called to vote

Motion passed

Chair calls to Adjourn; approved, no abstains/opposed. Council adjourned at 6:03 pm.
October Unapproved Minutes

Executives
Jonathan Mooney **Secretary-General**, Erik Larson **Financial Affairs Officer**, Adam Bouchard **Academic Affairs Officer**, Michael Krause **Internal Affairs Officer**, Elizabeth Cawley **Member Services Officer**, Navid Khosraviv Ashemi **External Affairs Officer**.

Councilors

Commissioners and Non-Voting Members
M. Akpa **Equity Commissioner**, V. Bhosle **Member Support Commissioner**, A. Winegardner **Environmental Commissioner**, E. Yung **Health Commissioner**, C. Briggs **Chief Returning Officer & Recording Secretary**, R Simons **Parliamentarian**.

Guests

Secretary-General ask for approval of acting chair
Acting Chairs called meeting to order at 6:49 pm.

1. Approval of the Agenda  
   Chair called Agenda to a vote.  
   *Agenda approved.*

2. Speaker’s Report  
   No comments.

3. Announcements  
   Member support and Internal Affairs presented the PGSS Digital Handbook, Events Calendar, and Paintball events. Remarks from Principal Suzanne Fortier (with opportunity for questions) tabled for her arrival.

4. Approval of the Minutes  
   4.1 Approval of May 2013 Closed Session Minutes.  
      Secretary-General discusses publicity process of the closed minutes.  
      *Motion Carried.*

5. Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders  
   5.1 Appointments Board  
      Motion to accept the recommendations of the appointments board. No comments.  
      *Motion Carried.*

6. Executive Reports  
   6.1 Academic Affairs Officer  
      No comments.

   6.2 Internal Affairs Officer  
      No comments

   6.3 Secretary-General  
      Presented information about PGSA training and policy, also discussed supervision of supervisors and the increased quantity of tuition waivers. No comments for councilors.

   6.4 Member Services Officer  
      No comments

   6.5 Financial Affairs Officer  
      No comments.
6.6 External Affairs Officer
No comments.

7. Commissioner Reports
7.1 Environment Commissioner
No comments.

7.2 Health Commissioner
Chair inquires about CIBC run for the cure team. Funds are still being accepted.

7.3 Equity Commissioner
No comments.

7.4 Member Support Commissioner
Not present. Postponed.

8. Other Reports
8.1 Appointments Board
No content

8.2 Letter regarding the Charter of Values
Secretary-General outlined the generalities of the letter prepared, namely the associations support for state secularism; however, our opposition for the ban on religious clothing for state workers.
Equity Commissioner pointed out grammatical errors, for which the Secretary-General apologized and of which he redacted.
G Lord, MEGA, highlighted the lack of discussion on our support to any portion of the charter.
K. Bouayad-Gervais, GASP, noted grammatical errors in the document.
Secretary-General explained that any errors will be rectified and that they exist due to the short time to develop the letter.
Chairs calls for vote to ratify the report.
*Motion Carried.*

8.3 McGill Writing Centre Usage and Satisfaction
Academic Affairs explained the pertinence of the Writing Centre data to the referendum proposals.
Chairs calls for vote to ratify the report.
*Motion Carried.*

8.4 Sustainability Action Plan
Member Services Officer presented the Sustainability Action Plan.

Chairs called for vote to ratify the report.

*Motion Carried.*

9. **Question Period**

Secretary General asked PGSA executives if they felt greater financial autonomy would benefit their PGSA. M Bouchard, **MLISSA**, stated his support for greater autonomy, but expressed his appreciation for the work of the manager of the present system.

A Chen, **MGSSEAS**, expressed his concern with the transient nature of PGSA in managing funds, and thusly expressed his support of the present system. He also stated his appreciation for the work of the current PGSS staff.

A Best, **GSAMS**, expressed her support for the current system, but frustration with the need to follow procedures for petty billing.

**Discussion tabled to permit a Guest.**

3.1 **RESUMED**

S Fortier, **Principal**, introduced herself, her background, and her role at McGill – including her shadowing programme, which she has yet to do with a graduate student. The speaker underlined the administration’s goals to continue working to support McGill students as the centre of their objectives, as well as to maintain the universities reputation. She invited members to provide her office with feedback regarding academic, financial, and community matters. The principal further added that future projects include exploring student supervision and funding for graduate students.

Chair opened the meeting for questions.

G Lord, **MEGA**, inquired about office space for graduate students, especially the differentiation between various departments.

S Fortier, **Principal**, claimed she was not aware of this issue; however, mentioned that space itself is an ongoing issue for McGill, with infrastructure being goal, and this being added to future discussion. The speaker also invited input from members.

A. Chen, **MGSSEAS**, inquired on the importance of mental health services, and inquired about the haphazard, and perilous funding for the social equity and diversity programme.

S Fortier, **Principal**, claimed university will be exploring solutions for mental health services at the upcoming retreat as well as for social equity projects.

W Farrel, **CEGSS**, expressed his frustration with the office space issue. The student mentioned that new hires are often engaged before office space can be provided. The member added that expansion needs to be done in tandem with reasonable special planning.

S Fortier, **Principal**, responded by “the continued expansion of McGill in past years has caused issues with space.” She mentioned McGill would be looking to rectify these issues.

Financial Affairs Officer asked the principal to elaborate on McGill’s financial footing.

S Fortier, **Principal**, replied that McGill was on stable footing until the recent government cuts as a
result of the recession. She added that stable grant increases in the past have since dried up, causing financial challenges for the institution.

Unspecified member discussed the budgeting patterns of McGill’s past administration, specifically the prioritization of projects like the “new Milton gates” or inefficient white elephant laboratory renovations. He asked the principal about her goals in terms of funding and infrastructure.

S Fortier, Principal, replied that, while infrastructure is an attractive venue to explore, her goals stand around people, specifically the faculty-student ratio. She added that living within our means is her policy.

A. Kazarine, CGSS, expressed his concern with the Automass ventilation renovations, which have led to constant interruptions from construction workers without any notices coming from faculty management or other Administrators.

S Fortier, Principal, stated she would look into it.

J Ouellet, GSANS, inquired if McGill will be using any of the vacated space from the Royale Victoria Hospital.

S Fortier, Principal, explained that this would be prohibitively expensive.

E Vincent, Postdoctoral Studies, asked if the principal has seen the survey from the Canadian Post Doctoral Fellows association. As she had, the member expressed her concern with the low morale amongst post docs.

S Fortier, Principal, said she believes many of the issues come down to funding. The speaker mentioned that political pressure is being put on levels of government to increase this funding.

F Strohschein, NGSA, inquired if supervision will be a continued project for administration.

S Fortier, Principal, stated that the University wishes to take a student-centred approach, which is personalized, as to support student development within the McGill community.

Chair called for any objections with continuing discussion, despite being over time.

No objections.

L Bourdages, CAOS, inquired on McGill’s goals for making use of alumni and other donors for future funding.

S Fortier, Principal, highlighted the socioeconomic differences between Canada and the US in terms of donations to educational institutions. McGill is looking to increase funding through donations, but she does not believe this is an end in itself.

Chair thanked the guest and returned discussion to item 8.

Item 8 Resumed

M Bouchard, MLISSA, claimed PGSS administration of funding helps to provide better records and more secure management.

M Chen, MGSSEAS, expressed some of the challenges with the present system due to the obligation of using certain officers to sign certain documents.

W Farrel, CEGSS, mentioned his concerns with having a transitory body handle a rigid, bureaucratic process.

M Bouchard, MLISSA, inquired about policies or guides for PGSA elections.

Secretary-General replied that the Student Life Coordinator does have literature to explain constitution, election and procedural elements. He also invited the CRO to also respond to the question.
Chief Returning Officer mentioned that materials are being developed to support PGSAs with the planning and execution of their elections. He also added that PSAC and the executive along with this officer is looking into proposing some changes to streamline the process.

10. New Business

10.1. Motion R13-10-#013 · Motion regarding referendum question for the McGill Tribune.

Member Services Officer motioned to extend speaking rights to the McGill Tribune Members.

Chair called motion to a vote.

Motion carried.

Secretary-General motivated for the change, adding that the Tribune does not currently receive funding from PGSS.

Unknown member inquired why is one not being allowed to opt out.

Secretary-General replied that the administration does not approve of opt-outable fees.

Chair called the motion to question

Motion Passed

10.2. Motion R13-10-#014 · Motion regarding McGill Writing Center fee

Academic Affairs Officer motivated in favour of the centre. He claimed that many people opposed the previous attempt at passing this referendum was due to the lack of a sunset clause. The presenter added that PGSS members presently use 800 hours of the service.

S Kusher McGill Writing Centre, added that originally the centre was funding as a pilot project by the Administration; however, its tutorial services has since sought to be funded by student bodies as the pilot project funding has ceased.

K Bouayad-Gervais, GASP, motioned to amend the question to remove the “with the understanding….” section as it creates a bias in the referendum.

W Farrel, CEGSS, disagreed with the previous speaker, claiming the tail of the question speaks about a factual consequence, rather than a biased addition.

S Kusher. McGill Writing Centre, spoke against the amendment as it would limit information to voters –
B Sharif, **PGSA-Physiology**, asked if SSMU funds it? 
S Kusher, **McGill Writing Centre**, replied that SSMU currently funds it, but the centre cannot use their SSMU funding to fund PGSS projects.

Chair called the amendment to vote.  
*Motion to Amend Failed.*

G Dupuis, **MGAPS**, noted that the referendum lacks discussion of whether it is opt-outable.

Academic Affairs Officer motions to include opt outable after “institute a…”

B Sharif, **PGSA-Physiology**, inquired about the usage ration between undergrads and grads.

S Kusher, **McGill Writing Centre**, provided data that demonstrated that 34 % of users are graduate students.

Financial Affairs Officer motioned to amend the referendum to include its commencement starting from Winter 2014.

Chair called for vote on amendment.  
*Motion Carried.*

Chair called the motion to a vote, including the optoutable and winter commencement amendments.  
*Motion Carried*

10.3. **Motion R13-10-#015 · McGill Writing Centre Tutorial Funding for Fall 2013**

Academic Affairs Officer motivated in favour of the motion as the budgetary situation of the Centre is precarious due to a lack of funding from PGSS. Namely that PGSS members have not funded the writing centre as of late, whilst using the services of the tutors. This funding would cover the void.

Member Services Officer motivated against the motion as, given that the writing centre funding failed at referendum, and this would result in an underhanded attempt to fund the centre against the member’s will. She added that is seems peculiar that PGSS can fund the Writing Centre, but not mental health services.

S Relallick, **RSGS**, inquired on where this proposal came from.

Academic Affairs Officer replied that the budgetary information was learned of in researching the writing centre’s upcoming referendum. PGSS has proposed it.

A Olanreqaju, **BMESS**, discussed the previous referendum question’s failure was the result of lack of information, not an opposition to the centre.

F Strohschein, **NGSA**, asked if PGSS has, in the past, given money to support services in the case of a failed referendum.

Internal Affairs Officer replied they had not.

W Farrel, **CEGSS**, asked the Academic Affairs officer what justified an exception being made to fund this project.

Academic Affairs Officer noted that this motion is extremely direct in its scope, namely the monies go directly to certain projects, with PGSS control. He added this situation is unique as the Centre had been covering the service costs with the assumption that PGSS would be able to provide bridge funding or that a referendum would pass/

B Schmidt, **MGAPS**, spoke against this motion as it works against the collective will that was expressed in the referendum.
S Kusher, McGill Writing Centre, claimed a lack of bridge funding would impede the Writing Centre’s ability to see graduate students, as well as upset planning policy, resulting in a potential loss of staff, or future budgetary or staffing issues.

W Farrel, CEGSS, asked if the bridge funding would prevent layoffs.

S Kusher, McGill Writing Centre, replied yes and no: as the tutorial service employees are contractual, there would be no de jure layoffs; however, staff would see their hours cut, resulting in, perhaps, the departure of some staff.

N Barashi, ADAMS CLUB, expressed her concern about juxtaposing Writing Centre services with Medical Services. Both issues are problems, and we should not seek to race to the bottom.

Member Services Officer reminded counselors that voting should reflect the will of members.

Chair called the motion to a vote.

Motion failed. 14 in favour / 18 opposed.

Chair calls for a motion to extend council.

Motion passed.

10.4 Motion R13-10-#16 – Motion regarding Mandatory Institution Fee Policy for sub-groups of PGSS members.

Secretary-General motivates for the motion, explaining its goals are to develop a procedure for PGSA based fees.

J Tremblay, CSGS, asked what authority does PGSS have to use these structures.

Secretary-General replied that there is government regulations on this matter.

G Lord, MEGA, motioned to amend, adding “and voting” after campaigning in clause 5.

However, only students to whom the fee would apply shall be entitled to participate in campaigning and voting.

Chair called to vote.

Amendment adopted.

G Lord, MEGA, inquired about the second BIFRT clause.

Secretary-General responded that this clause seeks to address the policy applied within the university.

J Tremblay, CSGS, asked why the clause limited the specific groupings.

Secretary-General said that the university wishes to approve things by committee, but this violates the law. This structure aims to permit interested parties, namely PGSS, to control their FIOs (obligatory auxiliary fees). He added that, at present, PGSS is in a policy void; all past FIOs were done in the context of a past law; this policy grants PGSS control over the policy.

F Strohschein, NGSA, posed the question of who would vote on fees charged for specific classes.

Secretary-General responded that voting would be based on class, and not be permanent; each class would need to approve voting.

J Tremblay, CSGS, stated his concern that course-based fees would be rushed and confusing.

Secretary-General insisted this structure would permit for speedy processing of specific fees.

G Lord, MEGA, asked what this policy would foresee - examples.

Secretary-General furnished the examples of a simulation based computer lab and a field trip.

J Tremblay, CSGS, asked if this exist for undergraduates?
Secretary-General responded that law applies universally, but he does not yet know if SSMU has found a way to apply this rule.

W Farrel, CEGSS, inquired if this would be a procedure for universities to download fees onto students.

Secretary-General replied that it probably is; however, this policy would at least permit feedback to administration.

G Lord, MEGA, asked if there are any protections against the downloading of fees.

Secretary-General replied the law specifically defines the FIOs, and PGSS must endorse the FIO referendum.

J Tremblay, CSGS, called to question.

*Motion Carried.*

Chair invited the CRO to make announcement.

The CRO called for the formation of referendum committees for the Tribune, Writing Centre and Post-Doctoral Fees.

Equity Commissioner called to adjourn.

*Motion Carried.*

*Council Adjourned.*
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Attending

6:48 PM  Call to order

1  Floor Items

1.1  Motion to amend to add recognition of the Mining and materials engineering student society to the agenda

6:49 PM  Carried

1.2  Announcements

Financial Affairs Officer asked if we should order pizza. Council supported this initiative.
Member Services Officer explained the Flu Shot programme.
Internal Affairs Officer explained centr aid raffle

6:54 PM  1.3  MMGESA approval

M-C Noel, MMGESA motivated in favour of recognition
G Lord asked if people can speak from their seat
Chair approved.
M Bouchard, MLISSA, asked if there is a limitation to seat at council or recognition of PGSAs.
Secretary-General replied that no seats would be lost, but council would gain two seats.
T Wilfong, MGSS, asked who currently represents MMGESA.
M-C Noel, MMGESA, replied no one.
Y Bresler, MGAPS, asked what the approval rate was.
M-C Noel, MMGESA, 93 % with 20 % voting
Chair called to question
This motion passed.
Passed
1.4 MSO Report

D Meadows, HGSS, asked what would the postdoc student fee referendum result in if passed.

Member Services Officer replied that it would create specific programming, and it would grant Postdocs access to McGill services, including international student services, mental health, physician services, and employment support services.

debrosse GASP asked about the usage of mental health services for grads

MSO replied grads use the services more, and pgss is working on publicity. McGill and PGSS are looking to develop early detection and intervention services as to prevent issues from being exacerbated.

2 Approval of the agenda

Approved

3 Speaker’s report

Speaker (R. Simmons) introduced herself and her background. She also presented the acting parliamentarian (K. Simmons).

4 Approval of the minutes

4.0.1 Motion to amend the agenda to move 8.4 to item 4 (MMGESA)

CARRIED

5 Reports

5.1 Report of the External Affairs Officer

Report of the External Affairs Officer

R Debrosse, GASP, asked if the referendums passed at the FEUQ meeting.

External Affairs Officer replied that no agreements were reached.
5.2 Report of the Academic Affairs Officer

Report of the Academic Affairs Officer

L Daieff, MGAPSS, asked about what happened at the apple picking.

Academic Affairs Officer replied he ate several apples

Report of the Academic Affairs Officer

5.3 Appointments Board report

Appointments Board report

W Farrel made a friendly amendment to fix the spelling of his name in the report.

Carried.

Academic Affairs Officer asked if the Board of Directors ever come to council.

Sec-Gen replied in the affirmative.

G Lord, MEGA, motioned to edit the end of the motion as the mention of the Board of Directors member should not be included.

Chair replied that one cannot edit the document as it is pdf, but the name will not be in the actual motion.

Chair called to vote.

Motion passed.

5.4 Report of the Policy and Structure Advisory Committee

Report of the Policy and Structure Advisory Committee

(motions included)

Secretary-General motivated for the harassment policy. He explained it has been vetted by countless McGill, PGSS and community groups. He added how the committee would be appointed and how they would operate.

T Wilfong, MGSS, asked how the policy compares to the McGill policy.

D Meadows, HGSS, explained that McGill's policy does not cover PGSS. She added this policy only covers the grey zone between the legal definition and a social definition.

J Pinto, GLSA, asked about confidentiality in the policy, namely does the policy prevent people from other recourse or mental health services.

Secretary-General replied the policy is meant to prevent complaints from being used for political or hostile means, and not to work against medical or legal services; moreover, the officer believes people can maintain anonymity whilst speaking to a support group.

J Pinto, GLSA, retorted that the policy, from a legal point of view, does not permit such action, and, as such, the wording needed to be changed to take into account legal and health recourse.
D Meadows, HGSS, asked Pinto if support groups do not maintain confidentiality anyways.

J Pinto, GLSA, replied that, regardless, the wording of the policy prevents external discussion point blank. It needed to be rephrased as to prevent the interdiction of recourse.

Secretary-General suggested that an amendment should endorse this policy with a caveat that the board take into account the implied gag order.

A Best, GSMAS, replied the equity committee would like to look at this further.

J Pinto, GLSA agreed with the Secretary-General’s proposal that the endorsement be approved with a footnote requesting the analysis of the gag restriction.

Chair outlined that there is a motion to amend with a note included that limits the confidentiality clause.

Member Services Officer, spoke against this policy going directly to the Board of Directors for final approval; she advised that council should retain final say.

J Pinto, GLSA, emphasized the legal concerns of this policy as it is likely against the law; he added it is necessary that modifications are made by a legal expert - council does not have the legal knowledge to address this.

Chair reminded councillors that there is a two minute speaking limit.

W Farrel, CEGSS, asked if voting against the motion would permit council to later add amendments.

Secretary-General suggested that this policy be sent back to PSAC as so they can take into account the discussion of council.

G Lord MEGA, raised a point of information to ask if the policy would be in the corporation manual or something else.

Secretary-General replied he wishes it to be a Board policy, but PSAC wished to have council’s endorsement.

F Stohschein, NGSA, suggested adding phrasing that permits legal recourse such as “all parties are required to maintain confidentiality within the limits of the law.”

Secretary-General outlined the goals of the policy are being separate from a legal route. It is not intended to interfere with the law.

T Wilfong, MGSS, explained as a layperson, he feels this policy reads poorly to someone in a situation of emotional distress. He suggested this policy be changed as so it is more accessible to a layperson.

J Pinto, GLSA, suggested point 6.3 Â(Both the complainant, the respondent, and the Dean of Students of McGill University shall be notified of the outcome of the investigation ) is not congruent with the confidentiality policy. This councillor moved to strike the said motion.

M Bouchard, MLISSA, asked if there is motion on the table to refer it to PSAC.

Chair replied there is.

W Farrel, CEGSS, asked if confidentiality is intended to be only for the process or for ever.

Secretary-General replied forever.

B Wiles, BGSS, replied that McGill must be included under McGill policy.

Secretary-General replied they are included as to coordinate with the administration; particularly for reasons of larger scale harassment, sensitivity programming, and PGSS protection.

L Daieff, MGAPSS, called to question.

Chair asked if we have on the floor an amendment to strike 6.3
Council confirmed motions, specifically:

A motion to send the policy back to PSAC

A motion to strike 6.3

Call to question
passed

Motion to strike 6.3
Motion failed

Motion to refer to PSAC
Motion carried

CRO presented election reform package. This officer explained that the reforms include fixing logical errors and contradictions, together with minor changes such as a $100 deposit

M Quashie, EEGSS, asked why the officer wished to limit the powers of the elections committee

Chief Returning Officer replied that he wished for the opposite - instead he is trying to extend their scope to an advisory body.

G Lord, MEGA, asked who can speak or vote with these new changes

Chief Returning Officer replied that the change on speaking rights refers the limitation only to the Parliamentary Rules applied, and thus, this would permit this officer to speak as a committee chair (and to motion as such)

G Lord, MEGA, inquired into who wrote the motion

Chief Returning Officer responded that he did with the assistance of PSAC and the Executive.

G Lord, MEGA, asked, seeing as their are several points in this motion, could the CRO summarise the major points.

Chief Returning Officer requested a few moments to review the motion.

Chair invited more questions whilst this officer read.

M Bouchard, MLISSA, reminded council that this package was sent out several days ago, and that, as such, now was not the time to be reading.

Y Bressler, MGAPS, asked how the officer choose which interpretation to go with in terms of contradictions?

Chief Returning Officer replied, in speaking Generally on contradictions, he went with common sense and what council would have likely meant. He also looked to provincial, federal, union and municipal legislation or rules.

B Wiles, BGSS, added that PSAC had quorum when they analysed and approved this package.

T Wilfong, MGSS, asked for a further explanation for the clause regarding the $100 deposit.

Chief Returning officer replied that his position needs teeth and clearer regulations. The deposit grants a mechanism for preventing violations that are not specifically grounds for disqualification. At present, this officer believes he has no recourse against violations except, in extreme cases, disqualification.

A Best, GSAMS, inquired if there are guidelines for how to chose organizations for which a candidate can volunteer in lieu of sacrificing the deposit in cases of violations.
Chief Returning Officer replied the motion keeps things more general, as to leave discretion to the Elections Committee. He intends the guidelines to restrict the organisations to those which are benevolent, well received, charitable and do not represent a political or religious ambition.

D Leung, BGSA, asked if the Elections Committee would have full discretion on the revoking of the deposit. Chief Returning Officer replied in the affirmative, but added that the appeals board exists.

B Wiles, BGSS, called to vote
motion passed

Library improvement Fund

Academic Affairs Officer motivated for the change to the library improvement fund policy, particularly about the changes which work against legacy projects and white elephant projects.

M Malcolm, EGSS, asked why PGSS should continue to contribute when the education library was done away with it.

Academic Affairs Officer replied the subsidy has been reduced. He added the money given to McGill continues to be used, but the future funding will not be directed to new projects as of the cancelling of the library.

A Bouchard MLISSA, raised a point of information, asked if any members of library advisory committee come from MLISSA.

Academic Affairs Officer replied a one ‘Ann’ is on the committee. He is currently seeking more members from MLISSA but it is not codified; the appointments board will likely give preference to MLISSA members.

M Malcolm, EGSS, inquired about the level of awareness of this fund.

Academic Affairs Officer replied the committee has not done tons of publicity as they are still working to negotiate policies with the university. After this policy is approved, publicity will increase. He added the fund helps to support a wide range of library services that most PGSS members uses, including journals, study areas, and online services.

Chair called to question
Motion passed.

8:21 PM 5.5 Report on CFS legal case

Report on CFS legal case

CFS legal case report

Internal Affairs officer outlined the case. He explained the timeline of PGSS’s inclusion and attempt at leaving, including the legal avenues, and the CFS reply. He explained the CFS had failed to provide certain documentation to PGSS before holding the referendum, and failed to reply to countless attempts at contacting them or failed at doing so in a timely manner. He suggested this was a stall tactic. This officer went on to add that PGSS held a referendum under their bylaws, the CFS contested this. PGSS took this to court, as PGSS members overwhelmingly wished to leave. The CFS has since attempted to block the PGSS’s attempts at receiving legal authority to leave the group.

Certain pgss members have recently once again tried to run a petition in favour of leaving the CFS.
GESA, MMGES A, explained the delay involved in the court case and how, at present, PGSS members are still paying fees to a membership contingency fund. He and other members have recently submitted another request to leave the CFS. They are awaiting a reply from the organisation.

M Bouchard, MLISSA, suggested that members do a google search of the organisation. He inferred that the CFS has garnered a great deal of bad press due to complaints from members in trying to leave or engage.

Chair opened the floor to questions.

B Willes, BGSS, asked if having another petition serves any end.

Internal Affairs Officer replied that the CFS has two members, institutional and individual. This present petition is individual, the former was institutional.

J Pinto, GLSA, asked if we are currently paying fees to CFS, and said that this new petition is only a moral stance, and not a legal one.

Internal Affairs Officer replied that we are only paying into a PGSS managed contingency fund. These monies are held by PGSS and/or McGill.

K B-G, GASP, asked if anyone has successfully left the CFS.

Gesa, MGESA replied in the affirmative.

D Meadows, HGSS, asked how much the CFS has paid in court fees.

M Bouchard, MLISSA, replied that we do not know as the CFS does not post its financial information.

F Stohschein, NGSA, asked what is going to happen to our fees.

Internal Affairs Officer replied the monies are being held in the special projects fund.

Financial Affairs officer added the contingency fund is actually in several accounts.

Internal Affairs Officer went on to add that the previous referendum was rejected by the CFS as they did not view it as valid, however, he argued this is a stall tactic that PGSS contests.

B Sharif, PGSA-Physiology, asked how the money is billed

GeSa, MMGES A, replied that the money is billed to PGSS member accounts as something else, but held for the CFS.

Y Bresler, MGAPS, asked if the new petition would negate the previous one.

Pinto GLSA replied that a new referendum would duplicate the process, as the first is distinct from the second. The two would remain as distinct from each other from a legal perspective.

8:24 PM 5.6 Sustainability Action Plan Implementation Report

Sustainability Action Plan Implementation Report

Sustainability Action Plan Implementation Report

D Meadows, HGSS, presented the report and invited the council to raise questions.

M Quashie, EEGSS, asked about the implementation of this report.

G Lord, MEGA, explained that the majority of the report concerns PGSS staff and the corporation (in terms of implementation). The implementation report is a detailed analysis of the process.
8:28 PM 5.7 Report of the Internal Affairs Officer

This officer reminded the council to vote in the elections. He invited questions, none were posed.

8:29 PM 5.8 Report of MSO

No questions, comments, or presented information.

8:29 PM 5.9 Report of the Financial Affairs Officer

No questions, comments, or presented information.

8:36 PM 5.10 Report of the Secretary-General

This officer informed council of the town hall event at McGill on November 18th at 4 PM, being held in Thomson House. During the event, McGill administration and community leaders will be present. The meeting will serve as an opportunity to provide input to administration and community leaders. All PGSS members are invited.

8:37 PM 5.11 Report of the Equity Commissioner

A member of the committee stood in place of the commissioner. No questions, comments, or presented information.

8:38 PM 5.12 Report of the Member Support Commissioner

Invited people to join the committees.
No other questions, comments, or presented information.

8:38 PM  5.13  Report of the Environment Commissioner

Report of the Environment Commissioner

This commissioner was not present. The Secretary-General stood in. No questions, comments, or presented information.

8:39 PM  5.14  Report of the Health Commissioner

Report of the Health Commissioner

No questions or comments.

This officer reminded members that the Health and Dental Survey is now online at ihaveaplan.ca/survey/pgss. It permits members to submit an evaluation of the plan. It is open to all pgss members.

6  Question Period

8:41 PM

Financial affairs officer asked the Member Services Officer of her wedding plans.

She replied they are going great, followed by a nonchalant shrug.

7  New Business

7.1  Motion to provide financial resources to the Association of Postdoctoral Fellows

8:51 PM

(Secretary-General)

WHEREAS the Association of Postdoctoral Fellows (APF) is a semi-autonomous association which frequently organizes events and activities targeted at and responding to the needs of postdoctoral fellows at McGill

WHEREAS the APF has no budget and must currently apply for a grant or special funding from the executive committee for each individual event or activity, which has led to delays and logistical challenges in planning events

WHEREAS postdoctoral fellows have specific needs and problems which neither the PGSS nor McGill is fully capable or responding to

WHEREAS providing easily accessible financial resources to the APF would enable it to better address the unique needs of postdoctoral fellows

BIRT a new budget line titled "Grant to Association of Postdoctoral Fellows" of $1500.00 under the category "services" be created, to be provided to to the APF following the signing of a contract between
the PGSS and APF designating the funds for the exclusive use of activities and events for postdoctoral fellows organized by the AFP

BIFRT the current budget line "Events" be accordingly reduced by $1500.00.

Secretary-General explained the motion. He added that postdocs are often excluded from affairs, and projects because of their precarious position as neither students, nor staff. This funding would permit the postdocs to have a steady budget - which they effectively already have; however, at present, all funding requires approval from the executive of PGSS, which is extremely pedantic. The proposed allocated budget comes with a contract that ensures that spending is appropriate. Thusly, this motion serves to reduce bureaucracy without increasing funding.

E Vincent, POSTDOC, motivated in favour. She listed past events, and their impressive popularity.

W Farrel, CEGSS, asked if, currently, does the PGSA levy fees.

Member Services Officer replied in the negative, saying that the money raised from the postdocs fees presently goes to the PGSA based on department, rather than on faculty. Because there are often so few postdocs in a given Faculty, the PGSA often cannot cater to postdocs. IN lieu, the Postdoc Fellow Association offers them services.

G Lord, MEGA, suggested that monies instead be divided based on the person, with the postdoc association receiving half and the departmental (Faculty, etc) PGSA receiving half.

Secretary-General replied, while this is a great idea, it requires too much time to process at the moment, and may exceed the amount needed at present. The 50-50 project is an excellent project for the future.

C Lee, ESGSS, asked how the postdocs are contacted.

E Vincent, POSTDOC, said that currently people are contacted by a postdoc specific email listserv.

Chair called motion to vote.

Motion passed.

8:59 PM 7.2 Motion regarding PGSS policy toward anonymous exams at McGill

(Lorenzo Paul Raphael Daieff)

COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MOTION

WHEREAS the issue of anonymous grading has not been recently brought up at Council, and may benefit from some open discussion.

BIRT Council move into a âœcommittee-of-the-wholeâ for 10 minutes to discuss anonymous grading and the following motion.

MOTION TO DISCUSS

WHEREAS many if not most exams are not anonymous at McGill (in the sense that graders can see the name of the student they grade).

WHEREAS âœA series of studies in 1990s is generally considered to have demonstrated beyond reasonable doubt that bias in marking can occur for several reasons. The most significant reasons are preconceptions about gender or race and personal knowledge of the candidate.â (Manchester Metropolitan University, Learning and Teaching Unit: Anonymous Assessment of Coursework, 2007, p.1).

WHEREAS non-anonymous grading exposes graders and teaching assistants to accusations of bias, endangering their credibility and reputation.

WHEREAS exams are already anonymous at McGill™s Law Faculty.
WHEREAS the Association of Graduate Students Employed at McGill (AGSEM) voted to "strongly support" a move towards a system of anonymous exams.

BIRT PGSS strongly support in principle that McGill move towards a system of anonymous exams, in order to protect the rights and interests of both its grading members and the assessed students.

BIFRT Council mandate the executive committee to take the matter to McGill’s senate and to report to Council in due time. L Daieff, MGAPSS, motivated in favour of the motion. He added that some undergraduate exams are anonymous, as are exams at other institutions. For graduates, this is not the case, which could lead to bias based on personal vendettas. Studies have demonstrated that knowledge of the name can bias the exam due to an ascribed status (ex ethnicity) or a personal relationship. He went on to say this would also protect TAs and graders, two groups which have recently passed a motion similar to this one.

G Dupuis, MGASS, inquired about coursework.

L Daieff, MGAPSS, replied it is presently only intended for exams, though this could be possible.

J Pinto, GLSA, added this works well in the law faculty, where it is currently employed.

K White, SPOT-PGSS, inquired about the cost of this.

L Daieff, MGAPSS, replied there is not any data at the moment, but the changes would appear to have minimal start-up costs. He added the system would completely anonymous.

M Quashie, EEGSS, asked if this would affect non-written exams.

L Daieff, MGAPPS, replied this is only intended for discretionary exams, although, he does not see the need to limit it.

Chair proposed adding written to the motion (written exams).

C Li, ESGSS, asked if SSMU has been contacted.

L Daieff, MGAPSS, said they have not, but it is included in the motion.

Call to question

Motion passed.

7.3 Motion regarding McGill Committee to Advise on Matters of Social Responsibility

9:13 PM

(Environment Commissioner)

Preamble: The McGill Committee to Advise on Matters of Social Responsibility (CAMSR) meets on an ad hoc basis to "receive and review expressions of concern from the University community on matters of social responsibility with respect to University investments." CAMSR "reports to the Board of Governors on the nature of the social issue or issues raised and the extent of the concern about the issue among members of the University community based on the documents presented and represented made to the Committee." WHEREAS: CAMSR is currently undergoing a Terms of Reference review.

WHEREAS: The CAMSR Terms of Reference review is primarily inclusive to the committee’s members and Board of Governors.

BIRT: PGSS encourages CAMSR to incorporate an open consultation process into the Terms of Reference review.

1. Committee to Advise on Matters of Social Responsibility (CAMSR)


Secretary-General proposed removing the motion.

Motion passed.

2:05 PM **Adjourned**
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8 Question Period
Attending

Executives:
Jonathan Mooney (Secretary-General), Erik Larson (Financial Affairs Officer), Navid Khosravi Hashemi (External Affairs Officer), Michael Krause (Internal Affairs Officer), Adam Bouchard (Academic Affairs Officer), Elizabeth Cawley (Member Services Officer).

Councilors:
C. Bead (ADAMS CLUB), N. Barshi (ADAMS CLUB), F. A. Lorrain (ADELFIES), S. Tabatabae (AHCS-GSA), K. Hamelin (BGSA), E. Pedersen (BGSA), Y. Chen (BGSS), B. Wiles (BGSS), A. Olanrewaju (BMES), D. Bourdages (CAOS), W. Farrell (CEGSS), A. Kazarine (CGSS), J. Tremblay (CSGS), V. Reinharz (CSGS), M. Matos (DGSS), J. S. Rodríguez (DGSS), N. A. Delgado (DGSS), S. Mah (EOSS), S. Bhatnagar (EOSS), M. Quashie (EEGSS), Z. Liu (EEGSS), A. Slobogian (EGSA-English), M. Malcolm (EGSS), Y. S. Huang (EGSS), C. Turnbull (EGSS), M. Accardi (GAPTS), L. Nikolajev (GAPTS), J. Irwin (HCGSA), G. Shapiro (GASP), N. Hope (GASP), R. Debrosse (GASP), L. Ribaudo (GGS), J. C. Pinto (GLSA), A. Mullick (GRSS), J. Ouellet (GSAN), M. Cressati (GSAN), A. Fernandez (GSAN), J. Marton (HGSS), M. Akpa (HGSS), K. Reimer (GSAMS), A. Best (GSAMS), M. Mitzel (MGSS), I. Sutherland (MGSS), D. Wray (MCSS), A. Waglay (MCSS), P. Zanet (MCSS), A. M. Shah (MGSS), L. Daieff (MGAPSS), G. Dupuis (MGAPSS), B. Schmidt (MGAPSS), K. Lawson (MGSS), T. Wiffong (MGSS), S. Thompson (MGSS), N. Otis (MGSSA-Sociology), A. Chen (EASPGSA), S. Burugu (MGSA), L. Cohen (MLISSA), D. Phung (MLISSA), M. C. Noel (MGESA), J. Templeton (MGESA), F. Strohschein (NGS), B. Sharif (PGSA-Physiology), E. Yung (PGSA-Psychiatry), K. White (SPOTGSA), K. Race (SPOTGSA), A. Blumenthal (SWAGS), M. M. Chaineau (Postdoctoral Studies), E. Vincent (Postdoctoral Studies), Y. Nazarenko (Postdoctoral Studies).

Commissioners and Non-Voting Members:
M. Akpa (Equity Commissioner), V. Bhosle (Member Support Commissioner), A. Winegardner (Environment Commissioner), E. Yung (Health Commissioner), C. Briggs (Chief Returning Officer), C. Liu (Recording Secretary).

Guests:
Jonathan Karpetz (AHCS-GSA), Gretchen King (AHCS-GSA), David Murray (EASPGSA), Emma Windfeld (McGill Tribune), Lilith Wyatt (MOSS), Antoine Soulé (CSGS), Christopher Manfredi (Dean-Faculty of Arts), Chitra Narayanan (McGill Writing Centre).

6:37 PM

Call to order

6:37 PM

1 Approval of the agenda

Motion to amend agenda
Move item 8 to item 1. Motion regarding support staff relocation under "Business Arising" will be discussed. Agenda Approved.
2 Speaker’s report

Chair (Rachel Simmons) introduced herself.

3 Floor Items

3.1 Announcements

Member Services Officer offered free items provided by Healthy McGill.

3.2 Final Announcement

Secretary-General informed council about vacancy on the PGSS board of directors for a counsellor.

4 Announcements

4.1 Committee Recruitment

There are vacancies to fill - The Appointments Board is looking to Councillors to represent PGSS on:
Council on Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
Committee for Member Support
CAPS - Graduate Career Services Advisory Board
Advisory Committee on Alcohol Policy
There are more, but this would be a great start.
Academic Affairs Officer asked for volunteers for two positions:
1. Advisory Committee for CAPS
2. Sub-Committee of Academic Policy Committee for professional programs (recruiting people from departments of MBA, Master of Architecture, PhD in Biochemistry, Master of Arts in Counselling Psychology, Master of Science in Occupational Therapy, Master of Science for Nurse Practitioner, Master of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders, Master of Sciences in Physical Therapy, PhD in Clinical Psychology or Child Psychology, Master of Social Work, and Master of Urban Planning.

Man in the back and reluctant girl were recruited. Interested candidates can sign up later.

4.2 Budget Update

Society figures up to November 2013

Financial Affairs Officer discussed main points in annual budget. Revenues from member fees were slightly above projected amount and society related revenues were at expected value. Financial Affairs
Officer predicted that budget will have surpassed revenue figures by the end of the year and that the advertising revenue from the online handbook will also bring in extra revenue for next year. Expenses so far are on track with expected expenses value. Remarks were also made about the Special Projects Fund with regards to the CFS court case expenses. Legal fees amounted to $50,000 out of the total $80,000 in expenses. This resulted in putting on hold plans to upgrade Thomson House with new windows, air conditioning units, improvements to make it more sustainable.

Member Services Officer inquired about changes to leisure courses.

Financial Affairs Officer responded that Meditation Hour would be incorporated into the leisure courses offered.

K. Bouayad-Gervais (GASP) inquired about the reason why the audit fees were higher than budgeted.

Financial Affairs Officer responded that when Deloitte conducted their audit, they had many requests for clarification, which resulted in them having to spend more time working on the file. PGSS will be looking into finding a medium sized firm to increase efficiency and reduce costs for next year’s audit.

K. Bouayad-Gervais (GASP), also asked about reason behind high expenses in cost of goods sold for Thomson House food and beverage.

Financial Affairs Officer replied that in reality only 50% of the expected cost of goods sold and stated that it is an internal accounting error that needs to be corrected. He also pointed out that our COGS this year was slightly higher than projected.

K. Bouayad-Gervais (GASP), inquired about McGill’s high bad debt fee.

Financial Affairs Officer responded that it is actually lower than expected and that McGill did collected as much as projected.

6:51 PM 4.3 Update on Sustainability Projects Fund

A 5 minute presentation by Lilith Wyatt on the SPF for purposes of transparency, accountability, and visibility.

Sustainability Officer from McGill’s offices of sustainability introduced herself. She explained about sustainability and role of the SPF at McGill: it is designed as a support structure and is a mandate for culture change. She also highlighted that we are currently 45% through the timeline and raised possibilities for graduate student involvement and can be contacted via lilith.wyatt@mcgill.ca for questions.

6:57 PM 5 Approval of the minutes

4.1 September minutes 2013
Approved, no abstentions/opposed

4.2 October minutes 2013
Approved, no abstentions/opposed

4.3 November minutes 2013
Approved, no abstentions/opposed
6 New Business

6.1 Motion Regarding Support Staff Relocation

Whereas last spring, Dean of Arts Christopher Manfredi announced the People, Processes & Partnerships plan to amalgamate academic support staff in Leacock;

Whereas there is a worrying lack of evidence presented to stakeholders to suggest the viability of this plan, whether in terms of documented cost-savings, demonstrable efficiencies, or student, staff, and faculty satisfaction with such arrangements at universities comparable to McGill;

Whereas at a town hall meeting on the subject in March faculty, students and staff expressed strong opposition to this plan;

Whereas a petition initiated by the departments of Anthropology and History & Classical Studies raised over 200 signatures protesting the proposed restructuring;

Whereas the Faculty of Arts meeting in April passed a motion against the clustering of support staff and their removal from departments;

Whereas in spite of this negative feedback, the Leacock consolidation is moving ahead and other restructuring efforts are planned in Ferrier for May 2014 and in total the departments of Economics, Political Science, Philosophy, Anthropology, Sociology, History and Classical Studies, Jewish Studies, Art History and Communication Studies, Département de langue et littérature françaises, English, French Language Centre, Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, East Asian Studies, and Islamic Studies all stand to be affected by such measures.

Whereas the precedent set here, moreover, may soon spread across faculties and affect all of McGill;

BIRT the PGSS take action before December 14th and again at the beginning of Winter Semester to inform PGSS members about this issue (using all means: e-newsletter, info screens, website, etc.) and encourage their participation in the Town Hall on Tuesday, January 14th (5:35pm in Arts W-215);

BIFRT the PGSS send a letter of concern about the restructuring by December 14th to Dean of Arts.

Motion Regarding Support Staff Relocation

5.1 Dean Manfredi

Motion to grant Dean Manfredi speaking rights.

G. King (ACHS-GSA), raised point of order:

1. Permission to discuss motion without Dean’s presence. Chair granted request.

2. Asked Dean to be available for questions on set of the debate but be excused from the room during debate. Request was granted.

Motion carried.

8.2 Motion Regarding Support Staff Relocation

G. King (AHCS-GSA) motioned to request PGSS to alert members and write a letter to administration addressing the concerns of students towards this plan.

Secretary-General requested Dean to explain the action that has been taken to respond to the concerns raised about this issue.

C. Manfredi (Dean-Faculty of Arts), explained background of project and the need to come up with a solution to deal with current and future losses of support staff. He also addressed the details of the voluntary retirement plan that McGill has implemented to deal with the Quebec budget cuts for university
and its impact on the support staff. Different options to the problem were explained and re-matching of positions were to be expected.

Environment Commissioner asked for a clearer explanation clarifying what has been done to address the negative view and concerns of staff and students on this issue.

C. Manfredi (Dean-Faculty of Arts), explained that the letter published in the McGill Daily dealt with an already abandoned plan and that administration is currently working to come up with a better solution.

A. Chen (EASPGSA) inquired whether the Dean has a solution to better understand the concerns of staff and students about departmental moves, the grievances that were not addressed, and the lack of accessible graduate student base.

C. Manfredi (Dean-Faculty of Arts) expected departments to keep departments to keep students informed and to write to address their concerns. He also raised the issue of the possibility of an underused graduate student base.

S. Tabatabae (AHCS-GSA) addressed concerns about moving regarding staff support and wanted more details of the cost.

C. Manfredi (Dean-Faculty of Arts), gave a breakdown of the cost and informed about online disclosure of this information.

L. Daieff (MGAPSS), inquired about different views and opinions on this plan and future discussions about final details of the move.

C. Manfredi (Dean-Faculty of Arts), expressed that there are positive impacts but disruptions are inevitable.

G. Shapiro (GASP), inquired about reasons why there are three departments excluded from the plan.

C. Manfredi (Dean-Faculty of Arts) explained that there practical concerns where Linguistics, Social Work, and Islamic Studies are geographically isolated.

Secretary-General questioned about allocation and impact of the 8% government increase in university budgets.

C. Manfredi (Dean-Faculty of Arts), explained possible uses of the increased dollars in the budget, while stating that a more robust system is needed to be able to sustain the external shock.

5.3 Motion for Dean to leave meeting

Motion approved.

G. King (AHCS-GSA), noted the lack of knowledge of the student body about the PPP and raised concerns about the unanswered question about specific costs. She is concerned about the rush of this plan without proper consultation.

A. Slobogian (EGSA-English), emphasized that the complaints were indeed addressed towards the new plan issued and expressed on behalf of EGSA English department that they were not in favour of details of the new plan.

Chair called for vote on motion.

Motion carried.

8:09 PM

6.2 Ratification of Appointments Board Reccomendations

BIRT GeSa be ratified as a PGSS representative to the Appeal Committee for Student Grievances and Discipline
Academic Affairs Officer moved to amend the motion as to set Vikrant (Member Support Commissioner) and Ge Sa as third members of the committee

Chair called the amendment to vote.

Amendment passed

W. Farrell (CEGSS), explains bylaws of filing appeals and changes needed to increase clarity.

L. Daiell (MGAPSS), questioned concern about complications in bylaws hinders the appeal process

W. Farrell (CEGSS), responded appeal would not be initiated until information is fully gathered and that more information allows for concerns to be properly addressed.

Chief Returning Officer asked appeals board whether it is expected PSAC will send the claim as it is or whether modifications would be made. Response is that PSAC is welcomed to modify the proposal.

K. Bouayad-Gervais asked about how many days are allowed before appeal a decision.

Response was that it is dependent on the department. Sometimes there is no time limit.

B. Wiles (BGSS) supported motion but does not support including these action as best practices. Motion to amend remove best practices clause.

Chair calls to vote on amendment.

Amendment approved.

Chair calls to vote on motion.

Motion Passed with revision

6.3 Motion Regarding Appeals Board Notification

Moved by: William Farrell

Seconded by: Juan Pinto

WHEREAS it is in the best interest of the Society for the Appeals Board to hear cases in a timely and thorough manner.

WHEREAS it often takes a number of days of correspondence to secure statements and documents from the relevant parties.

BIRT Council directs PSAC to incorporate the following changes into the SAM in the appropriate sections:

- The notice of appeal must include a written statement from the petitioner detailing the specific reasons for the appeal including but not limited to the ways in which the responsible committee is believed to have erred and any pertinent clauses in the governing documents which are believed to have been broken.

- The prospective appellant shall be made aware of this procedure at the time he or she is made aware of his or her right to appeal.

- Upon notice of appeal, the chair of the committee that rendered the decision in question shall also be duly notified and shall supply a statement detailing the justification of their decision along with all relevant documentation within 24 hours of the notice. Documents should include all correspondence with the appellant, a written statement describing the reasons for their decision and the bylaws upon which they are based, as well as any other pertinent information.

BIFRT PSAC draft these proposed changes and return them to Council no later than the February meeting.

BIFRT in the time before the possible inclusion of these changes into the bylaws, Council recommend this procedure to the PGSS Office as a set of non-binding best practices when notified of an Appeal.
W. Farrell (CEGSS), explains bylaws of filing appeals and changes needed to increase clarity. L. Daieff (MGAPSS), questioned concern about complications in bylaws hinders the appeal process W. Farrell (CEGSS), responded appeal would not be initiated until information is fully gathered and that more information allows for concerns to be properly addressed. Chief Returning Officer asked appeals board whether it is expected PSAC will send the claim as it is or whether modifications would be made. Response is that PSAC is welcomed to modify the proposal. K. Bouayad-Gervais asked about how many days are allowed before appeal a decision. Response was that it is dependent on the department. Sometimes there is no time limit. B. Wiles (BGSS) supported motion but does not support including these action as best practices. Motion to amend remove best practices clause. Chair calls to vote on amendment. Amendment approved. Chair calls to vote on motion. Motion Passed with revision

6.4 Motion regarding McGill Committee to Advise on Matters of Social Responsibility

8:27 PM

(Environment Commissioner)

Preamble: The McGill Committee to Advise on Matters of Social Responsibility (CAMSР) meets on an ad hoc basis to “receive and review expressions of concern from the University community on matters of social responsibility with respect to University investments”.1 CAMSR “report[s] to the Board of Governors on the nature of the social issue or issues raised and the extent of the concern about the issue among members of the University community based on the documents presented and represented made to the Committee”.

WHEREAS: PGSS passed a motion at the 2013 AGM to “lobby McGill University to divest its holdings in companies engaged in fossil fuel production”.2
WHEREAS: CAMSR is currently undergoing a Terms of Reference review.
WHEREAS: The CAMSR Terms of Reference review is primarily inclusive to the committee’s members and Board of Governors.
BIRT: PGSS encourages CAMSR to incorporate an open consultation process into the Terms of Reference review.
1. Committee to Advise on Matters of Social Responsibility (CAMSР)

Environment commissioner explained the need for consultation on matters of social responsibility and the importance of the PGSS passing a motion to have consultation for people outside the McGill community. Secretary-General raised questions about who to consult with about this consultation. Environment Commissioner suggested any major student societies should be included as well as anyone who is interested in these matters.

Chairs calls to vote on motion.
Motion Passed.
6.5 Motion to Remove Member Services Committee from Society Activities Manual (second reading)

8:31 PM

(Member Services Officer)

Background:
In 2012 the position of Member Services Officer (MSO) was created so that a position on the PGSS Executive existed to increase the level of service offered by the PGSS as well as advocate for improved services at the University level. In addition to the Executive position a committee was written into the Society Activities Manual to be chaired by the MSO and to have a representative from all relevant service areas of PGSS and the Student Services.

Preamble:
Whereas the Member Services Committee is unusually large, and in practice could include over 30 members and,
Whereas the diverse range of members and the unique nature of each Student Service unit and PGSS service would make it impossible develop one cohesive services strategy and
Whereas the objectives of the Member Services Committee are/can be adequately or superiorly addressed by existing PGSS committees (e.g. the PGSS grants program by the Committee on Monetary Affairs)

Action:
BIRT the Society Activities Manual Chapter 5: Committees of Council Section 4: Member Services Committee (MSC) be removed.
BIFRT the Grants Program be removed from the purview of the Member Services Committee and fall under the duties of the Committee on Monetary Affairs and Chapter 5: Committees of Council Section 7: Committee on Monetary Affairs (CMA) be amended to include “1.1.3. Administer the Grants Program including production of a monthly report to Council of funded grants, applications received, grants awarded, and applications rejected or delayed following procedures described in this Manual.”

Section 7: Committee on Monetary Affairs (CMA)

1. Purpose

1.1. The Committee on Monetary affairs shall:

1.1.1. Consider and make recommendations to the relevant governing bodies on all financial aspects of the operation and administration of the PGSS, including but not limited to PGSS budgets, administration of all funds and programs financed from them, corporate and business activities, and all fees levied by the University on behalf of the PGSS;

1.1.2. Be responsible for helping the Finance Affairs Officer prepare all necessary
financial documents, analyses, and budget.

1.1.3 Administer the Grants Program including production of a monthly report to Council of funded grants, applications received, grants awarded, and applications rejected or delayed following procedures described in this Manual.

Chairs called for voting on motion.

Motion carried with 2/3 majority.

8:33 PM

6.6 Motion Regarding Duties of the Health Commissioner (second reading)

(Member Services Officer)

Background:

In 2012 the position of Member Services Officer (MSO) was created so that a position on the PGSS Executive existed to increase the level of service offered by the PGSS as well as advocate for improved services at the University level. A key component of the MSO portfolio is the relationship with our insurance broker and maintenance of the Health and Dental Insurance Plan, a task previously under the VP Finance portfolio.

Preamble:

Whereas a key component of the Member Services Officer is the maintenance and management of the Health and Dental Insurance Plan in addition to the management of services at PGSS and advocate for Services at McGill University, and

Whereas previously the Health Commissioner was significantly involved in the Health and Dental Insurance Plan because of an obvious disconnect between the VP Finance and the health needs of the student population

Whereas this disconnect has been rectified with the creation of the Member Services Officer

Whereas the Health Commissioner, given the limited hours that should be worked by commissioners, should not be occupied by addressing questions and concerns better addressed elsewhere and whereas the Executive would like this position and the Health and Wellness Committee to focus on Health and Wellness events, advocacy and outreach,

BIRT the Society Activities Manual Section 2: Commissioners Section 4: Health Commissioner be amended to remove 1.1.3. Assist the Executive Committee in negotiating health, dental, and vision insurance plans for the Society to offer its members,

Section 4: Health Commissioner

1. Duties of the Health Commissioner.

1.1. The Health Commissioner shall:

1.1.1. Be the Health and Wellness Committee’s direct liaison to the Executive Committee;
1.1.2. Represent the PGSS’ interests in all health and wellness issues on campus;
1.1.3. Assist the Executive Committee in negotiating health, dental, and vision insurance plans for the Society to offer its members;
1.1.4. Under the direction of the Member Services Officer, ensure that the PGSS is represented on University committees, subcommittees, and workgroups whose mandate includes health or wellness issues, including but not limited to the Committee for Student Services, the Health Services Advisory Committee, the Mental Health Services Advisory Board, and the Advisory Committee.
BIFRT the Society Activities Manual Section 4: Committees of Council Section 12: Health and Wellness Committee (HAWC) 1.1.4 be amended to read “Advise and make recommendations to the Member Services Officer on the state of the PGSS Health and Dental Insurance Plan”

Section 12: Health and Wellness Committee (HAWC)
1. Purpose
1.1. The Health and Wellness Committee shall:
1.1.1. Survey, assess, monitor and work towards improving the health and wellness of the PGSS community;
1.1.2. Be responsible for the education and promotion of health and wellness issues;
1.1.3. Collaborate with other health and/or wellness groups;
1.1.4. Advise and make recommendations to (Council) the Member Services Officer on the state of the PGSS Health and Dental Insurance Plan;
1.1.5. Make recommendations to Council on any health related matters.

Member services officer explain the just of this motion would transfer some duties of the health commissioner to the executives.

Chair called to vote on motion.
Motion carried.
Motion Passed.

6.7 Motion Regarding Duties of the Environment Commissioner (second reading)

(Outlined Commissioner)

Acronyms:
PEC = PGSS Environment Committee
WHEREAS the current role and actions of PEC are not in line with the purpose and duties outlined in Chapter 2 Section 3 of the PGSS Society Affairs Manual;
WHEREAS Chapter 5 Section 11.2.3 is written in a confusing manner such that it is not clear whether it is referencing two specific committees or the type of committee that PEC should appoint representatives to;

WHEREAS the Subcommittee on the Environment referenced in Chapter 2 Section 3 1.1.5 was dissolved in Fall 2011;

BIRT Chapter 2 Section 3 of the Society Affairs Manual be amended to read:

Section 3: Environment Commissioner

1. Duties of the Environment Commissioner

1.1 The Environment Commissioner shall:

1.1.1 Be the Environment Committee’s direct liaison to the Executive Committee;

1.1.2 Represent the PGSS’ interests in all environmental issues on campus;

1.1.3 Monitor the implementation and success of the PGSS’ policies with respect to environmental concerns;

1.1.4 Be the liaison with the SSMU Environment Commissioners;

1.1.5 Represent the PGSS on the Sustainability Coordinating Group;

1.1.6 Under the direction of the Member Services Officer, ensure that the PGSS is represented on University committees, subcommittees and work groups whose mandate includes environmental issues.

Chair asked to vote on motion.

Motion carried

8:34 PM

6.8 Motion Regarding Duties of the Environment Committee (second reading)

(Environnment Commissioner)

WHEREAS the current role and actions of the PGSS Environment Committee (PEC) are not in line with the purpose and duties outlined in Chapter 5 Section 11 of the PGSS Society Affairs Manual;

WHEREAS the role of PEC has grown and this committee has been given additional responsibilities over the past year such as maintaining the Thomson House permaculture and vegetable gardens and organizing the Green Drinks Montreal Chapter events;

WHEREAS the added responsibility outlined above has had a positive impact by allowing more opportunites for PGSS member engagement and education through events and workshops;

WHEREAS the composition of PEC outlined in Chapter 5 Section 11.2 has too few positions to be able to complete the tasks being undertaken; currently there are two volunteers other than the regular members sitting in on committee meetings, participating in event planning and execution;

WHEREAS the PGSS Society Affairs Manual should reflect the updated role of PEC;

WHEREAS the role of PEC should explicitly include providing advice to the PGSS on environment related issues;

BIRT Chapter 5 Section 11 of the Society Affairs Manual be amended to read:
Section 11: PGSS Environment Committee (PEC)

1. Purpose

1.1. The PGSS Environment Committee shall:

1.1.1. Assess, monitor and make recommendations for the improvement of the PGSS’ operations in relation to the environment;

1.1.2. Elicit opinions of PGSS members on the environment;

1.1.3. Collaborate with other environmental groups and offices;

1.1.4 Be responsible for the education of PGSS members on environmental issues;

1.1.5 Make recommendations to the PGSS on environmentally related matters.

2. Composition

2.1. The Environment Commissioner (chair);

2.2. Five (5) at-large regular members of the PGSS;

2.3. All society representatives to:

2.1.1 The Senate Committee on Physical Development (SCPD);

2.1.2 The Sustainability Projects Fund (SPF).

Chair called the motion to a vote.

Motion carried.

7 Reports

7.1 External Affairs Officer report December2013

External Affairs Officer report December2013 (1)

External Affairs Officer report December2013 (2)

Reported the highlights of the FEUQ Congress held by Thomson Town Hall Meeting last month pertaining to the Quebec Charter of Values. PGSS is still awaiting on what FEUQ members’ stance on the issue is. There was also an approval of the study on Insurance and Health Services Cost for International Students. He also noted the removal of many regulations for referendums to join and leave FEUQ to allow for easiness and ensuring democracy and fairness of future referendums. The FEUQ Board of Directors decided to send experienced members to hold another referendum to ensure fairness. He also gave thanks to those who joined the protest in Ottawa which would be further discussed by Secretary-General. No questions.
7:42 PM 7.2 December report from Financial Affairs Officer

December report from Financial Affairs Officer
No questions or comments.

7:42 PM 7.3 December Report from Academic Affairs Officer

December Report from Academic Affairs Officer
No questions or comments.

7:42 PM 7.4 December report from Member Services Officer

December report from Member Service Officer
No questions or comments.

7:43 PM 7.5 Report of the Secretary-General

Report of the Secretary-General

Addressed good news with regards to concerns about flexibility and autonomy given to PGSA about finances and that flexibility is expected to be granted next year in January. He also expanded participation of PGSS members in the protest at the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students and the positive outcome of that.

W. Farrell (CEGSS), commented about the petition sent to create pressure on CFS. He was not happy with the delayed and messy response.

F. Strohschein (NGSA), inquired whether autonomy of PGSA is mandatory or does it simply open up more options.

Secretary-General responded that this change allows PGSA the liberty to do own their events. Current services offered will still be retained.

7:49 PM 7.6 Health Commissioner Report December 2013

Health Commissioner Report December 2013

Informed about PGSS mental health policy and contact information at health.pgss.mcgill.ca. No questions or comments.

7:49 PM 7.7 Report of the Member Support Commissioner

Report of the Member Support Commissioner
No questions or comments.
7:49 PM 7.8 Report of the environment commissioner

Report of the environment commissioner

No questions or comments.

7:49 PM 7.9 Report of the Policy and Structure Advisory Committee: revised draft PGSS harassment policy

Policy and Structure Advisory Committee: revised draft PGSS harassment policy

G King (AHCS-GSA), inquired about concerns with regards to appeal process. Response was that this was the first time an appeals process has been brought up and it is an extensive process. She also expressed concerns about not keeping complaint records on file and the issue of faculty in HCC members. Secretary-General responded that the legal reason by this is to eliminate bias. He also explained the conflict of interest policy that outlines the two faculties and will consult legal counsel.

G King (AHCS-GSA) also inquires whether member code of conduct binds people in PGSS only or around campus? Recommended striking that clause two and suggested adding PGSS shall respect laws and does not restrict freedom of speech. She also noted discrimination is not mentioned anywhere. Secretary-General responded that this could go outside the realm of PGSS’s control and will bring these concerns through the legal counsel.

J. Pinto (GLSA), questioned about appeal committee the review claims under code of conduct. He suggested that not storing the complaints or make them open to the public due to legal complications.

C. Turnbull (EGSS), Noted typing error and questioned why HCC cannot take actions themselves. Secretary-General responds that there is a provision that already exist that talks about who has access to Thomson House and the board must not accept recommendations as they retain ultimate liability.

W. Farrell (CEGSS) asked about relationship between the board and HCC on the confidentiality of names. Secretary-General responded confidentiality is included in the process of fiduciary responsibility.

Secretary-General. clause 2 - clarify does not restrict people freedom of speech. recommended by legal council, do not want complaints on record due to bias issues.

if someone attempts mediation, they shouldn’t be part of committee because again, bias.

difficult to conflict of interest, run through legal council

8:04 PM 8 Question Period

T. Wilthong (MGSS), asked who is writing a letter with regards to the support staff. Secretary-General responded that Executive committee drafts it.

G. Dupuis (MGAPS), inquired about the next steps of the CFS issue. Secretary-General responded that a vote would be scheduled as to whether students want to remain in CFS or not.
T. Wilthrong (MGSS), asked about update about anonymous exams at McGill and effects on the Music Graduate Counsel.

Academic Affairs Officer and Secretary-General responded that the phrasing should be blind grading and not anonymous grading, which is specifically applied to written exams, makes it difficult to apply to certain situations when grading music exams.

8:37 PM  **Adjourned**
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Attending

Executives: Jonathan Mooney (Secretary-General), Erik Larson (Financial Affairs Officer), Michael Krause (Internal Affairs Officer), Adam Bouchard (Academic Affairs Officer), Elizabeth Cawley (Member Services Officer)

Councillors: N. Barshi (ADAMS CLUB), F. A. Lorrain (ADELFIES), J. Karpetz (AHCS-GSA), D. Leung (BGSA), D. Hanson (BGSA), Y. Chen (BGSS), B. Wiles (BGSS), P. DeCorwin-Martin (BMESS), A. Komar (CEGSS), A. Kazarine (CGSS), J. Lehr (CHEGSS), J. Tremblay (CSGS), V. Reinharz (CSGS), R. Yousefvand-Mansouri (DDSS), M. Matos (DGSS), S. Mah (EBOSS), C. Turnbull (EGSS), B. Ozkosem (ESGSS), M. Pr

6:35 PM Call to order

6:36 PM Speaker’s report

Approval of the Agenda:

Environment Commissioner presented an amendment to add in Environment Commissioner Report to the Agenda.

Speaker proposed to add report to a newly created section 6.85.

Speaker called Agenda to a vote.

Agenda Approved.

Speaker’s Report:

Chair announced that picture day would take place during the next council meeting and advised everyone to look beautiful and dashing to avoid judgement from others. This would take place promptly at 6PM at the lobby.

2 Approval of the minutes

Announcements:

Member Services Officer reminded Council members about the Winter 2014 Activities brochure and advised everyone to take a poster to help promote the event.

Internal Affairs Officer announced that there would be a Porto tasting event on Friday, January 17 at the bar with a live band playing acoustic rock songs.

Chief Returning Officer reminded Council members about the nomination period for the executive elections and the referendum process and notified everyone about the procedure where nomination forms were to be submitted to him one week before the elections. An information session would also be held on Tuesday, January 21 where smoked salmon would be served.

Presentation by the Provost:
Professor Anthony C. Masi introduced himself as the provost of McGill University and thanked Council members for giving him the opportunity to discuss issues regarding the university’s perspectives on both the budget and the mission of the university and called for questions.

L. Daieff (MGAPSS) asked about the progress of the motion passed two council meetings ago regarding blind grading.

Professor Masi replied that this motion was referred by Senate Steering to the Academic Policy Committee where it was not favorably received because, although it made sense in some units where it had been employed, as a university-wide practice, it would be difficult to implement and it was not clear that it was based on sound pedagogical or assessment research. He added that in general, blind grading was not a practical solution to the problem of bias. More detailed notes would be provided in a report of the Academic Policy Committee that will be sent to Senate for information.

Secretary-General requested the Provost’s thoughts, as the chief academic officer after the Principal, regarding the initiatives undertaken by the PGSS with the Dean of Graduate Studies and the series of recommendations concerning graduate student supervision.

Professor Masi emphasized that supervision of graduate students at McGill was a great concern. There had been progress in attempts to improve the relationship between professors and graduate students, which included a new webpage on supervision available to faculty members. This would be developed as a new skill set that would be introduced to current and new professors hired.

Financial Affairs Officer asked about the long term outlook for government reinvestment in universities and post-secondary education.

Professor Masi mentioned that he and McGill had been criticized for taking budget cuts seriously. He pointed out that there had been a $57 million loss in revenue over two years. The Quebec government announced that the reinvestment appears to be just a reinstatement of the cut with additional constraints. Around 20 million dollars in cuts would be added back into the university’s budget but there would be restrictions on spending. Most funds would be focused on undergraduates while a small fraction would probably be spent towards research for graduate students. He states that an 8% reinvestment is not realistic, and that it appears as if it would be closer to the 5.2% cut in the first place. The budget for the 2014-2015 fiscal year would be similar to the budget during 2011-2012 year. Tuition increases have also not been reinstated, which accounts for an additional loss. However, McGill now has the obligation to pay deficits.

Member Services Officer asked about student services at McGill, since over the past couple of years, students have been asked to pay for overhead and building maintenance at the Brown Building and the Maclean’s ratings have ranked McGill as one of the lowest on the list of universities that make contributions to student services.

Professor Masi replied that Quebec had restricted tuition fees and the ability of universities to contract directly for additional services from students. All student services fees are subject to referenda and it is important for students to have clear expectations regarding the services they want and which could be cut in order to meet the essential needs of students. He explained that the university has a deficit and could not continue subsidizing everything. The commitment this year was to fund an additional position on coordination related to sexual abuse and assaults and that mental health issues are addressed. McGill also places an emphasis on student aid that benefits graduate students rather than student services.

B. Sharif (PGSA-Physiology) asked about the possibility of investment in order to make music classes more available to graduate students in other disciplines.

Professor Masi replied that the music faculty is an extremely expensive one to fund, and that students in the performance programs levied on themselves an additional fee to pay for the additional private performance based lessons associated with their program. To make this possible, additional charges would apply, and that funding would need to be implemented which would mean cutting in other areas. Finding a donor to
fund it may also be an option. There could be a further discussion about this matter between the Dean of Music and interested students to explore fundraising.

B. Sharif (PGSA-Physiology) pointed out that even if a student wanted to pay the additional fees, there's no means for a student outside that faculty to register for music classes. Professor Masi replied that he could look in to why there was a limit placed on registration.

M. Bouchard (MLISSA) asked about the future of libraries at McGill over the next five years.

Professor Masi replied that because of the changing nature of libraries over the years and the cost involved in maintaining them, it's likely that library collections would continue to decrease. Law students have also issued complaints about "snails" (students who are not part of the faculty) and that library has made efforts to limit access to law students only during exams. Libraries are used more now as study spaces, students are borrowing items less frequently, but students still need access to resources. More money has been spent on licensing for electronic access of books online. Open browsing could be expected to not be available within the next 10 years and study spaces would also be increased in the future. The number of librarians has increased while shelving staff and lower level technical support have decreased. Any additional money would not be put in to peripheral libraries, but a repository type library would be the emphasis in the future.

Financial Affairs Officer asked if the PGSS bursary would continue to be matched by the university in the future.

Professor Masi replied that if one of the conditions imposed by the government for financing matching the bursary, they would do so. The university could not make a commitment to match the fund due to loss of cash flow over the last two years. However, once the funds permit, McGill would be interested in reinvesting in that department.

Secretary-General asked about how students’ interests could be best represented during the budgeting process.

Professor Masi answered that the best way for graduate students to express their concerns is with the Dean of Graduate Studies so that they could be addressed during budget meetings. He also reminded Council members that despite the struggles the university is facing with funding, it is still a university that performs extremely well and has a good student-centered reputation.

M. Bouchard (MLISSA) asked about the challenge of graduate students in finding office space.

Professor Masi said that the key to increasing office space would be to have professors and departments better understand the importance of scheduling classes, mainly at the undergraduate level. The government is convinced that McGill has too many classes and therefore less space dedicate to research and graduate students. The government has a 50% rule when scheduling courses: if less than 70% of the seats filled 70% of the time from 8:30am to 5:30pm, then it is considered excess space. Essentially, more efficient scheduling would be the key. The government prediction is that we would be lacking 500,000 sq ft of academic space in the next 5 years.

Professor Masi continued with presentation of the Provost.

McGill has continued to hold a high standing in its university rankings and maintained its international diversity. He explained his role in the university, to which some referred to as the ("Dean of Deans"). He further talked about the financial situation of McGill and that we were currently down 300 positions in staff. He suggested that we make conscious choices in our operation and workforce planning. We further needed to undertake more deficit in our budget. Hence, right now there would be more restrictions in our budget allocation. Objectives for the future include new directions in hiring, innovative delivery of education, focusing on strengths in graduate programs, increasing career opportunities, providing services and being diverse. The edX partnership also showed how massive online courses have changed the approaches of professors’ teaching ways. Upgrading technology and training would need to be implemented. Course evaluation policy projects should be an interesting subject for graduate students.
3  Floor Items

3.1  Business Arising

7:34 PM

There were no new business items to be discussed.


7:41 PM

Financial Affairs Officer January Report:

K. Bouayad-Gervais (GASP) asked for clarification on the Ubriety Project.

Financial Affairs Officer explained that the Ubriety project is the website development project for PGSS. Online registration was introduced this year. This has been and will be an ongoing project and further implementation of new features would be added to the PGSS website, including the governance module.

External Affairs Officer Report January 2014:

Not present. No questions or comments.

3.3  Environment Commissioner January 2014

7:46 PM

Environment Commissioner added that she is now the PGSS representative for the university committee, the Cycling Working Group, where they will be studying cycling on the lower downtown campus. Any comments, concerns or questions can be emailed to cycling@mcgill.ca. She also announced that there would be an event held by McGill Net Positive on Friday, January 24 from 3-4pm in Bronfman 151 about re-imagining space on campus as it relates to sustainability and green building.

No questions or comments.

3.4  Member Support Commissioner Report 2014

7:49 PM

Member Support Commissioner report was missing from the Agenda.

No comments or questions.

3.5  Report of the Appeals Board

8:01 PM

No questions or comments.

4  Reports

4.1  Report of the Internal Affairs Officer / Report of the Academic Affairs Officer

7:36 PM

Report-PDF

Report of the Internal Affairs Officer
R. Debrosse (GASP) asked about the space meetings.

Internal Affairs Officer responded David Syncox and the Academic Affairs Officer were present and that it was a fruitful meeting where they discussed plans to adjust the use of space resulting from technological transitions.

Report of the Academic Affairs Officer

No questions or comments.

7:36 PM **4.2 Report: Apprendre le fran**

Report of the Appeals Board

Report of the Governance Committee

Chair moved item 6.3 to section 8.1(b) after Secretary-General forgot to motion to amend the agenda.

Report - Apprendre le fran

7:43 PM **4.3 Member Services Officer January Report**

Member Services Officer January Report

Member Services Officer Report:

No questions or comments.

Member Services Officer clarified a statement made by the Provost: “If you want more services, you would have to vote for it in a referendum.” However, when student services fees are increased, the revenue sometimes goes towards overhead costs such as human resources and building maintenance. Hence, be informed about where the money will actually be spent and vote wisely.

7:43 PM **4.4 Report of the Secretary-General**

Report of the Secretary-General

Secretary-General announced that there was good progress being made with the Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning) with the PGSAs managing their own finances and allowing for more flexibility. He also had a meeting with the Dean of Graduate studies who committed to move forward with many major reforms to supervision at McGill. He also mentioned the link to the National Post article regarding the ongoing issues with the Canadian Federation of Students and we were receiving support from Pierre Arcand, one of the members of the National Assembly of Quebec, on the matter.

K Bouayad-Gervais (GASP) asked about the subject of the meeting with Louis S

7:47 PM **4.5 Equity Commissioner Report January 2014**

Equity Commissioner Report January 2014

No questions or comments.
4.6  Health Commissioner January 2014 Council Report

Health Commissioner announced that the PGSS Mental Health Policy Committee is being formed and is currently looking for 5 applicants. Interested candidates could apply with CV and short paragraph outlining reasons for interest and application could be sent to pgssmentalhealth@gmail.com by January 17. Health Commissioner also introduced "Exercise for Mood" which is a 10-week program specifically catered to graduate students to help improve mood. Those who would be interested in joining could register on the counselling website.

Speaker said Health Commissioner is adorable.

No questions.

4.7  Report of the Appointments Board

Appointments Board - January Report - PDF

Academic Affairs Officer motioned to ratify the names of all people on the list on the Report of the Appointments Board and the two additional names, Andrew Doyle and Regine Debrosse, presented. He mentioned that there were still vacancies on the awards for graduate supervision and teaching excellence committees that needed to be filled.

Secretary-General asked for volunteers to fill the positions on the two awards committees that recognize good supervisors. He also made mention that there a six vacant seats on the Council of Graduate and Post-doctoral Studies that meets once a month to address all issues relating to graduate and post-doctoral life at McGill.

N. Barshi (ADAMS CLUB) requested more details about the committees

Secretary-General gave examples on issues that were dealt on the committee, including any reforms made, and that any new graduate course would be needed to be approved by this committee.

Andrew Doyle:

Coordinating Committee for Educational Technologies

STL working group in Distance Education

Teaching and Learning Spaces Working Group

Regine Debrosse:

Committee for Member Support

David Thomson Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching & Supervision, the Carrie M. Derick Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching & Supervision and the Award for Excellence in Service:

Matthew Bouchard

Behrang Sharif

Julien Ouellet

Krista Reimer

Regine Debrosse

GPS Council:
Chair motioned to have all the members listed above to be added to the respected committees. Motion Passed.

8:10 PM 4.8 Report of the Governance Committee

Report of the Governance Committee

No questions or comments.

8:01 PM 5 Question Period

Y. Bresler (MGAPS) asked about the missing Council meeting minutes and how members could gain access to them in a timely manner.

Secretary-General replied that the content management system provider, Ubriety, was in the process of updating the system and as a result, the minutes were not in the meeting package. However, they could still be accessed under the documents tab on the PGSS website.

R. Debrosse (GASP) asked all the officers submitting reports if there could be fewer acronyms and the full names of committees used instead.

Academic Affairs Officer announced that he had been asked a question about a committee application submitted online and the approval system was still under the testing stage. If an application was submitted online using the My Account → Vacancies → nomination form and no response was heard, it was an indication that it was not delivered. If that was the case, email academic.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca or society.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca with any questions or for more information.

6 New Business

8:04 PM 6.1 Motion to amend the society activities manual

Second reading, requires 2/3 majority

Motion to amend the society activities manual

Secretary-General explained the contents of the Society Activities Manual. Two amendments were motioned to be changed which included election regulations and spending choices for the library improvement fund. Motioned the question on whether we want to extend nomination period when only one person applied to the position.

K. Bouayad-Gervais (GASP) commented that we should try other ways to gather more candidates.
Chief Returning Officer commented that the changes made to the manual did not take out 5 day minimum period.

Secretary-General motioned to pass all changes made in the second reading with the exception that all clarification and grammatical changes made by governance would be accepted.

Motion Passed.

## 7 Applications

### 7.1 Applications

PGSS Committee Application Votes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

8:18 PM  **Adjourned**
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Executives: Jonathan Mooney (Secretary-General), Erik Larson (Financial Affairs Officer), Navid Khosravi Hashemi (External Affairs Officer), Michael Krause (Internal Affairs Officer), Adam Bouchard (Academic Affairs Officer), Nida Nizam (Council Speaker), Elizabeth Cawley (Member Services Officer).

Councilors: C. Beard (ADAMS CLUB), A. Pouzargues (ADELFIES), I.C. Rodriguez (APF), Y. Nazarenko (APF), S. Caldwell (BGSS), Y. (F). Chen (BGSS), P. DeCorwin-Martin (BMESS), L. Bourdages (CAOS), W. Farrell (CEGESS), A. Kazarine (CGSS), J. Lehr (CHEGSS), J. Tremblay (CSGS), V. Reinharz (CSGS), C. Xiong (DGSS), S. Mah (EBOSS), S. Bhatnagar (EBOSS), M. Quashie (EEGSS), J. Mooney (EGSS), B. Ozkosem (ESGSS), M. Accardi (GAPTS), A. Brown (GASA), P-C. Gauthier (GASA), G. Shapiro (GASP), L. Ribaudo (GGS), J. C. Pinto (GLSA), A. Mullick (GRSS), J. Ouellet (GSAN), M. Cressati (GSAN), A. Fernandez (GSAN), J. Irwin (HCGSA), D. Meadows (HGSS), I. Sutherland (MCGSS), S. Medithi (MCGSS), D. Gupta (MCGSS), R. Saini (MCGSS), L. Daielf (MGAPSS), B. Schmidt (MGAPS), Y. Bresler (MGAPS), K. Lawson (MGSS), T. Wilfong (MGSS), S. Thomson (MGSS), S. Murugu (MIGSA), E. Montpellier (MIGSS), M. Couchard (MLISSA), D. Phung (MLISSA), X. Ren (MMGES), J. Templeton (MMGES), B. Vanderbyl (NGSA), F. Strohschein (NGSA), E. Yung (PGSA-Psychiatry), B. Rocque (PGSA-Physiology), K. Volt (PPSMUA), S. Retallick (RSGS), F. (SPOTGSA), W. Rinkenbach (SPOTGSA), I. (SPOTGSA), H. Watkins (SWAGS), D. Paton (TUPGSA).

Commissioners and Non-Voting Members: M. Akpa (Equity Commissioner), V. Bhosle (Member Support Commissioner), A. Winegardner (Environment Commissioner), E. Yung (Health Commissioner), N. Nizam (Council Speaker), C. Briggs (Chief Returning Officer), C. Liu (Recording Secretary).

Guests: Dana Wray (The McGill Daily), Igor Sadikor (The McGill Daily), Kathleen Massey (Enrollment Services), Jennifer Murray (Executive Candidate), Remi Lu (McGill Tribune), Cece Zhang (McGill Tribune), Urooj Nizami (Midnight Kitchen), Jessica Fu (McGill Tribune), Martin Kriesmith, Olivier, Mark Quinsey, Patrice Allano (ASEQ), Callan Davey (ASEQ), Naomi Barshi (ADAMS CLUB), Hanno Erythropel (CHEGSS), Andrea Price (GGS), Laura Cohen (MLISSA), Ge Sa (MMGES), Katrina Obas (NGSA), Behrang Sharif (PGSA-Physiology),

6:49 PM  Call to order

1 Approval of the agenda

Added the reports of the Member Services Officer and the Internal Affairs Officer.

Chair removed the AGSEM Bargaining proposal tabled due to scheduling issues.

Speaker motioned to amend the agenda by moving the referendum questions regarding the health insurance and application fee to the beginning of the business section and adding a 5 minute question period regarding PGSA funding.

Motion Passed.
2 Speaker’s report

Chair introduced herself. Any questions could be sent to council.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca.

3 Announcements

3.1 Financial Awareness week

External Affairs Officer introduced the Financial Awareness Week that will be taking place during February 25 to February 27. There would be a series of workshops on financial aid and information on tax filing. He encouraged councilors to spread the word about this program.

He invited everyone to email him for access to a series of links to tools regarding federal tax reporting.

3.2 5-Minute Discussion Period Regarding PGSA Funding

H. Erythropel (CHEGSS) explained that there are now stricter rules placed on PGSA and PGSS now has to approve every event they want to hold. He asked whether there could be an easier way to allow PGSA to run their events.

Secretary-General replied that there is an unlimited liability clause in the MOA with McGill regarding activities of the PGSA so all events and expenditures have to be pre-approved. There have been efforts made to try to make the process easier, however, an agreement has not been reached with McGill.

J.C. Pinto (GLSA) said they had to modify their constitution due to this issue and has voiced concerns with fees and long administration process. He asked what steps the administration has taken to address this issue.

Ollivier Dyens (Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning)) replied that this issue is a question of liability and responsibility. PGSS, as a corporation, can raise their own student fees through a referendum process. Common ground has not been reached but negotiations are in process.

M. Bouchard (MLISSA) asked what the motivation was for the decision to centralize PGSA funding through the PGSS and whether it was understood that it would facilitate processes for McGill rather than for the GSAs.

Ollivier Dyens (Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning)) replied that McGill’s fee collection is included in the MOA that was negotiated and signed in 2011 or 2012 in good faith. There are still negotiations ongoing, but there are still legal and liability issues that need to be resolved.

G. Sa (MMGES) said he also had funding issues with GSA and asked whether GSAs could become incorporated and accredited and have control of their own finances.

Ollivier Dyens (Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning)) responded that McGill could not stop GSAs from doing so. However, doing so would mean having to levy their own fees, sign their own MOA with McGill, audit their finances, report to McGill, and provide proof of adequate insurance that would be burdensome processes. They were trying to deal with the larger student bodies so they can take on some of the burden of the individual associations.

J. C. Pinto (GLSA) asked what exactly is being done to solve this problem and why has nothing been settled to date.
Ollivier Dyens (Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning)) replied that the current MOA was signed and is in effect until 2016, and he is currently meeting with the executive to negotiate, and he will not negotiate in public.

Chair reminded everyone that questions regarding negotiations could be addressed to their officers.

Chair extended the question period for 2 minutes.

M. Bouchard (MLISSA) stated that now, if only one GSA did not take care of its own finances, that means PGSS, including all other GSAs would be liable for them, and asked if this was taken into account.

Ollivier Dyens (Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning)) responded that this issue is not new, and it was already approved by Council in 2004. There was an emphasis again about the ongoing lack of agreement, but that there were still negotiations going on.

Speaker thanked the guests.

4 Approval of the minutes

Chair motioned to approve the minutes from January’s Council.

Motion Passed.

5 Business Arising

5.1 Graduate Application Fee Referendum

Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and Associate Provost (Graduate Education), Martin Kreiswirth, introduced himself along with Mark Quinsey (uApply Project Management Team), Ollivier Dyens (Deputy Provost), Kathleen Massey (University Registrar and Executive Director of Enrolment Services).

Mark Quinsey described the new application process for graduate students. uApply is the new admission system and he introduced the revamped application process. Advantages for the new applicants include more effective means of communication to guide applicants through the admissions process, frequent status updates, document upload functionality, and submission of electronic references. Implementation of uApply would bring changes to the application fees. There would also be a new chat system creating a direct link to department’s graduate program coordinator to respond to any questions and concerns of applicants. uApply also streamlined the application process to speed up both the decision and notification processes. Those interested in looking at the system are invited to visit mcgill.ca/uapply .

Martin Kreiswirth explained that uApply was an attempt at addressing the issue that McGill was not being competitive with their peers in providing timely application decisions to applicants, and that many qualified applicants did not accept positions at McGill not only because of lack of funding, but because it took too long to get an offer. He also informed councilors that the new application process will allow applicants to pay one fee when applying to two different programs. This would affect nearly 1400 applicants. Masters students who want to fast track to PhD programs would not have to apply twice nor pay an additional application fee with this new system. He opened the floor to questions.

Y. Bresler (MGAPS) asked whether students who got their Masters at McGill and wanted to stay here to pursue their PhD but not fast track their PhD studies would still have to pay the application fee.

Martin Kreiswirth answered that the student would still have to pay. Y. Bresler (MGAPS) asked why the process is different than fast tracking.
Martin Kreiswirth replied that because a fast tracking student not having completed a Masters would still be considered a student in the system, otherwise they would be treated as a new applicant and reported differently.

H. Watkins (SWAGS) asked if qualifying year to Masters students would have to pay a second time to apply for PhD programs under the new application process.

Mark Quinsey replied that qualifying year students would still have to pay the application fee because they are considered to have completed their program after their qualifying year. He further clarified that qualifying to Masters is a change of level of studies.

G. Shapiro (GASP) asked how the reduced revenues from application fees collected by the University would affect students.

Martin Kreiswirth clarified that there was in fact an increase to the application fee. That is the purpose of the referendum.

Secretary-General explained that as a result of a recommendation made by McGill’s legal counsel, there was a modification made to the referendum question specifying that this new application fee would only be applicable to new applicants and not to those fast tracked.

Question and answer period ended. The Speaker thanked the guests and opened the floor to a debate on this motion.

Secretary-General clarified that should councilors approve the referendum question posed by McGill, they were agreeing to ask the student population whether or not to increase the fee.

W. Ferrall (CEGSS) asked whether the question of the referendum would be a binding question.

Secretary-General replied it would be a binding question. He explained that the rules of the Ministry of Education are that if McGill wants to increase the fee beyond inflation, they would need the approval of the student body. If this was approved, this fee increase would pass.

Chair called motion to a vote.

Motion Passed.

5.2 Election Dates

Business Arising:

Motion to approve proposed Election dates:

BIRT council approves the following dates, as proposed by the Elections Committee, for the 2014-2015 General Election and Referendums: March 13th to March 21th, 2014.

Chief Returning Officer reminded everyone of the election date.

Secretary-General asked why the election date is a Thursday.

Chief Returning Officer replied it was a good balance between campaign times and voting.

Chair motioned to approve election dates.

Motion Passed.

5.3 Needs based bursary endowment proposal
Needs based bursary endowment proposal

Secretary-General explained McGill and PGSS would each contribute $150000 to the bursary.

He noted that this bursary would only be available to full time students and would not be available to Post-Docs.

H. Watkins (SWAGS) asked about the process of applying for this bursary.

Secretary-General replied that this is a need based bursary and students with families would have priority. This was also an additional grant to the already existing grants that were available to students.

5.4 Report of the Academic Affairs Officer

Academic Affairs Officer - January Report - PDF

No questions or comments.

5.5 Financial Affairs Officer January Report

Financial Affairs Officer January Report

No questions or comments.

5.6 External Affairs Officer report January 2014

External Affairs Officer report January 2014

No questions or comments.

6 Floor Items

6.1 Health and Dental Plan Referendum

Chair motioned to extend speaking rights to guests.

Callan Davey (Program Manager for PGSS’ Health and Dental Plan) introduced AS

6.2 Internal Affairs Officer Report

No questions or comments.
7 New Business

7.1 Report of the Member Services Officer

Report of the Member Services Officer Feb 2014

Member Services Officer reported that the Dean of Graduate Studies supports the mandatory online orientation course for graduate students. She asked for ideas and recommendations for the online website.

I. C. Rodriguez (APF) suggested to include a section for Post-Docs specifically.

B. Vanderbyl (NGSA) informed everyone about the PhD support group.

N. Barshi (ADAMS CLUB) asked if it was possible to make the online orientation course not mandatory. She suggested to include Graphos to the online site as well.

H. Watkinson (SWAGS) encouraged to include links to skill sets and library tutorials.

A. Pouzargues (ADELFIES) asked to include information useful to international students. APEGAN: information useful to international students

H. Erythropel (CHEGSS) suggested releasing a booklet of the online material.

N. Barshi (ADAMS CLUB) suggested to add a list of resources for financial support to the online site.

W. Farrell (CEGSS) asked whether this information was already in the handbook.

Member Services Officer replied to N. Barshi (ADAMS CLUB) that this was a recommendation from THE students and not was initiated by the administration. Hence, it would have to be mandatory.

S. Bhatnagar (EBOSS) suggested to have an online handbook or an app be coded.

J. Mooney (EGSS) asked to have information specific to part-time graduate students and restrictions to funding be included. Noted that award was taken away from her because she was a part-time student.

8.17 PM 7.2 Athletics Building Improvement Fund

Whereas Undergraduate students have been contributing to an athletics building improvement fund for the past 30 years

Whereas Graduate students also benefit from the use and improvement of these facilities, and will directly benefit from this contribution

BIRT the PGSS Chief Returning Officer conduct a referendum as part of the Spring General Elections which asks members to approve or refuse the following question:

"Do you agree that, starting September 2014, a non-opt-outable fee of $3 (three dollars) per semester be charged to every full time and part time PGSS member enrolled as a PhD or Masters student up to, and including the Winter 2019 semester to be contributed to the McGill Athletics Building Improvement Fund, understanding this amount will go to improving Athletics Facilities at both campuses."

Academic Affairs Officer explained about the $3 fee to be added to improve athletics improvement fund.

Chair asked for comments regarding amendment.

B. Rocque (GAP) asked whether the park was accessible to all students.

Academic Affairs Officer replied it was indeed.
J. Mooney (EGSS) asked whether this fee affect Post-Docs.
Academic Affairs Officer replied that this does not affect Post-Docs.
F. Strohschein (NGSA) asked whether there would be an option to make this a separate referendum question.
Academic Affairs Officer replied it is possible.
Secretary-General informed council that this would benefit graduate students who are athletes.
Chair called the motion to a vote.
Motion Passed.

7.3 Motion to Approve a Referendum Question on a Midnight Kitchen Student Levy

Motion attached.

Motion to Approve a Referendum Question on a Midnight Kitchen Student Levy

Chair motioned to extend speaking rights to the guest speaker.
Motion passed.

Urooj Nizami introduced herself and the specifics of Midnight Kitchen.
L. Daieff (MGAPSS) explained that Undergraduates pay a fee $3.25 to support the operation of the Midnight Kitchen. He pointed out that since graduate students are regular attendees of Midnight Kitchen, a fee levy should be put into referendum.
Chair asked to extend council by 15 minutes.
Secretary-General asked whether this was applied to students of Mac Campus and students who were at other sites on campus.
L. Daieff (MGAPSS) replied that it was applied to them and that Midnight kitchen was added as a service to their bill.
Secretary-General asked whether there was an indication for the need of Midnight Kitchen for graduate students.
L. Daieff (MGAPSS) responded that there were many graduate students who did use Midnight Kitchen’s services.
M. Accardi (GAPTS) asked whether the projection of fee increases would provide quantitative improvements.
L. Daieff (MGAPSS) responded that there have been thoughts to provide breakfast as well. Staff hours and positions would also be increased with this added fee levy. Equipment would also be replaced.
W. Farrell (CEGSS) inquired about how to raise the presence of midnight kitchen amongst students.
L. Daieff (MGAPSS) replied that students would have to start by entering the SSMU building during lunch hours.
Secretary-General asked whether everyone was aware that PGSS signed a contract with SSMU whereby PGSS pays SSMU so that PGSS members have access to all SSMU services.
Lorenzo said that they were not aware and that most of their fees came from undergraduate students.
W. Farrell (CEGSS) inquired about the fairness to ask graduate students to pay an additional fee on top of the fees they already pay to SSMU.

B. Schmidt (MGAPS) explained that approximately $7000 a year were paid from graduate students to SSMU. He suggested Midnight Kitchen to ask SSMU to get the fee from the amount they already paid.

Secretary-General suggested to revisit this issue when questions are sorted out and addressed.

U. Nizami (Midnight Kitchen) clarified about the confusion of the SSMU fees that were paid.

Chair motion to vote on question.

Motion Passed.

7.4 Amend Society Events Revenue and Expenses Budget lines

WHEREAS PGSS has increased event sales and attendance due to demand

WHEREAS PGSS has reached the approved revenue and expenses for events for the 2013-14 Fiscal Year and has plans for putting on many events for the rest of the year

BIRT Council amend the society revenue and expense budget line for Events by increasing each line by $30 000 each

Financial Affairs Officer explained that there were unanticipated events that happened this year and suggested the budget be raised by $30000.

Chair called motion to a vote.

Motion Passed.

7.5 Endorsement of PGSS Harassment Policy

BIRT Council endorse the following proposed member code of conduct and harassment policy and send it to the PGSS Board of Directors for approval.

Endorsement of PGSS

Secretary-General suggested to move forward with the harassment policy and to bring this forward to the PGSS Board of Directors

Chair called motion to a vote.

Motion passed

7.6 Endorsement of Smoke-Free McLennan Redpath Terrace

Whereas the Libraries have reached out in consultation with the University for feedback on launching the rebuilt McLennan Redpath Terrace as a smoke free environment;

Whereas the plan has been endorsed by the University Health and Safety Committee and the Senate Committee on Physical Development;

Whereas the designation of the Terrace as smoke-free would be reviewed in one year;

BIRT PGSS Council endorse the proposal to have the McLennan Redpath Terrace be smoke-free.
Academic Affairs Officer explained the features and structure of the newly renovated McLennan Terrace and the intention to make this area a smoke free zone.

Chair called motion to a vote.

Motion passed.

8:43 PM  7.7 PGSS Fee Structure Referendum Question

WHEREAS, it is prudent to ensure that the fees collected by the PGSS meet the financial needs and obligations of the organization;

WHEREAS, the current and future needs of the PGSS have changed over the last two years and the current fee structure does not optimally meet these needs;

WHEREAS, the PGSS strives to ensure that its members do not pay unnecessary fees, and that the fees that are collected are used efficiently;

BIRT the following question be put to referendum:

Do you agree that PGSS adopt the fee structure outlined in Appendix A which keep the total fees collected the same but reallocates them appropriately.

PGSS Fee Structure Referendum Question

Financial Affairs Officer explained the ("$10,000/year increase) lease with McGill regarding Thomson House. He proposing to increase $1.50 for membership fee due to the increases in expenses.

L. Daieff (MGAPSS) inquired the reason to have three separate questions and the necessity for the fee increase.

Financial Affairs Officer replied that the goal was to have students pay the same amount for PGSS services and this was a small increase to ensure the same services were provided.

Chair called first motion to a vote.

Motion Passed.

Financial Affairs Officer explained that because of the budget cuts, grant program now received a decrease in funding. The problem without additional funding was the cutting down of events. Hence there was the proposal with the modest increase of $0.81 for the grants program.

H. Erythropel (CHEGSS) stated that students were not informed about the distribution of the funds.

Chair called second motion to a vote.

Motion passed.

Financial Affairs Officer explained the needs based bursary fund and the tentative agreement to increase $30000 to the endowment fund. Interest would be paid out to students with such needs. The suggestion was to reduce to original $1 fund.

B. Sharif (GAP) asked why there were separate questions when the fees would be increased as a whole.

Financial Affairs Officer replied that McGill would only allow 1 fee per question. He also mentioned that these fees were increased 3 years ago.

Chair called third motion to a vote.

Motion Passed.
8:52 PM 7.8  October 2013 minutes

Chair called motion to a vote.
Motion passed.

8:52 PM 7.9  September 2013 minutes

Chair called motion to a vote.
Motion Passed.

8:53 PM 7.10  Health and Dental Insurance Plan renewal referendum question

BIRT the following question be put to referendum
Do you agree that the PGSS Health and Dental Plan be renewed at a annual fee of no more $258.20 for the health insurance component of the plan and no more than $179.62 for the dental insurance component of the plan for a period of 3 years beginning September 2014 and ending August 2017
1) Yes
2) No
Chair called motion to question.
Motion Passed.

8  Reports

7:56 PM 8.1  Report of the Secretary-General

Report of the Secretary-General Feb 2014

Secretary-General said that the bursary negotiation was going well and should go through.

There was a negotiation for new 10 year lease for Thomson House and it was going well. Secretary-General explained that the difference between the old and new lease was that the PGSS would have to pay a portion of the utilities in the new lease.

7:58 PM 8.2  Report of Health Commissioner February 2014

Report of Health Commissioner February 2014

No questions or comments.
7:59 PM 8.3 Report of Member Support Commissioner

Report for February 12th council meeting is attached.

Report of Member Support Commissioner

Member Support Commissioner made an announcement regarding the Dean of Students looking for McGill students to provide feedback on the Senate ad-hoc committee to revise the McGill Charter of student rights before revisions are made to the committee. Interested councilors should contact him at ssc.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca for more information.

7:59 PM 8.4 Report of the environment commissioner

For February 12th council, attached.

Report of the environment commissioner

No questions or comments.

8:00 PM 8.5 Report of the Policy and Structure Advisory Committee

2104-02-07 Report of the Policy and Structure Advisory Committee

Secretary-General said there was a recommendation from the Appeals Board to update and clarify appeals process. He explained the updates that were made to the by-laws.

W. Farrell (CEGSS) asked whether there could be a more streamline appeals process.

Secretary General replied that it was stated by-laws that any decision in question would have to go through the Appeals Board.

Secretary General suggested to discuss about grants. Committee suggested that subjective criteria should be included.

W. Farrell (CEGSS) stated that there are two fundamental (social and academic) criteria for the grants. He suggested that these two criteria should be considered separately.

B. Sharif (GAP) answered that due to the ambiguity of the nature of the events, it would be difficult to categorize them separately.

Environment Commissioner said that there was no feedback given to rejected grants. She suggested that feedback should be given.

N. Barshi (ADAMS CLUB) suggested to strike out the suggestion of requiring the event be of close proximity to McGill.

Secretary-General responded that this suggestion was to increase the accessibility of the event and the decision was still not decided upon.

W. Farrell (CEGSS) asked the question on whether the goal is to have interdepartmental events.

Chair called to vote on this motion.

Motion Passed.
8:12 PM  8.6 Appointments Board - January Report

Appointments Board - January Report

Academic Affairs said there was no report this month.
There are new vacancies for PGSS internal.
Ubriety would be used for recruitment.

8:14 PM  8.7 Academic Affairs Officer - January Report

Academic Affairs Officer - January Report

No questions or comments.

8:53 PM  8.8 Financial Affairs Officer Report

Financial Affairs Officer Report

No questions or comments.

8:54 PM  8.9 External Affairs Officer report February

External Affairs Officer report February

No questions or comments.

8:54 PM  8.10 Report of the Academic Affairs Officer

This report includes notice that a recommendation for a Library Improvement Fund expenditure will be coming to March Council.

Report of the Academic Affairs Officer Feb 2014

No questions or comments.

8:55 PM  Adjourned
2014-03-12 - Minutes - March 12th Council Meeting - Approved

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Attending

6:20 PM Call to order

1 Speaker’s report

No comments.

6:21 PM Approval of the minutes

No minutes to be approved.

6:21 PM Question Period

No comments.

4 New Business

4.1 Re Library Improvement Fund Committee - Library Improvement Fund Expenditure - Lockable Space

Whereas the Library Improvement Fund committee met on February 21st and unanimously recommends this expenditure for the benefit of graduate students;

Whereas the details of the expenditure are outlined in the attached document;

BIRT PGSS Council ratify the recommendation of the Library Improvement Fund Committee to spend $120,140 (one hundred twenty thousand, one hundred forty dollars) from the Library Improvement Fund for the following projects:

1) Dedicated Grad Zone - "Thesis Room" ($50,200)
2) Graduate Student Storage - "Lockers" ($23,360)
3) PhD Room - Updates for more users ($5,440)
4) Spirit Scanner Upgrade - Efficient, high volume scanners ($25,470)

Re Library Improvement Fund Committee - Library Improvement Fund Expenditure - Lockable Space February 2014

Academic Affairs Officer motivated in favour of the motion. The Library Improvement Fund is spent in consultation with the membership and libraries through PGSS Library Improvement Fund Committee.
There would be two readings done on this matter. The speaker noted that for the first reading, voting was not necessary.

6:22 PM 4.2 Motion to amend bylaws to expand the purpose of the corporation

BIRT the bylaws be amended to expand the purpose of the corporation to include the following text:

Bylaw 2.1.6 “to promote freedom of association within the student movement"

Secretary-General motivated for the motion, explaining that agreeing to the bylaw changes, this would be further discussed in the AGM agenda. He further explained that the purpose and goal of the corporation is work with all students across Canada to promote freedom of association.

Chair called the motion to a vote.

Motion Passed.

6:24 PM 4.3 Motion to amend bylaws to change titles of officers

Be resolved that all governing documents of the PGSS be updated to reflect the following changes to officer titles:

1) Change "Secretary-General" to "President"
2) Change "Finance Officer" and "Financial Affairs Officer" to "Chancellor of the Exchequer"

Motivated to change the "Secretary-General" title and the "Financial Affairs Officer" title to "President" and "Chancellor of the Exchequer" respectively. He explained that when travelling to other universities, the role of the Secretary-General was not well understood. As well, the responsibilities of the Financial Affairs Officer was being called to question and after a significant amount of research, it was decided that Chancellor of the Exchequer fits the title and duties appropriately.

Internal Affairs Officer opposed this motion. He said that the title of the Secretary-General was recently changed two years ago, and that this in general was an inefficient use of time.

J. Marton (HGSS), motioned to amend "Part 2" to change "Chancellor of Exchequer" to "Master of the Coin."

External Affairs Officer agreed that there were legitimate reasons to change "Secretary-General" to "President" but did not agree with the title changes suggested for Financial Affairs Officer. He noted that the term "Chancellor of the Exchequer" was an uncommon term that was used in the British system.

Chair asked to vote on the amendment of changing "Chancellor of the Exchequer" to "Master of the Coin."

Motion Failed.

Internal Affairs Officer stated that it was only necessary to have one title for the President of PGSS when writing official documents. The dual use of "President" and "Secretary-General" raised confusion when the Secretary-General were to speak on behalf of the university. Asked everyone to please vote in favour of changing the title of the Secretary-General to the President.

K. Bouayad-Gervais (GASP), felt indifferent about changing the title of the Secretary-General. He motioned to amend the motion from "Chancellor of the Exchequer" to "Treasurer"

Secretary-General stated that the term "Treasurer" does not exist in law.

N. Barshi (ADAMS CLUB) seconded this amendment.

Motion Failed.
Member Services Officer mentioned that all executives were paid approximately $16,000 annually to represent students. She had previously witnessed a significant amount of emails that were missed due to the name change in titles and believed that this change was unnecessary and would impede efficiency.

Motioned to split the question.

Motion Passed.

Chair called first article of motion to change “Secretary-General” to “President” to a vote.

Motion Failed with a 2/3 majority.

Chair called second article of motion to change “Financial Affairs Officer” to “Chancellor of the Exchequer” to a vote.

Motion Failed.

**4.4 2nd READING - Motion regarding grants process**

WHeras the Appeals Board requested that the Policy and Structure Advisory Committee consider changes to the grants funding process

BIRT Society Activities Manual section 13.13.10 be amended to change “applications” to “funding of grants”

Secretary General explained PGSS was recommended by the Appeals Board to make it clear that it was in fact the actual funding and not the applications that were being ranked by the Grants Committee. This was already approved in council and this second reading was to make this point clear in the governing documents.

Chair called this motion to a vote.

Motion Passed with a 2/3 majority.

**6:36 PM 4.5 2nd READING - Motion regarding appeals process**

WHeras the Appeals Board requested that the Policy and Structure Advisory Committee make amendments to the governing documents to clarify the appeals process

BIRT a new section 2.2.1 be created, reading, “The notice of appeal must include a written statement from the petitioner detailing the specific reasons for the appeal including but not limited to the ways in which the responsible committee or party is believed to have erred and any pertinent clauses in the governing documents which are believed to have been broken. The prospective appellant shall be made aware of this procedure at the time he or she is made aware of his or her right to appeal.”

BIRT a new section 2.2.2 be created, reading, “Upon notice of appeal, the chair of the committee or the party that rendered the decision in question shall also be duly notified by the Appeals Board and shall supply a statement detailing the justification of the decision along with all relevant documentation within 36 hours of the notice. Documents should include all correspondence with the appellant, a written statement describing the reasons for the decision and the governing documents upon which they are
based, as well as any other pertinent information.

Secretary-General motivated in favour of the motion. He explained that the Appeals Committee recommended that Policy Committee take a look at the appeals process. The new amendment now stated that if a decision were to be appealed, an outline of the broken regulation would be required.

Chair called this motion to a vote.

Motion Passed with a 2/3 majority.

6:37 PM 4.6 Re CMA - Amendment to Bylaw 9.6

WHEREAS it is currently unclear who is authorized to allow spending from a budget line under the PGSS approved budget

BIRT the text of bylaw 9.6 be amended to read

The PGSS may not make any disbursement in a given financial year in the absence of an approved budget for the financial year. The Council must approve the budget for Society Activities and the Board of Directors must approve the budget for Business Activities. Both the Council and the Board of Directors must approve the budget for Shared Activities. Any approved budget must clearly state which party or parties may authorize an expenditure from each budget line and what process is required to disburse funds.

Secretary-General explained that the current budget did not state who was authorized to spend from a particular budget line. The new amendment would be a form of internal control protection.

Chair called this motion to a vote.

Motion Passed.

Academic Affairs Officer asked to vote on item 8.1 concerning the Library Improvement Fund.

Chair called motion to a vote.

Motion Passed.

5 Floor Items

7:09 PM 5.1 AGM Announcement

Member Services Officer explained the details and process of the AGM. When there was a motion to adjourn, the ballroom were to be vacated completely and each member were to sign in as individual PGSS members.

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion Passed.

Meeting Adjourned.
Adjourned
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   5.8 Report of the Chief Returning Officer 
   5.9 Draft Tuition Policy Briefing Paper 
6 New Business
   6.1 PGSS Policy on Graduate Student Mental Health 
   6.2 Library Improvement Fund Expenditure - Lockable Space (second reading)
Attending

Executives:

Erik Larson (Financial Affairs Officer), Michael Krause (Internal Affairs Officer), Adam Bouchard (Academic Affairs Officer), Elizabeth Cawley (Member Services Officer).

Councilors: N. Barshi (ADAMSCLUB), E. Vincent (APF), D. Leung (BGSA), D. Hanson (BGSA), A. Olanrewaju (BMESS), L. Bourdages (CAOS), W. Farrell (CEGSS), A. Kazarine (CGSS), S. Bhatnagar (EBOSS), C. Turnbull (EGSS), L. Nikolajev (GAPTS), A. Brown (GASA), B. Lungo (GASA), G. Shapiro (GASP), N. Hope (GASP), A. Price (GGS), A. Mullick (GRSS), K. Reimer (GSAMS), J. Ouellet (GSAN), J. Irwin (HCGSA), D. Meadows (HGSS), J. Marton (HGSS), P. Simon (MAGSS), I. Sutherland (MCGSS), D. Watt (MCGSS), A. Blakney (MCGSS), A. M. Shah (MDGSS), I. Japaridze (MEGA), L. Daieff (MGAPSS), G. Dupuis (MGAPS), Y. Bresler (MGAPS), S. Burugu (MIGSA), Z. Sabri (MISSC), G. Sa (MMGES), F. Strohschein (NGSA), E. Yung (PGSA-Psychiatry), B. Rocque (PGSA-Physiology), K. White (SPOTGSA), W. Rinkenbach (SPOTGSA), K. Race (SPOTGSA).

Commissioners and Non-Voting Members:

A. Winegardner (Environment Commissioner), E. Yung (Health Commissioner), N. Nizam (Council Speaker), C. Briggs (Chief Returning Officer), C. Liu (Recording Secretary).

Guests:

Charlie Beard (ADAMS CLUB), Michael Accardi (GAPTS), Karim Bouayad-Gervais (GASP), Regine Debrosse (GASP), Jennifer Murray (EBOSS), Samara Perez (HAWC), Michael Derouo (Islamic Studies), Angela Tam (Integrated Program - Neuroscience), Jessica Fu (McGill Tribune), Alexandra Kueuire (McGill Tribune), Gabriela Torues-Platas.

6:35 PM  **Call to order**

6:35 PM  **1 Approval of the agenda**

*Chair called agenda to a vote.*

*Motion passed.*

6:36 PM  **2 Speaker’s report**

*Chair introduced herself. She stated that she had not been here for 3 weeks and would like an Economics tutor. Any questions and concerns could be addressed to council.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca.*
3 Floor Items

6:37 PM  3.1 Announcements

The Academic Affairs Officer and Internal Affairs Officer introduced their roles as co-chairs for the Appointments Board, responsible for filling all the committees. The Senate Standing Committees currently need to be filled.

In addition, they are in the process of recruiting commissioners, including the Equity Commissioner, Environment Commissioner, Health Commissioner, and Student Support Commissioner. These positions work with the executive, get a stipend, and are expected to be present during monthly councils while maintaining a required workload.

Applications are accepted through the Ubriety system. For the all positions, applicants would look under vacancies.

There are also several Deans positions for the selection committee currently available: Provost, the second in command of the university who is responsible for the budget, for hiring of all professors. This work term for this position lasts from five to ten years.

The committee is also looking for the Dean of Science, Dean of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Dean of Libraries, and Dean of Graduate Studies.

Sign up for committees needs to be done online in the next week.

Next Monday there would also be an Elections Results Party with specials, food and drinks. Everyone is welcome.

D. Meadows (HGSS), introduced herself as Financial Affairs Officer-elect for next year. She informed everyone of the intention to revamp the grants policy. If anyone wants to be involved with this process or has any feedback, please contact her or the Financial Affairs Officer.

4 Approval of the minutes

6:41 PM  Chair called approval of the minutes of March Council to a vote.

Motion Passed.

5 Reports

6:41 PM  5.1 Report of the External Affairs Officer

Report of the External Affairs Officer

External Affairs Officer was in Waterloo. No questions.

6:42 PM  5.2 Report of the Internal Affairs Officer

Report of the Internal Affairs Officer

No questions.
6:42 PM **5.3 Report of the Secretary-General**

Report of the Secretary-General

Secretary-General not present. No questions.

6:42 PM **5.4 Report of the Health Commissioner**

Report of the Health Commissioner

No questions.

6:42 PM **5.5 Equity Commissioner Report**

EqC Report

Equity Commissioner was not present. No questions.

6:43 PM **5.6 Environment Commissioner report for March Council/AGM**

Environment Commissioner Report for March 2014 Council-AGM

Environment Commission got bonus points for being present. No questions.

6:43 PM **5.7 Environment Commissioner Report**

April council report for the environment commissioner.

Environment Commissioner Report

No questions.

6:43 PM **5.8 Report of the Chief Returning Officer**

Report of the Chief Returning Officer

Chief Returning Officer mentioned to council that he gets a substantial amount of angry emails from members during PGSS elections and that students can email their council rep. This year’s elections would be fully bilingual. One thing to note about the elections was that many people who ran for the positions were already involved members. Therefore, there was the ongoing lack of concern regarding outside representation.

The Chief Returning Officer also mentioned the concern expressed regarding the wording of questions and the voting system for the referendum. He spoke with the governance committee and the system required members to submit referendum questions one week prior to council to be reviewed by the Chief Returning Officer. The Chief Returning Officer provided a proper instruction on the referendum question structure.
Finally, the preferential voting system was explained.

6:47 PM  5.9 Draft Tuition Policy Briefing Paper

Please find attached a draft tuition policy briefing paper from July 2013. There is a recent advancements section which outlines the main political parties current positions on tuition.

The government currently has a working group in place examining the financing of universities. Please see links below for their most recent publications which includes an overview of their work, the relevant statistical data and a 12 country/province review of university financing. The working group are due to report their findings in June 2014.


Draft Tuition Policy Briefing Paper

Removed from the Agenda as Secretary-General was not present.

6 New Business

6:48 PM  6.1 PGSS Policy on Graduate Student Mental Health

PGSS policy on graduate student mental health

Chair granted speaking rights to the guests.

Samara Perez (HAWC), introduced herself as the co-chair of a mental health policy group established for graduate students. She explained that this initiative began when SSMU developed their own mental health policy there was the realization that the needs of graduate students are different from undergraduates. Currently there is currently no PGSS mental health policy, and the committee worked on developing one.

Chair opened the floor to questions.

I. Japaridze (MEGA), asked what exactly was meant by “mental health policy” and whether this initiative would this require funding from PGSS.

Samara Perez explained that this was an outline of a policy that would govern the mental health needs of PGSS graduate students. They aimed to advocate for services available specifically for graduate students. The proposal was to form a sub-committee under the Health and Wellness Committee that would cater to graduate students’ mental health needs and to create longer term plans to address specific needs. They currently do not require funding. Should this be needed, it would be brought to council later.

Chair called this motion to a vote.

Motion Passed.
6:53 PM 6.2 Library Improvement Fund Expenditure - Lockable Space (second reading)

Whereas the Library Improvement Fund committee met on February 21st and unanimously recommends this expenditure for the benefit of graduate students;
Whereas the details of the expenditure are outlined in the attached document;
BIRT PGSS Council ratify the recommendation of the Library Improvement Fund Committee to spend $120,140 (one hundred twenty thousand, one hundred forty dollars) from the Library Improvement Fund for the following projects:
1) Dedicated Grad Zone - "Thesis Room" ($50,200)
2) Graduate Student Storage - "Lockers" ($23,360)
3) PhD Room - Updates for more users ($5,440)
4) Spirit Scanner Upgrade - E?cient, high volume scanners ($25,470)

The Academic Affairs Officer introduced himself as the chair of the PGSS Library Improvement Fund Committee responsible for spending money collected by the Library Improvement Fund, currently $3 per student, per semester. This was brought forward from the committee last council and he motivated in favor of this motion so that the fund could be spent during the summer to carry out the plan to create lockable space in the libraries.

D. Meadows (HGSS), asked for confirmation that this had been approved by committee.

Academic Affairs Officer named a list of people who were involved with this project and confirmed that everything had been approved to be able to commence as soon as possible.

K. Reimer (GSAMS) inquired as to how the amount in the fund is collected.

Academic Affairs Officer answered they would collect the $3 from students that is matched by McGill. They would be leveraging approximately $70,000 per school year into this fund. The plan is to spend as much as what is being brought in. There were no big expenditures in the first few years of the fund collection. Two years ago, there was an expenditure of approximately $300,000 for the humanities library, $100,000 for the education library, there was no major spending last year, at this time next year, there should be a balance of $250,000 for next year's executive's projects.

G. Shapiro (GASP), asked for a detailed explanations of the proposed expenditure for lockers.

Academic Affairs Officer explained that there would be 108 lockers of varying sizes available. He further explained the need for a security camera resulting from consultation with other students.

C. Turnbull (EGSS) asked how there would be accountability after the money is spent.

Academic Affairs Officer explained that when McGill collected money from the e-bill account, it would go directly to the fund. Feedback of usage would be given. With the case of the Education Library, money was spent on chairs, desks, lighting and the library in this proposal is the most heavily used on campus is not expected to be closed.

I. Japaridze (MEGA) asked if there was a policy with regards to distribution the lockers.

Academic Affairs Officer explained that the lockable spaces currently available have been prioritized for students in the Humanities and Social Sciences because traditionally, they least amount of office space. Students doing clinical studies and students writing their theses who have no access to office space would be given priority to lockable space under this proposal. Booking time would be done on a per semester basis.
R. Debrosse (GASP) asked how the members of the committee came to the conclusion that grad students needed the Spirit Scanner Upgrade.

Academic Affairs Officer answered that this was a late addition to the process based on purchases the undergraduate library improvement fund was making. Through the usage of this product, it was agreed that this scanner was a good purchase that would increase efficiency significantly.

N. Hope (GASP) asked if this would take off the pressure on faculties for providing space for graduate students. She questioned the university’s role in this project.

Academic Affairs Officer said that with the collaboration with the Graduate Education Officer of McGill in Teaching and Learning Services, David Syncox, they have seen a shift in the perception in the way students should use office space. The issue that was addressed is that this perception should be changed, and that there are currently around 1,200 PGSS members who do not have access to office space for thesis writing. This proposal is more of a stop-gap measure to compensate for those who do not yet have space, something that McGill is working on.

Chair called this motion to a vote.

Motion Passed.

7:09 PM Adjourned
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9 Applications

9.1 Applications
Attending

Jonathan Mooney (Secretary-General)

Quorum has been satisfied.

Councillors:

N Barshi (Adams Club), I Rodriguez (APF), D Hanson (BGSA), S Cadwell (BGSS), Y Chen (BGSS), W Farrell (CEGSS), J Ann-Pura (ESGSS), M Préau (GAMES), B Sharif (GAP), M Accardi (GAPTS), K. Bouayad-Gervais (GASP), N Hope (GASP), L Ribaudo (GGS), J Pinto (GLSA), K Reimer (GSAMS), A Fernandez (GSAN), J Ouellet (GSAN), M Cressati (GSAN), I Harvey (HCGSA), J Irwin (HCGSA), D Meadows (HGSS), M Akpa (HGSS), P Simon (MAGSS), A Blakney (MCGSS), M O'Neil (MCGSS), I Japaridize (MEGA), L Daleff (MGAPPS), G Dupuis (MGAPS), Y Bresler (MGAPS), S Thomsons (MGSS), N Otis (MGSSA-Sociology), S Burugu (MIGSA), L Cohen (MLISSA), Ge Sa (MMGESAS), J Gabovry (NGSA), K Obas (NGSA), S Retallick (RSGS), A Blumenthal (SWAGS).

Executives:

J Mooney (Secretary-General), E Cawley (Member Services Officer), A Bouchard (Academic Affairs Officer), E Larson (Financial Affairs Officer), N Khosravi-Hashemi (External Affairs Officer).

Commissioners & Staff

A Winegardener (Environment Commissioner), M Akpa (Equity Commissioner), V Bhosle (Member Support Commissioner), A Vincent (Society Affairs Coordinator), C Briggs (Chief Returning Officer, acting Recording Secretary).

Regrets

M Krause (Internal Affairs Officer), C Liu (Recording Secretary), E Yung (Health Commissioner).

Guests

J Murray (Incoming Academic Affairs Officer), Josée Méthot (McGill Office of Sustainability)

6:35 PM Call to order

6:35 PM 1 Speaker’s report

6:36 PM 2 Announcements

6:36 PM 2.1 AGSEM Bargaining Committee

J. Irwin, president of AGSEM. Members of the union include all invigilators and TAs. Union has issued avis de negotiation as the collective agreement is coming to an end. Union seeks for a clearer CA, new harassment article with the goal of better protection and record keeping (neutral policy rather than
McGill driven), pay increase of 5 percent per annum, some other benefits (waived fees). Pay increase is reasonable, though more than other unions in Quebec, relative to other Ontario institutions. Index hours to classes. Invites questions. None.

6:54 PM 2.2 Sustainability Projects Fund

Josee Methot from Sustainability McGill - Vision 2020, presented report. Noted the process to apply for funding, vetting process, and finance. She also noted that the fund seeks to build on all aspects of sustainability, not merely green projects. The speaker invited members to contact her organisation should they wish to get involved.

K. Bouayad-Gervais (GASP) asked for examples of projects.

The guest mentioned Feeding McGill, a farm program in which a Mac Campus farms provide produce to the downtown campus.

Guest was thanked for her time

6:39 PM 3 Approval of the minutes

Motion Passed.

4 Floor Items

6:41 PM 4.1 December 4, 2013 Council meeting

Motion Passed.

6:41 PM 4.2 January 15th Council Meeting

Motion Passed.

6:41 PM 4.3 February 12th Council Meeting

Motion Passed.

6:41 PM 4.4 April 2nd Council Meeting

Motion Passed.
5 Reports

6:42 PM 5.1 Report of the Academic Affairs Officer

Report of the Academic Affairs Officer May 2014

No comments or questions.

6:42 PM 5.2 External Affairs Officer report May 2014

2014-05-05 External Affairs Officer Report May 2014

No comments or questions.

6:42 PM 5.3 May 2014 Report of the Secretary-General

2014-05-05 Secretary-General Report May 2014

No comments or questions.


Commissioner absent

6:42 PM 5.5 2014-05-07 - Report of the Equity Commissioner

2014-05-07 - Report of the Equity Commissioner

No comments or questions.


No comments or questions.

6:42 PM 5.7 2014-04-30 Report of Member Support Commissioner (May Council)

2014-04-30 Report of Member Support Commissioner (May Council)

No comments or questions.
5.8 Financial Affairs Officer Report


No comments or questions.

5.9 Report of the Policy and Structure Advisory Committee

BIRT the changes to elections regulations in the attached report be adopted in first reading.

Report of the Policy and Structure Advisory Committee May 2014

Secretary-General motivated in favour of amendments to the Society Activities Manual, noting that the changes have been extensively reviewed, and that the nature of the changes are extremely minor. The Secretary-General noted the election expense subsidy and the change of hustings to scheduled debates.

9:4:2 Passed, no abstentions
9:5:3 Passed, no abstentions
Section 8 Passed, no abstentions (note the change is mass, all mention of hustings becomes scheduled debates).
9:11:1 Passed, 1 abstention, two against
9:15:1 Passed, no abstentions
Two thirds majority for everything,
Motion Passed.

5.10 Health of student supervisor relationships at McGill University

BIRT the attached report by adopted and the recommendations form a new PGSS policy on supervision.

Health of student supervisor relationships at McGill University

The Secretary-General introduced the report: this report is the result of extensive research done by, in part, the PGSS Researcher. Some of these recommendations are going to McGill Senate, such as the use of a third party to oversee complaints, as well as supervision training. PGSS requests Council’s endorsement.

N. Barshi, Adams Club, proposed that grammatical and spelling changes be made. The chairperson proposed that the original drafter of the document make these changes prior to disseminating the document.

Chairperson read aloud the document,
Called for questions.
Called to vote. Motion passed, with one abstention.
Motion Passed.
5.11 Budget Discussion

Council will need to approve a budget for the 2014-15 FY
Please see the attached documents for discussion purposes

Budget Discussion (1)
Budget Discussion (2)
Budget Discussion (3)
Budget Discussion (4)

Financial Affairs Officer introduced report, noting that Council would be presented the report at the following Council meeting- he further noted budget information is online for members who wish to read any documentation.

The officer added that the budget is largely remaining the same, with two changes: one pertaining to the grants program, the other to the needs based bursary.

Events has generated much more revenue than what was planned. In the future, events are expected to be revenue neutral. The future budget includes funding for a Study Saturday childcare program for students with children. Rent is expected to increase due to administration demands (for utilities, which are now billed, ($10 000) and for increased rent). Thomson House currently costs $24 000 in rent, annually. A CFS budget line has been produced as to best identify the cost affiliated with this. This year the CFS legal battle, and affiliated expenses, have cost $90 000. Since 2009, the cost has been $300 000.

Speaker invited question.

K. Gervais-Bouayad (GASP) asked if there is a forecast for the future.

Financial Affairs Officer replied this has not been done in the past, and is very difficult to do because of political volatility.

6 Question Period

7 New Business

7.1 Ratification of Appointments Board Recommendations

BIRT the report of the Appointments Board to May 2014 Council be approved

Academic Affairs Officer outlined proposed candidates. He noted almost every committee is filled, less the appeals committee and the senate committee on discipline.

Chairperson invited questions.

K Gervais-Bouayad (GASP) noted that his name should not be on the list.
Academic Affairs Officer accepted that the name should be struck.
Environment Commissioner noted that her committee lacks a representative from a specific committee.
Academic Affairs Officer noted a McGill agreement permitting a PGSS official to act in lieu of this member.
Motion Passed.

7:17 PM  
**7.2 Ratification of Appointments Board Recommendations**

BIRT the report of the Appointments Board to May 2014 Council be approved

2014-05-04 Ratification of Appointments Board Recommendations

7:18 PM  
**7.3 Motion regarding PGSS policy on graduate student mental health**

(Health Commissioner, Member Services Officer)

BIRT the following policy be formally be adopted.

**Operations/Issues Policy: The PGSS Policy on Graduate Student Mental Health**

Preamble:

Mental health can be defined as “the capacity of each and all of us to feel, think, and act in ways that enhance our ability to enjoy life and deal with the challenges we face. It is a positive sense of emotional and spiritual well-being that respects the importance of culture, equity, social justice, interconnections, and personal dignity” (1). The Canadian Association of College & University Student Services and Canadian Mental Health Association have created a guide that outlines a framework for addressing student mental health in post-secondary institutions (2). This guide states that “[m]ental health is essential to students’ academic success as well as their ability to participate fully and meaningfully throughout all aspects of their lives and throughout their lifespan” (2). It is imperative that all student services at McGill University work together to promote a safe and healthy campus with the resources available.

Policy:

The PGSS supports:

1. Increasing awareness and reducing stigma: Inform graduate students of the student services and available resources that provide mental health support as well as the PGSS health insurance coverage for mental health services.

2. Collaborating to promote a mentally positive campus: Coordinate with other McGill mental health groups, McGill Student Services, and McGill administration to facilitate wider access to information and support networks for all students. Also, work with McGill faculty and staff to become more aware and educated on mental health issues and how to support students’ mental health.

3. Advocating for accessible services and resources: Services – shorter wait times, consultation, and feedback with users of these services, and students’ rights to confidentiality and privacy. Resources – offer graduate student specific workshops and strategies for graduate students experiencing mental health issues year-round. Increase access to these specialized resources are necessary around times of stress for graduate students (i.e., thesis submission, crisis management and trauma).

The PGSS opposes:
1. Discrimination towards graduate students seeking help or information relating to mental health.

2. Inequality in services available to different student groups at McGill (e.g., full-time, part-time, international).

3. Implementation and/or increase of monetary fees that would prevent students’ access to mental health services on campus due to financial restrictions.


BIFRT the Society Activity Manual be amended as follows:

In chapter 5, section 12, add a new subsection 2.5, reading, “The representatives to the Mental Health Advisory Board and the Counseling Services Advisory Board shall be expected to attend the meetings of both Boards”

In chapter 5, section 12 add a new subsection 3:

3. Subcommittee on Mental Health

3.1 Purpose: to implement the PGSS policy on graduate student mental health

3.2 Composition:

3.2.1 Chair selected from among the Health and Wellness Committee by the PGSS Appointments Board

3.2.2 The PGSS representative to either the Health Services Advisory Board or the Mental Health Advisory Board, in the event this person is not the Chair

3.2.3 Four at-large members

Second reading.

D Meadows (HGSS) asked the Member Services Officer how the policy would be used in practice (action policies).

Member Services Officer replied that a mental health coordinator would be hired, who could then put into action other aspects of the plan.

Called to vote.

Motion Passed. I Japardize (MEGA) noted his abstention

7:21 PM 7.4 2014-04-27- Motion on the PGSS community garden

2014-04-27- Motion on the PGSS community garden

Environment Commissioner presented the motion. She noted it is a pilot project, done in partnership with the sustainability projects fund, to create a community garden, in which members could have access to gardening space at TH. They seek endorsement.

Chairperson invited questions. None.

Called to vote.

Unanimous support.
Motion Passed.

8  Approval of the agenda

Motion Passed.

9  Applications

9.1 Applications

PGSS Committee Application Votes

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<th>Applicant</th>
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tabled to June

2:41 PM  Adjourned

Adjourned at 7:38 pm