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Call to order

1 Floor Items

1.1 May 7th Council Meeting

Item on hold

2 Speaker’s report

Speaker introduced herself and welcomed new members of Council.

She encouraged them to raise a point of parliamentary inquiry if confused about anything.

3 Approval of the agenda

Motion Passed.
4 Business Arising

6:41 PM 4.1 Approval of the minutes

Report of the Appointments Board
BIRT Rui Hao Wang be appointed to the McGill Senate.

Internal Affairs Officer explained the purpose of recruiting more people into the internal and external affairs committee was to help run affairs over the summer.

Called for questions.

Called to vote.

Motion Passed.

5 Reports

6:45 PM 5.1 Report of Member Support Commissioner (June council)

Report of Member Support Commissioner (June council)

Member Support Commissioner noted that anyone interested in reviewing the policies over the summer could contact him via the new email ssc.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca.

6:46 PM 5.2 Supervision policy approval (second reading)

BIRT the recommendations (p. 42) of the attached report "Health of student supervisor relationships at McGill University" be adopted in second reading as the official PGSS Policy on Postgraduate Supervision.

Called to vote.

Motion Passed.

6 Question Period

6:49 PM

No questions.

7 New Business

7:10 PM 7.1 Motion to set executive committee priorities for the upcoming year
Whereas significant segments of the province have never perceived McGill as an integral part of Québec society

Whereas this insularity is detrimental to inter-university collaboration

Whereas inter-university collaboration is highly important to academic research and to our political agendas

BIRT that PGSS will make it a _____ priority year to foster a spirit of camaraderie amongst universities and to engage in more collaborative events for the 2014-2015 term.

—

Whereas PGSS received a 23% (low) STARS sustainability operations rating in 2013

Whereas few steps have been taken since the 5 years sustainability action plan (2013) was put forward

BIRT that PGSS will make it a _____ priority to make Thomson House a more sustainable environment for the 2014-2015 term.

—

Whereas the PGSS held a successful referendum of disaffiliation from the CFS in 2010 (86% in favor)

Whereas CFS refuses to recognize the validity of that referendum and claims that we owe them 270, 000$ to date

Whereas significant funds are invested in the court proceeding

BIRT that the PGSS will make it a __________ priority to continue the political battle against CFS during the 2014-2015 term.

—

Whereas the many segments of the PGSS’s bylaws are riddled with discrepancies and ambiguities

BIRT that the PGSS will make it a __________ priority to reorganize the bylaws during 2014-2015 term.

—

Whereas the PGSS recognizes that strong student-supervisor relationships are necessary for graduate student success

Whereas the PGSS believes the current policies and guidelines for supervision do not adequately meet the needs of all PGSS members

Whereas the “joint PGSS-GPS (Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies) supervision initiative” aims to implement policies and guidelines that prioritize and strengthen supervision

Whereas the “Graduate supervision syllabus” initiative aims to build a written agreement between student and supervisor to guide the supervisory relationship and goals of both the student and supervisor

BIRT the PGSS will make it a __________ priority to advance the joint PGSS-GPS (Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies) supervision initiative and “Supervision Syllabus” initiatives.

*External Affairs Officer explained the 5 points that are listed in the motion and suggested low, medium, and high to rank the level of importance.*

*Chair added that this motion would be done in the form of adding 5 amendments to the each individual clauses by adding the priority level. A regular debate format would be followed during this discussion.*

*L. Daieff (MGAPPS) suggested doing 15 votes (vote low, medium, high) for each clause for efficiency sake.*

*Speaker responded she would consider the procedural suggestion.*
Y. Besler (MGAPS) asked about the implications and reasoning behind choosing the priorities and whether there would be any consequences resulting from the different ranks.

External Affairs Officer explained that if an item was ranked low, it would be assigned under the portfolio of a corresponding executive, whereas if the item were of high priority, it would be a team initiative.

E. Vincent (APF) asked for clarification about the last clause and whether the "student-supervisor" relationship would include the "postdoctoral-supervisor" relationship.

Because in Quebec post docs are considered as students, they are included in the "student-supervisor relationship mentioned in the clause.

Chair opened motion to debate.

A. Blumenthal (SWAGS) asked for clarification about the CFS political battle.

External Affairs Officer explained about the two law suits that are happening right now with the CFS. There is currently $270,000 attached these law suits which is greatly affecting the financial situation of PGSS.

A. Blumenthal (SWAGS) asked followup question of whether political battles indicate more money would be invested in this matter and the meaning behind the prioritization.

External Affairs Officer said the idea is to bring closure to this case since there has been an ongoing priority to detach from the CFS.

Internal Affairs Officer added there is currently $400,000 attached to this court case. In addition, if the case was lost there would be approximately $100,000 in fees annually that would be paid to the CFS indefinitely.

R. Debrosse (GASP) wanted to clarify that the prioritization during this voting procedure for this motion was to only provide the executives a guiding mandate regarding the importance of the tasks and not any permission to spend money.

Speaker reassured that any financial spending would have to come back to council for voting and that this is simply a guide for the new executives.

N. Hope (GASP) suggested a low priority for the first clause due to McGill’s reputation among other Quebec universities and the unlikelihood changing McGill’s influence in the media.

B. Sharif (GAP) mentioned that each of these initiatives fall under a certain portfolio of a certain executive or commissioner and he does not see the purpose of voting on the priorities.

Chair explained this motion would be a guiding document for the new executives to decide what tasks would require more of a team effort.

Internal Affairs officer explained how business would be organized among council with the new guiding votes. Items with higher priority would receive more attention.

Speaker explains for the 4th time that is a guiding mechanism for council and would help with time allocation between the executives.

Secretary-General suggested anyone who have further questions send executives an email regarding their concern. They have designated 5 priorities this year that they think would be of relevant interest to council. He motivated to strike the priority level from the motion and change it to BIRT council mandate the listed items as priorities of the executive committee and facilitate a feedback process to determine their importance.

K. Bouayad-Gervais (GASP) stated that he was against this amendment and asked the secretary-general to propose this after council has voted on the other propositions.

X. Laplante (SPOTGSA) asked where would they send the feedback.

The feedback could be sent to any of the executives.
Internal Affairs Officer stated he wanted to give people the opportunity to access the value of each case and give input.

Chair motioned to vote on the amendment.

Motion Passed.

7:17 PM 7.2 Approval of Electoral Reforms (Second Reading)

BIRT the attached changed to the Society Activities Manual regarding elections be approved in second reading.

Approval of Electoral Reforms (Second Reading)

Motion Passed.

7:18 PM 7.3 Approval of 2014-2015 budget

BIRT the Society Activities and Shared Activities 2014-2015 PGSS Budget be approved.

Approval of 2014-2015 budget

Financial Affairs Officer introduced herself. She explained nothing has changed since the presentation of the budget last council in May. She asked for questions.

B. Sharif (GAP) noted that they have added a new budget line for “Study Saturdays” and asked about the procedural process of getting a new item on the budget approved.

Financial Affairs Officer explains the Member Services Officer would bring a proposal to the executive about a new project and the item would be discussed to be approved.

R. Debrosse (GASP) asked why there was a large increase in expected revenue from PGSS events this year.

Financial Affairs Officer replied that PGSS was doing bigger ticket priced events (Cirque du Soleil, Habs) which resulted in the larger expected amounts in revenue.

Internal Affairs Officer explained that the higher purchases in sales for an increased number of tickets would be reflected in both the expenditure and revenue lines on the budget.

Financial Affairs Officer noted the numbers on this budget only goes up to April

Y. Bresler (MGAPS) pointed out that the budget is missing units (Canadian dollars).

L. Ribaudo (GGS) asked for clarification about McGill’s bad debt fees.

Financial Affairs Officer explained that McGill takes 1% off of all the fees that are collected and would put that to be the bad debt fees.

Chair called this motion to a vote.

Motion Passed.

7:27 PM 7.4 Motion to render process for appointment of Directors more independent

WHEREAS the PGSS Board of Directors is constantly striving to maximize diversity and independence in the choice of Directors serving on the Board, in line with best practices for corporate governance
WHEREAS currently Directors are selected by the Appointments Board, which contains three members of the Executive Committee

WHEREAS the Board has recently created a Nominating Committee of independent members to search for and recommend the appointment of Directors

WHEREAS corporate best practices indicate that a majority or all members of the committee selecting Directors should be independent (i.e. not members of the Executive Committee)

BIRT Bylaw 8.4.2 be amended to remove the words "by special resolution of the Appointments Board, subject to ratification".

Financial Affairs Officer motivated for this motion because the Appointments Board is currently underpopulated, particularly by general membership. They would like to take the appointment of the Board of Directors to a subcommittee of the Board of Directors to ensure a more diverse background.

Internal Affairs Officer asked if this amendment meant that the Board of Directors would create a subcommittee to select themselves.

Financial Affairs Officer replied that they removed the step of taking recommendations from the Appointments Board and now select the members of the board from a nominating committee. The nominating committee would find candidates suitable for the role from the membership or community.

K. Bouayad-Gervais (GASP) asked if this subcommittee would contain any executives.

Financial Affairs Officer replied no.

L. Daieff (MGAPPS) asked whether the Appointments Board would still be of any use.

Financial Affairs Officer replied that they would still continue to appoint people to other committees.

B. Sharif (GAP) asked the Financial Affairs Officer what the leverage of membership would be on the appointment of the Board of Directors.

Financial Affairs Officer replied they would have to ratify any directors that are appointed.

Chair called this motion to a vote.

Motion passed with a 2/3 majority with 1 abstention.

7:33 PM 7.5 Motion for Recognition of the Family Medicine Graduate Students’ Society

WHEREAS the Family Medicine Graduate Students’ Society (FMGSS) wishes to be recognised by the Post-Graduate Students’ Society (PGSS) as the official representative of their respective membership at the University;

WHEREAS their constitution has been submitted to the PGSS VP Finance and fulfills the requirements for recognition stipulated under Chapter 10 in the PGSS Society Activities Manual

WHEREAS the membership of FMGSS unanimously voted to seek PGSS recognition by online voting on May 14, 2014;

BIRT the PGSS recognise under Chapter 10 in the PGSS Society Activities Manual; Family Medicine Graduate Students’ Society (FMGSS) as the official representative of their membership.

Anila Naz introduced herself and the department of family medicine. She explained that they would like to become a part of PGSS.

Chair called this motion to a vote.

Motion Passed.
7:35 PM  **7.6 Motion to specify Council appointment details**

WHEREAS the Society staff have suggested improvements in the Society Activities Manual regarding appointment of Councilors

BIRT the Society Activities Manual Chapter 4 section 3.3 be amended to replace "most recent year" with "previous academic year"

BIFRT the Society Activities Manual Chapter 4 section 3.5 be amended to read "The quorum of council is one third of the number of filled council seats."

BIFRT the Society Activities Manual Chapter 4 section 6.2 be amended to replace "until the Councillors’ PGSA, or else designated to a new eligible representative" with "until the Councillors’ PGSA designates the seat to a new eligible representative"

BIFRT the Society Activities Manual Chapter 4 be amended to add a section 6.3, reading,

"Each PGSA must inform the PGSS which representatives will fill its seats at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the meeting. The choice of representatives may change from meeting to meeting with no loss of seats under this section."

BIFRT Chapter 4, section 9 be removed from the Society Activities Manual.

Financial Affairs Officer explained that there are currently seats that are shared between different individuals making attendance ambiguous. This amendment would clarify this issue.

P. DeCorwin-Martin (BMESS) asked about the procedure to notify of their absence.

Financial Affairs Officer they would need to send their regrets within 24 hours for not coming to council.

Chair called this motion to a vote.

Motion Passed.

7:38 PM  **7.7 Mental Health First-Aid Training**

Whereas mental health is known to be a significant issues for graduate students with a greater proportion of graduate students seeking mental health services than undergraduate students at McGill and,

Whereas PGSS is often a first-line service for many people and a source of information and support services,

Whereas it could prove significantly beneficial to have some of the officers who are the “face” of PGSS to be trained in mental health first aid as they would be able to i) recognize the signs and symptoms of mental health problems, ii) provide initial help and iii) guide a person towards appropriate professional help.

Whereas Mental Health First Aid training is being provided by McGill Counselling and mental health services this summer,

BIRT three of the 2014-2015 executive and commissioners receive training in Mental Health First Aid.

Member Services Officer motivated in favour for mental health first-aid training among executive and commissioners due to its significant impact for graduate students.

Financial Affair Officer motioned to refer this to the Executive Committee.

G. Shapiro (GASP) asked about the cost of the training.

Member Services Officer replied it would be approximately $300 for 3 members to receive the training.

Chair called to refer motion to executive committee.
L. Daieff (MGAPPS) asked for permission to debate on the referral. He asked about the purpose of the referral.

Chair called it to a vote.

Motion failed.

R. Debrosse (GASP) would like to know more details about mental health first-aid training.

Member Services Officer explained that a Canadian National Organization organizes this training and referred the question to the Health Commissioner.

Health Commissioner noted that a psychologist from McGill would usually conduct the training. She mentioned role plays, cases, self-care as examples.

R. Debrosse (GASP) mentioned whether having three individuals who may or may not be on site would have a positive impact on this case.

B. Sharif (GAP) noted his support on this motion and proposed an amendment and make this an annual training and would like to have it for every year.

Equity Commissioner spoke against the amendment due to limited funding and urged direct voting.

N. Barshi (ADAMS CLUB) spoke against the amendment.

R. Debrosse (GASP) proposed a second amendment of making this training not mandated but offer this training for Thomson House employees.

Chair called first amendment to a vote.

Motion Failed.

Chair called for questions to second amendment.

Member Services Officer mentioned that executives and commissioners are more likely to be present at the same locations as the students.

A. Yusuf (PGSA) added that PGSA made this training mandatory for mentors within their department. Noted that it would be more helpful for students to conduct this training for the executives.

Financial Affairs Officer spoke against this amendment due to budgetary reasons.

Equity Commissioner motivated against this amendment and suggested to vote on the original motion.

Chair noted that the second amendment was not under the jurisdiction of council.

Secretary-General motivated in favour of this motion

Called to vote.

Motion Passed.

7:55 PM Adjourned
August Councilor Information Session

Session Minutes

Wednesday, August 20th, 2014

1. Presentation of the Charter of Student/Researcher Rights by Delegates of Université Laval’s Graduate Student Association

S deBrun (ULaval) explained that this document seeks to promote a policy on research ownership with the FEUQ. It was made by way of extensive research with various organizations including the government, U Laval, professors’ unions, student associations, etc.

The guest went on to explain the major sections of the document. The first section is general notions – student can choose subject of research; section two is intellectual property – research done by a student is intellectual property; section three A is supervision & harassment; section three B is an cognizance of students’ lifestyles and statuses (parent, background , etc); section three C is benefits – student should benefit from her or his work; section five is credit – student should be credited for works; section six is the role of student researchers; section seven is role of the home institution; section six is the role of the government.

An audience member asked the speaker if this policy took into account current policies on student rights and responsibilities (at McGill and other institutions)

S deBrun replied this policy harmonises existing policies between universities as current policies are often fractured between faculties, or do not exists (or are very lacking)

An audience member inquired on what the enforcement mechanisms consist of?

S deBrun admitted that, while associations cannot enforce the policy, the goal would be to have university administration and government apply the policies themselves. There is support for this project amongst the aforementioned bodies.

J Ouellet, (VP External), added that the hope is that, with widespread support from Quebec’s student associations, the government and the university congress (CREPUQ) would adopt it.
S deBrun further added that, despite the use of the word charter, which was tarnished due to recent government policy (Charte des valeurs), the proposed policy is extensively reviewed and developed; however, it is subject to change. The speaker invited comments from members by way of the VP external.

2. **Ubriety Training**

A Vincent (Society Affairs) introduced the Ubriety website, stating that knowledge of the system is vital for councilors to conduct their PGSS and PGSA duties. Firstly, members must log in using the link on the top left side of the page. Then, one must go to « my account », followed by governance. She noted that it is important that the PGSA informs her of changes to PGSS council membership as to maintain access to the system. Vincent went on to mention that data on council is found under the tab of this name; she stressed that documents are found under council documents (those relevant to meetings), and under council minutes (past minutes that require or have approval, the unapproved of which must be read before council meetings). Finally, she added that councilors and PGSAs can use the governance menu to create other meetings. These ad-hoc meetings can include formal minutes, invitations, etc as per the set-up of councilors.

3. **Council Speaker’s training session of councilors**

N Nizam, (Speaker), stressed that deadlines for council are a week prior to meeting (at 5pm, or 9pm in special circumstances). Extensions will only be granted in extreme circumstances. She added that the agenda will be released the Thursday before council. The council speaker stated council is always at 6:30 sharp. She asked that members arrive 30 minutes before to sign in, and dine (should one wish). The speaker has office hours Monday or Tuesday, at times that are subject to change. Finally, she invited members to contact her with questions at speaker.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca.
4. **FEUQ presentation**

GeSa, (VP Internal), introduced the guest as well as a general notion of the FEUQ. He explained that the FEUQ is a provincial level organization that supports the student association movement.

G Morrou, (FEUQ Internal Affairs Officer), explained that the FEUQ makes use of French acronyms, even in English, as to facilitate easier communications. He went on to explain the FEUQ was founded as an unofficial successor of various student groupings. It often works with the FECQ (CÉGEP level grouping). As an institution, FEUQ represents students at the provincial level as to further the interest of the province’s university students – including research, lobbying, and social awareness. The institution generally tries to make its data public as to further the interests of its members. The grouping is the fourth largest social society grouping, containing 13 member associations and 125 000 + members. He continued with the FEUQ consists of five governing bodies: congress, commissions, national council, board of directors and an annual general assembly (legislators). The FEUQ also has ad-hoc working groups. Congress is 4-5 times a year – consisting of all member groups. Voting is semi-proportional, with number of votes ascribed to a grouping based on its number of students represented, but weighted downward as to prevent tyranny-by-the-majority. Voting is based on a two-thirds majority. Congress generally works to approve (or reject) work made by the commissions (University Affairs, Sociopolitical Affairs, Internal Affairs) – thus, congress is generally a legislation body; commissions being the executive. Commissions are based on one-member, one-vote. CNCS (graduate student council) is a sub-body that deals with graduate student matters. Executive consists of several employees who handle various dossiers, and work with other bodies (including the public). The organisation seeks, as its current goals, to correct the deflation of student assistance schemes (with respect to inflation), as well as raise it relative to actual needs; and to pursue a research policy programme. Additionally, the grouping seeks to work on federal grant programmes, intellectual property, supervision and training.
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8.4 Society Activities Manual Reform Package
Attending

Victor Manuel Frankel Vilches, Camille Plante-Vachon, Gesa (Internal Affairs Officer), Naomi Barshi, Camille Carrier Belleau, Emma Elizabeth Vincent, Jonathan Logan Karpetz, Yevgen Nazarenko, Dieta Ruth Hanson, Jaclyn Adriana Hearnden, Erin Shier Coyne, Ayokunle Olanrewaju, Sarah Marcil, Amin Asgarian, Alexei Kazarine, Alexander Arthur Emmott, Sarah Meghan Hau-Sing Mah, Douglas Cote, Anila Naz, Behrang Sharif, Mathieu François Eric Préau, Nora Hatton Hope, Andrea Michelle Price, Marisa Emily Cressatti, Jonathan Godin, Jennifer Marton, Isabel Harvey, Nicolas Chatel-Launay, Andrew Blakney, Tony Bresler, Benjamin Alexander Schmidt, Lorenzo Paul Raphael Daleff, Kristin Marie Franseen, Michael Turabian, Rebecca Flore, Vincent Maurice Cutillas, Alina Geampana, Laura Marie Cohen, Anh-Vu David Phung, Jason Paul Danovitch, Frédéric Louis Voiard, Jenny Rose Gaboury, Bailey Ann Rathwell, Afiaq Yusuf, Shaun Daniel Wilson Retallick, Cynthia Helena Ossowski, Devin J Mills, Domenico Tullo, Luigi Bruno, Li Li, Jenny Ann Pura, Daniel Robert Kaufman, Aprelle Powell, Jethro Sanz-Robinson, Maxime Duval, Lindsay Elizabeth Vanstone, Cheng Zhu, Elizabeth Cawley (Health Commissioner), Christina Liu (Recording Secretary), Krause Michael (Equity Commissioner), Vikrant Bhosle (Member Support Commissioner), Brighta Lungu (Member Services Officer), Juan Camilo Pinto (President), Nikki Meadows (Financial Affairs Officer), Jennifer Murray (Academic Affairs Officer), Julien Ouellet (External Affairs Officer)

Guests

William Doam (McGill Daily), Louis Baudon (Le Delite), Jack Neal (McGill Tribune), Jill Bachelder (McGill Daily), Ana Best (PGSS Board of Directors), Dylan Putzel (GGS), Malcolm Araos (GGS), Amir Nosrat (De shutels), Genevieve Belzile (SPOTGSS), Shrinkhala Dawadi (McGill Tribune), Caleb Horn (TUPGSA), Barbara Mindt (MIGSA), Scott Cooper (CHEGSS), Courtney Ewan (HGSA), Sebastien Dery (BMESS), Jonathan Mooney (CGSS)

6:31 PM  Call to order

6:38 PM  1 Speaker’s report

Speaker introduced herself and nature of her position. She encouraged everyone to apply for the Council Steering Committee. She welcomed any questions to be directed to her email via council.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca.

2 Floor Items

6:40 PM  2.1 Approval of the Agenda

Academic Affairs Officer proposed an amendment to be made to the agenda regarding an emergency motion about appointing three members to Senate. She also added a nomination of Appointments Board done through a lottery system.

The Speaker made the discretion to approve this amendment without a vote.
Academic Affairs Officer explained that apart from her role as the AAO, she also chairs the Appointments Board. The Appointments Board made sure that all students representing PGSS are approved by Council. They needed 4 names to fill the vacant seats that were currently available.

Nominations included:
1. Behrang Sharif (GAP)

All students who were not ready to make a decision could email the Academic Affairs Officer at academic.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca

6:55 PM 2.2 June 4th Council Meeting

3 Announcements

6:42 PM 3.1 Ubriety Training

Amy will teach you guys how to appreciate the magic that is Ubriety.

Society Affairs Coordinator introduced herself and ran through the Ubriety system of how to access Council documents as well as posting documents to the council’s agenda. The steps are the following:

1. Sign in using your personal McGill username and password.
2. Click on My Account.
3. Click on Committee and a list of committees would appear on the left hand side, stating which ones you belong to.
4. Click on Council.
5. While on this page, you can post an announcement or an agenda item by typing into the message box.
6. Meanwhile, if you are uploading an agenda item, you can attach a report should it be required.
7. All previous documents (minutes, reports, etc.) are posted under documents.
8. The Council tab has all the meeting dates.

She announced that she is currently maintaining a council list and PGSAs who have not notified her of their new Council members will not receive a vote card during meetings. Any changes made could be sent to society.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca

Y. Bresler (MGAPS) asked whether the Ubriety system has to be used to submit any motions or changes.

Society Affairs Coordinator explained that everything goes through the PGSS website. Any toggled items would be passed onto the next meeting. She also noted that when uploading the document in PDF format and to include a title.

External Affairs Officer made an announcement with regards to the flyer for school year activities. A photo shoot for the Masquerade Ball would also happen at 5:30 on September 18, 2014. There will be a high caliber conference catered towards individuals in the Faculty of Medicine taking place on September 26, held by the CIHR. He also noted that 45 spots were gone already.
3.2 Council Deadlines

Council Deadlines

Speaker explained procedures regarding submissions to Council. Any submissions were to be made a week before council on Wednesday at 5PM. However, the Speaker noted that she would generously extend this until 9PM. Any final details would be finalized on Thursday and be up on the website for access on Friday. Any announcements would be directed to the Speaker's email.

V. Frankel (BGSA) made an announcement regarding the People’s Climate Change March happening on September 21 at 1PM starting at Avenue du Parc de la Fontaine. United Nations will have a climate summit regarding climate policies on September 23, leading up to this event. A huge rally would happen in New York on September 21 and Montreal would be leading the way here in Canada. For more information, please visit peoplesclimate.org.

4 Business Arising

6:55 PM 4.1 Applications sent from the Appointments Board Committee for Approval
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Committee on Student Services</td>
<td>Avik Ghoshdastidar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Committee on Enrolment and Student Affairs</td>
<td>Avik Ghoshdastidar</td>
<td>Approved</td>
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<td>Committee on the Rights of Senate</td>
<td>Alireza Najafi-Yazdi</td>
<td>Approved</td>
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<td>Graduate Studies Advisory Committee</td>
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<td>Approved</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arts Faculty Council</td>
<td>Samineholsadat Tabatabaei</td>
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<td>Scholarship and Student Aid Advisory Board</td>
<td>Alireza Samani</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Advisory Council</td>
<td>Shahad Salman</td>
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<td>Academic Policy Committee</td>
<td>Rachel Simmons</td>
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<td>Health and Wellness Committee</td>
<td>Zhen Xu</td>
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<td>Internal Affairs Committee</td>
<td>Zhen Xu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Review of McGill's Policies on the Responsible Conduct of Research</td>
<td>Renaud François Boulanger</td>
<td>Approved</td>
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<td>Appeal Committee for Student Discipline and Grievances</td>
<td>Shaun Daniel Wilson Retallick</td>
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<td>Julia Christine Nantes</td>
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<td>Leora Witkowski</td>
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<td>Health and Wellness Committee</td>
<td>Jaclyn Adriana Hearnden</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee for Member Support</td>
<td>Jaclyn Adriana Hearnden</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee for the Selection of the Dean of Science</td>
<td>Kaitlyn Marie Enright</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Wellness Committee</td>
<td>Kaitlyn Marie Enright</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science Faculty Council</td>
<td>Tomer Aharon Noyhouzer</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Studies Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Eugene Kang</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science Faculty Council</td>
<td>Eugene Kang</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council Steering Committee</td>
<td>Julien Ouellet</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy and Structure Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Kelly Nugent</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Minutes to Change the World</td>
<td>Kelly Nugent</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Studies Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Trevor Neil May</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McGill Writing Center-Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Trevor Neil May</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McGill Writing Centre-Program Committee</td>
<td>Trevor Neil May</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Wellness Committee</td>
<td>Geoffrey Andrew Battista</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment Committee</td>
<td>Desiree Valadares</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subcommittee on Admissions Review</td>
<td>Ling-Xiao Yang</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External Affairs Committee</td>
<td>Caleb Horn</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External Affairs Committee</td>
<td>Lorenzo Paul Raphael Daieff</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work Group on Service to the Global Community</td>
<td>Yurun Jin</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Council of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies</td>
<td>Nida Haider</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Affairs</td>
<td>Nida Haider</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science Faculty Council</td>
<td>Nida Haider</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal Affairs Committee</td>
<td>Angela Tam</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working Group to Review Regulation on Conduct in Research</td>
<td>Angela Tam</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal Affairs Committee</td>
<td>Nicholas Hemsworth</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Academic Affairs officer proposed an amendment to strike Krista Reimer's name from Advisory Committee for the Selection of a Provost and Committee for the Selection of the Dean of Graduate Studies, and Regine Debrosse from the Academic Policy Committee.**

**Speaker approved the changes suggested.**

**Speaker called this motion to a vote.**

**Motion Passed.**
4.2 Applications sent from the Appointments Board Committee for Approval

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Applicant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>External Affairs Committee</td>
<td>Julien Ouellet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee for the Selection of the Dean of Graduate Studies</td>
<td>Krista Reimer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advisory Committee for the Selection of a Provost</td>
<td>Krista Reimer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McGill Student Sustainability Committee</td>
<td>Meltem Demirkus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of Directors</td>
<td>Karim Bouayad-Gervais</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council on Graduate &amp; Postdoctoral Studies</td>
<td>Andrea Michelle Price</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment Committee</td>
<td>Miguel Bernardo Dominguez Michelen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy and Structure Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Miguel Bernardo Dominguez Michelen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee on Student Grievances</td>
<td>Robyn Biggar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee on Libraries</td>
<td>Robyn Biggar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ad-hoc Student Appeal Hearing Committee</td>
<td>Jonathan Côté</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee for the Selection of the Dean of Agriculture</td>
<td>Andrew Blakney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subcommittee on Academic Integrity</td>
<td>Karim Bouayad-Gervais</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee on Student Discipline</td>
<td>Karim Bouayad-Gervais</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advisory Committee for the Selection of a Provost</td>
<td>Elizabeth Cawley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainability Projects Fund Working Group</td>
<td>Line Bourdages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment Committee</td>
<td>Line Bourdages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee for the Selection of the Dean of Agriculture</td>
<td>Nicolas Chatel-Launay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work Group on Academic Renewal, Hiring, Retention, and Leadership Development</td>
<td>Rui Hao Wang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee for the Selection of the Dean of Libraries</td>
<td>Robyn Biggar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee for the Selection of the Dean of Science</td>
<td>Regine F. Debrosse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Policy Committee</td>
<td>Regine F. Debrosse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Policy Committee</td>
<td>Xavier St Denis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGSS Library Improvement Fund Committee</td>
<td>Xavier St Denis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee</td>
<td>Samara Perez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee for the Selection of the Dean of Graduate Studies</td>
<td>Samara Perez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyclical Review of Academic Units 2014-2015</td>
<td>Samara Perez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrie M. Derick Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching &amp; Supervision</td>
<td>Samara Perez</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Speaker called motion to a vote.

Motion Passed.

4.3 Applications sent from the Appointments Board Committee for Approval

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environment Commissioner</td>
<td>Amanda Katherine Winegardner</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Commissioner</td>
<td>Elizabeth Cawley</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appeal Committee for Student Discipline and Grievances</td>
<td>Yony Bresler</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equity Commissioner</td>
<td>Michael Mergy Krause</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member Support Commissioner</td>
<td>Vikrant Krishnarao Bhosle</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appeal Committee for Student Discipline and Grievances</td>
<td>Sa Ge</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External Affairs Committee</td>
<td>Murielle Melem Akpa</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JBSCF Equity Subcommittee on Family Care</td>
<td>Jennifer Suzanne Nutton</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chair called motion to a vote.

Motion Passed.
4.4 Applications sent from the Appointments Board Committee for Approval

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Senate</td>
<td>Rui Hao Wang</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chair called motion to a vote.

Motion Passed.

5 Reports

5.1 Report of the Secretary-General to Council/September 2014

Report of the Secretary-General to Council

Report of the Secretary General to CouncilSeptember 2014

Secretary-General stood for questions.

No questions or comments.

5.2 Academic Affairs Officer Report to Council Sept 2014

Academic Affairs Officer Report to Council Sept 2014

Academic Affairs Officer stands for questions.

No questions or comments.

5.3 Member Services Officer Report to Council - September 2014

Member Services Officer Report to Council - September 2014

Member Services Officer stood for questions.

No questions.

5.4 Report of the Financial Affairs Officer- Sept 2014

Financial Affairs Officer Report to Council September 2014

Financial Affairs Officer stood for questions.

No questions.
5.5 Internal Affairs Officer Report to Council - September 2014

Internal Affairs Officer Report to Council - September 2014

Internal Affairs Officer stood for questions.
No questions

5.6 Member Support Commissioner Report to Council - September 2014

Member Support Commissioner Report to Council - September 2014

Member Support Commissioner stood for questions.
No questions.

5.7 Report of the Equity Commissioner

Report of the Equity Commissioner

5.8 Environment Commissioner Report to Council- September 2014

Environment Commissioner Report to Council- September 2014

Environment Commissioner stood for questions.
No questions.

5.9 Member Support Commissioner Report to Council - September 2014

Member Support Commissioner Report to Council - September 2014

Member Support Commissioner announced that he is currently looking for members for his committee. Office hours for Member Support Officer start on September 18. Anyone interested or have questions could email the Member Support Commissioner.

5.10 External Affairs Officer Report to Council - September 2014

External Affairs Officer Report to Council - September 2014

External Affairs Officer stood for questions.
No questions.
5.11 RAE decision

J. Mooney gave an update on the RAE, an association that PGSS had been a part of for 20 years. He explained that there was a dispute between the RAE and the CFS regarding who was entitled to some money that was paid by PGSS and other student organizations. After the trial that took place last November, the Judge deemed that the claim that CFS made on this sum of money was not valid. Since PGSS is part of the RAE, if the CFS does not appeal, PGSS would be getting some money back, helping with our finances.

5.12 Sa Ge c. CFS decision

The Internal Affairs Officer gave an update on the Sa Ge vs. CFS case. He noted that Sa Ge is not an acronym but rather his name. The case against CFS has been initiated since 2010 and would not be resolved within a year or two. One initiative that students had taken on to deal with the large amount of money invested in that case was to start a new petition. The goal of this petition was to ask CFS to grant PGSS another referendum to leave the CFS. He explained that should a new referendum be successful, CFS would not be able to claim more money to the previous law suits. However, CFS had failed to process the referendum and he would now have to bring this matter to court. The Judge recognized this was a violation of our rights and the ruling was that CFS would be mandated by court to give PGSS a referendum as soon as possible. If this referendum pass and the result is a no, PGSS would no longer be part of CFS and the funds towards this legal case could be put towards better use. He noted, that this also marked the first time in Canada that individual students were able to ask the CFS for a referendum. Any new dates would be updated later.

6 Approval of the minutes

June minutes are approved.
August minutes
Motion Failed.

7 Question Period

The Speaker reminded everyone that they could ask any question during the question period.

J. Karpetz (AHCS-GSA) explained that in partnership with other stakeholders and brand campaign, they called attention to the amalgamation of support staff. It was noted that the process lacked transparency, financial accountability, and common sense. The administration responded that they would try to streamline processes to reduce the amount of work being done. However, this promise did not seem to be reflected by the support staff. He asked whether PGSS could bring attention to this issue.

The Academic Affairs Officer replied that she had not heard of those specific concerns, but said she would look into the problem. She noted that she also sits on senate with Juan Pinto (Secretary-General) and that they would try to make sure the consultation process would be as smooth as possible.
Speaker called the emergency motion to a vote.

BIRT Rui Hao Wang is nominated to the working group to review the regulations concerning the investigation of research misconduct.

BIRT that Julien Ouelett be appointed to the committee of student discipline.

BIRT that Gilla Shapiro be appointed to the committee of student discipline.

Motion Passed.

8 New Business

8.1 Ratification of the Charter of Rights of Student-Researchers

Moved by the External Affairs Officer

Whereas the graduate student association of l'Université Laval (l'AELIÉS) wrote a charter to protect the rights of student researchers

Whereas this charter is in line with the philosophy of PGSS regarding the rights of student researchers

Whereas l'AELIÉS wants the government to enforce this charter

Whereas they invite us to be the co-promoters of this charter throughout the province

BIRT PGSS will co-sign this charter

BIFRT PGSS will promote this charter to other student associations and will do representation at the governmental level, alongside l'AELIÉS

Ratification of the Charter of Rights of Student-Researchers

External Affairs Officer motivated in favour of this motion. He noted that there were six major points of provisions. The point regarding the role of the government may change. He welcomed questions, and once this motion has been passed and settled, they will meet with Laval University.

A. Olanrewaju (BMESS) expressed that the point regarding intellectual property should be more specific.

External Affairs Officer responded that an amendment could be proposed and this matter could be referred to the original authors of the document.

A. Yusef (PGSA) found point number 4 too broad and could be subject to abuse. She suggested to add on specific preferences based on an agreement to clarify what optimal research condition is.

V. Frankel (BGSA) thought that point number 6 was too vague. He suggested that it should mention more detail on intellectual contribution that merited authorship.

B. Sharif (GAP) asked what the legal state of the speakers were and how a conflict involving their individual departments would be resolved.

External Affairs Officer replied that for any vague statements that council members would have, it would be easier to make an amendment.

N. Hope (GASP) motivated to change the wording in point 2 from fully independent to autonomous.

Y. Bresler (MGAPS) expressed that changing the wording would not ideal. He was against any amendments being made.

Speaker expressed that this document was given prior to this council meeting with the intention that changes and contributions would be made.
External Affairs Officer asked whether the points that were too broad could be highlighted so he could discuss this with University Laval and amend it in another discussion.

It was also out that Point 1 was made too strong and that once the research topic had been established they are set to go in that direction.

L. Daieff (MGAPSS) noted that the charter was bilingual, so translation could be an issue with the amendments. He suggested we return to the main motion. He expressed that the executives could collaborate with University Laval on making the amendments and that PGSS could support “in spirit” on this charter.

External Affairs Officer agreed with the point noted.

Speaker called the amendment to a vote.

BIRT that the PGSS cooperate with l’AELIES on the Charter for the Rights of Student Researchers and support the spirit of the Charter.

Motion Passed.

8.2 Executive Committee 2014-2015 Work Plan

WHEREAS the Executive Committee is mandated each September to submit their work plan for the coming year for Council approval.

WHEREAS the executive team has worked together to craft the presented plan in accordance with each officer’s portfolio.

BIRT Council approves the Executive Committee work plan outlined in the attached document. 

Executive Committee 2014-2015 Work Plan

Secretary-General motivated this. He explained that this document outlined the work plan for all the executives. He welcome any questions for the officers regarding the specific portfolios.

Y. Bresler asked for clarification on point 1.

External Affairs Officer explained this company was interested in collaborating with student university associations. Anyone interested in the program should join this committee so they could have access to the grants for their research projects.

Speaker called this motion to a vote.

Motion Passed.

8.3 Reform Package Bylaws

WHEREAS the Executive Committee has evaluated the current structure of the Appeals Board;

WHEREAS the Executive Committee encounter critical structural problems that arise from the composition and jurisdiction of the current Appeals Board;

WHEREAS the Executive Committee wants to redress the critical structural problems that arise from the composition and jurisdiction of the current Appeals Board;

WHEREAS the Executive Committee requires a Vice-Chair;

BIRT Council approves the Bylaws Reform Package outlined in the attached document.
Reform Package Bylaws

Speaker noted that this would be the first reading of this motion.

Secretary-General explained the modifications made to the structure of the Appeals Board:

1. If there was an order of suspension on student rights, you could now appeal the decision to the Appeals Board. This could be regarded as another step in the process to further protect your rights.
2. There would be a change in wording, giving the distinction between the society side and operations side.
3. Creation of a Vice Chair in case of absence of the Chair.
4. There would be a change from "Appeals Board" to "Judicial Board."
5. There would be a change in name in section 6.5.1.1, where you did not make decisions, you delivered decisions.
6. Changes would be made to the way the Board would be populated and the way the judge would be nominated. Notifications would have to go through Appointments Board and be ratified by Council.
7. Currently the Appeals Board did not have procedural rules and that this would be added.
8. We currently did not have judges in the Appeals Board and a Chief Justice would be added to resolve any problems.
9. Judges had established the dates for meetings and this would be approved by Council.

L. Cohen (MISSA) asked whether the Appeals Board referred to the Judicial Board.

Secretary-General replied that it was and they would have to get approval to change the name.

Equity Commissioner expressed that he does not think it was good practice for PGSS to have outside associations to nominate people for PGSS.

Secretary-General answered that they currently did not have anyone making these decisions and participating in this matter. This was why they would were bringing the GLSA into the discussion due to their legal training.

Secretary-General answered why they are bringing the GLSA into discussion, this change just makes the procedure easier.

Speaker clarified that there was no justice board, and that it was judicial board.

A. Olanrewaju (BMESS) was concerned about whether cutting the number of judges from 5 to 3 would affect the decision making process.

Secretary-General replied that it was very difficult to recruit judges and that the seats could not be filled. Currently, only one judge made decisions.

A. Olanrewaju (BMESS) also asked about whether the "officers" and "judge" in the wording were referring to PGSS members.

Secretary-General replied yes.

A. Olanrewaju (BMESS) asked whether a clause could be added about referring the nominations to the Appeals Board.

Secretary-General explained the process of nominating judges, and that the only way to nominate a judge, they would have to go through 1 of 3 nominating bodies and then it would go through the Appointments Board.

Y. Bresler (MGAPS) noted that there was nothing about judges being impartial and asked whether judges have voting rights.
Secretary-General replied that the rules of procedure would have to be approved and that the judges do have votes.

J. Mooney (CGSS) questioned whether allowing the Chief Justice to appoint associate judges without any ratification process would give too much power to an individual.

Secretary-General did not think it would be a concern. He stated that the could add a clause in the rules of procedure limiting the abuse of power.

A. Blakney (MCGSS) asked if the rules of procedure could be shown to everyone for clarification.

Secretary-General explained that the rules of procedure would not have to made if the motion was not approved. However, the basics ideas of the bylaws are present.

Health Commissioner noted that any changes to policy had to go through PSAC. She motioned to refer this to PSAC first.

Internal Affairs Officer pointed out that there was a time issue, and that this motion would have to be withheld until winter semester if this was not approved now.

Y. Bresler (MGAPS) asked whether this would get a second reading according to our regular schedule.

The Chair explained that the October meeting would happen before the AGM, and thus would get a second reading in that meeting.

Equity Commissioner also thought it should go through PSAC first.

Speaker noted that they are currently voting on a motion to commit this to PSAC to be dealt with.

Speaker called the motion to a vote.

Motion Passed.

8:14 PM 8.4 Society Activities Manual Reform Package

WHEREAS the Executive Committee has evaluated the current structure of the Appeals Board;
WHEREAS the Executive Committee encounter critical structural problems that arise from the composition and jurisdiction of the current Appeals Board;
WHEREAS the Executive Committee wants to redress the critical structural problems that arise from the composition and jurisdiction of the current Appeals Board;
WHEREAS the Internal Affairs Committee requires more members in order to function properly;
WHEREAS the Executive Committee wishes to foster better relationships with both English and French speaking educational institutions in Quebec;
BIRT Council approves the Society Activities Manual Reform Package outlined in the attached document.

Society Activities Manual Reform Package

Equity Commissioner explained that they were making the following changes.

They would strike "anglophone" from section 1.4.1.1. They would also delete the Appeals Board from the lottery system. He explained that the Judicial Board could not be applied unless the bylaw changes had been approved.

External Affairs Officer motivated to divide the questions that could be voted on and the ones that could

Speaker called motion to a vote.

Motion Passed.
Y. Bresler (MGAPS) spoke against dividing the question and to send it all to PSAC.

Speaker explained that everything would still go to PSAC with the only difference being the latter half would go without the approval without Council.

Internal Affairs Officer explained that the bylaws had to go through its first reading for it to go through to PSAC.

Speaker made decision to take away the motion to divide the question.

L Daieff (MGAPSS) suggested council to send this to PSAC.

Speaker called to vote this motion as a whole.

Motion Passed.

8:30 PM Adjourned
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Attending

Suzanne Elizabeth George, Gesa (Internal Affairs Officer), Cécile Auvieux, Victor Manuel Frankel Vilches, Camille Plante-Vachon, Fayden Sara Bokhari, Shana Rae Cooperstein, Emma Elizabeth Vincent, Illa Eleonora Carrillo Rodriguez, Dieta Ruth Hanson, Jaclyn Adriana Hearnden, Erin Shier Coyne, Ayokunle Olanrewaju, Sarah Marcil, Alexei Kazarine, Alexander Arthur Emmott, Daniel Murray, Sarah Meghan Hau-Sing Mah, Dylan James Putzel, Mathieu Préau, Laura Marie Whidden, Nora Hatton Hope, Régine Fernande Débrosse (Council Director), Malcolm Davis Araos Egan, Jonathan Godin, Sylvia Elena Josephy, Courtney Christine Ewan, Isabel Harvey, Marisa Emily Cressatti, Jennifer Marton, Renata Helena Bahous, Sandrine Couldwell, Stéfanie Bergeron, Benjamin Alexander Schmidt, Kristin Marie Franseen, Yony Bresler, Grace Olivia Dupuis, Rebecca Flore, Barbara Christina Mindt, Laura Marie Cohen, Frédéric Louis Voisard, Jason Paul Danovitch, Sarah Kesia Bonish, Jenny Rose Gaboury, Bailey Ann Rathwell, Shaun Daniel Wilson Retallick, Willy-Dac Gia-Hao Huynh, Amanda Claire Howes, Jessica Nadeau, Kaviyanka Selvasandran, Maxime Duval, Daniel Robert Kaufman, Lindsay Elizabeth Vanstone, Danielle Claire Toccalino, Sarah Ann Morin Dodsworth, Peter T Jermy, Basem Adel Danish, Elizabeth Cawley (Health Commissioner), Jacinthe Deschenes (Student Life Coordinator), Christina Liu (Recording Secretary), Colby Briggs (Chief Returning Officer), Amy Vincent (Society Affairs Coordinator), Krause Michael (Equity Commissioner), Brighita Lungu (Member Services Officer), Amanda Winegardner (Environment Commissioner), Juan Camilo Pinto (President), Julien Ouellet (External Affairs Officer), Jennifer Murray (Academic Affairs Officer), Nikki Meadows (Financial Affairs Officer)

Quorum has been satisfied.

6:30 PM Call to order

6:30 PM Approval of the agenda

Chair called to approve the agenda.

Motion Passed

6:30 PM Speaker’s report

Speaker introduced herself. She apologized for the late upload of the agenda. She announced there would be two presentations this council.

3 Floor Items

6:35 PM 3.1 Announcements

First presenter:
Justin Irwin from AGSEM introduced himself and AGSEM (Association of Graduate Students Employed at McGill). They are looking to expand their membership. He explained that teaching support workers do work that is very similar work if not identical work to graduate student TAs. However, they are paid a lot less. The average pay for a graduate student TA is $26.85/hr including vacation pay, whereas Teaching Support workers are depending on what is deemed appropriate by the employing department. People in these positions do not have any form of protection. This would be of interest to PGSS because many members of PGSS work in these positions. They SSMU-shed together a meeting for SSMU and PGSS introducing their campaign and he highly encouraged PGSS to support them.

Speaker thanked guest.

Internal Affairs Officer announced that on October 18th, PGSS has organized a paintball session that will cost $50. Interested members could register on Facebook events or find tickets online on the PGSS website.

Second Presenter:

Tim Wilfong introduced himself as the Co-Curricular Records Program Administrator of Student Services (also an Alumni of Schulich School of Music). He explained the new initiatives started by the Student Services regarding the Co-Curricular Record of involvement. It is essentially a transcript of what your involvement outside of the classroom. A subscription software called "myInvolvement" was purchased. Tools such as event promotions, tracking hours, online election features are offered. They wanted graduate student societies to take part in myInvolvement and encouraged PGSS to pass this information back to their student societies.

D. Kaufman (GAP) asked who approved the events and what steps could be taken if events are not on the list on myInvolvement.

Tim Wilfong replied that currently only he and his boss were approving events. Individuals could contact Tim and his team regarding new activities that are not on the list. He added that any questions could be directed to ccri.stuserv@mcgill.ca

Academic Affairs Officer introduced 3 committees that Council members could get involved with:

1. Council Steering is currently seeking 1 more member
2. Appointments Board who decides on all applications for PGSS or McGill University
3. Academic cyclical review unit

R. Debrosse (GASP) explained that she would be the graduate student representing all science graduate students on the advisory committee to recommend on who should be the next Dean of Science. Council members could contact her to let her know what the priorities and concerns are in the faculty of science that they would like to address. She welcomes any questions or comments.

S. Josephy (GSAN) asked whether there would be the deadline to contact her for questions.

R. Debrosse (GASP) replied that they should contact her as soon as possible.

V. Frankel (BGSA) asked whether there is a short-list already.

R. Debrosse (GASP) replied that there is currently no short-list and they are looking for a Dean of Science both inside and outside the University. Information on candidates would remain confidential at the moment.

Member Services Officer mentioned the Thomson House Warm-Up. She would like student involvement on this project to brainstorm how they could make Thomson House better for students. Email her for details in joining her working group.
3.2 Council Meeting August 20th, 2014

Motion Failed.

3.3 Council Meeting, September 17th

Motion Passed.

3.4

Speaker reminded everyone to NOT BE LATE when submitting agenda items.

4 Applications

4.1 Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appointments Board</td>
<td>Mehrdad Fadaei Kermani</td>
<td>Disapproved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appointments Board</td>
<td>Andrea Michelle Price</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appointments Board</td>
<td>Maria Mercedes Garcia Holguera</td>
<td>Disapproved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appointments Board</td>
<td>Nicolas Chatel-Launay</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council</td>
<td>Nida Haider</td>
<td>Disapproved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council</td>
<td>Sri Budhi Utami</td>
<td>Disapproved</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Society Affairs Coordinator explained that for the Society Affairs Manual, they had to appoint people to the Appointments Board at Council.

Speaker called this motion to a vote.

Motion Passed.

5 Reports

5.1 Academic Affairs Officer Report to Council - October 2014

Academic Affairs Officer Report to Council - October 2014

R. Debrosse (GASP) asked about the result of CIHR President’s talk and the future of this event.

Academic Affairs Officer replied that the CIHR event was successful. They are looking to invite more presidents and future major speakers for PGSS. There are no plans currently, but future prospects are optimistic.
5.2 Member Services Officer Report to Council - October 2014

Member Services Officer Report to Council - October 2014

No questions.

5.3 Health Commissioner Report to Council October 2014

Health Commissioner Report to Council August 2014

No questions.

5.4 Report of the External Affairs Officer - October 2014

Report of the External Affairs Officer - October 2014

J. Mooney (CGSS) asked about the section of the report about signing onto a statement regarding a reform of student aid. He asked whether this would eliminate a tax credit for international students.

External Affairs Officer explained that this was a complicated matter. Students could benefit if they graduate and choose to work in Quebec. There was recommendation that was controversial since it involved the allocation of around 48 million dollars, where they would take away money from tax credit students get from tuition and students fees, and put it into direct aid in the form of bursaries and scholarships. Around 15 million dollars could benefit international students should they choose to stay in Quebec. He emphasized that they are not abandoning the benefits for international students. They are currently trying to find new tax credits that are more efficient.

5.5 Report of the Financial Affairs Officer- October 2014

Report of the Financial Affairs Officer- October 2014

No questions.

5.6 Report of the Secretary-General to Council

Report of the Secretary-General to Council

Victor Frankel (BGSA) asked about what would happen behind closed doors during the second half of the board meeting.

Secretary-General replied that not much can be revealed.

5.7 Internal Affairs Officer Report to Council - October 2014
Internal Affairs Officer Report to Council - October 2014

No questions.

7:05 PM 5.8 Report of the Environment Commissioner- October 2014 Council

2014-10-01 Report of the Environment Commissioner (October 2014 council)

Report of the Environment Commissioner- October 2014 Council

No questions

7:05 PM 5.9 Report of the Equity Commissioner

Report of the Equity Commissioner

No questions.

7:05 PM 5.10 Member Support Commissioner Report to Council - October 2014

Member Support Commissioner Report to Council - October 2014

No questions.

7:55 PM 5.11 Applications sent from the Appointments Board Committee for Approval

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Council Steering Committee</td>
<td>Nicolas Chatel-Launay</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council Steering Committee</td>
<td>Andrew Blakney</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyclical Review of Academic Units 2014-2015</td>
<td>Devin J Mills</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyclical Review of Academic Units 2014-2015</td>
<td>Vikrant Krishnarao Bhosle</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APC Subcommittee on Courses &amp; Teaching Programs</td>
<td>Eva Graham</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyclical Review of Academic Units 2015-2016</td>
<td>Monika Sergueeva Viktorova</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Speaker called motion to a vote.

Motion Passed.

7:55 PM 5.12 Applications sent from the Appointments Board Committee for Approval
Committee | Applicant | Status
---|---|---
Health and Wellness Committee | Khadija Iqbal | Approve
Environment Committee | Khadija Iqbal | Approve
University Health and Safety Committee | Khadija Iqbal | Approve
Equity Committee | Sahil Kumar | Approve
Internal Affairs Committee | Sahil Kumar | Approve
International Students Caucus | Marziye Sadat Mirbagheri | Approve
Research Advisory Council | Marziye Sadat Mirbagheri | Approve
Health and Wellness Committee | Yuhan Ma | Approve
Health and Wellness Committee | Muhammad Ramzan Tahir | Approve
Health and Wellness Committee | Jean E Allen | Approve
Environment Committee | Amir H Nosrat | Approve
Equity Committee | Zoé Lessard-Couturier | Approve
Academic Affairs | Zoé Lessard-Couturier | Approve
Arts Faculty Council | Zoé Lessard-Couturier | Approve
QPIRG Board of Directors | Isaac Justin Stethem | Approve
Committee on Student Services | Nureen Dua | Approve
Committee on Student Discipline | Nureen Dua | Approve
International Students Caucus | Nureen Dua | Approve
Health and Wellness Committee | Monika Sergueeva Viktorova | Approve
Equity Committee | Ayokunle Olanrewaju | Approve
Committee for Member Support | Mathieu François Éric Préau | Approve
PGSS Library Improvement Fund Committee | Ann-Marie Hansen | Approve
Science Faculty Council | Sahil Kumar | Approve
Internal Affairs Committee | Ian Vincent Beamish | Approve
Committee for the Selection of Dean of the Desautels Faculty of Management | Martin Cousineau | Approve

Speaker called motion to a vote.

Motion Passed.

6 Question Period

B. Rathwell (NGSA) asked whether executive meetings in their GSA were open to students.

Secretary-General replied that unless stated in by-laws of the GSA, students could join in. If it was indicated otherwise (closed meeting), they should be closed.

Speaker offered to explain when meetings should be closed.

7 New Business

7.1 Motion for the PGSS Council to endorse AGSEM’s Union Drive

Moved by Isabel Harvey

Whereas the Association of Graduate Students Employed at McGill (AGSEM) is undertaking a Union Drive to unionize teaching support workers such as graders, markers, tutors, note-takers, and course assistants;

Whereas teaching support workers receive inconsistent rates of pay and have no recourse to grievance procedures and other protections that would be provided by a Collective Agreement;
Whereas the employees working as teaching support workers are often graduate students and members of the PGSS who would benefit from union representation;

Whereas better and more regular pay and improved working conditions for teaching support staff serves the interests of a better quality of education at McGill;

Be it resolved that PGSS Council endorses the Union Drive campaign for teaching support staff currently being undertaken by AGSEM

Be it further resolved that PGSS communicate this endorsement publicly and to the membership of the PGSS

L. Vanstone (TUPGSA) mentioned that most departments are limited in funding, and asked about the impact of giving everyone higher salaries. She also questioned whether the increase in salaries affect number of TAs hired.

I. Harvey (HCGSA) replied that it would not be possible to predict the outcome at this moment.

R. Debrosse (GASP) asked why movers of motion wanted approval of PGSS Council considering the number of debates on campus do not involve council.

I. Harvey (HCGSA) replied that this was an important issue and they are looking for support and shared resources from PGSS.

R. Simmons (FMGSS) said that their department is known to be notoriously difficult to obtain TA positions and questioned the impact and changes this motion would have on application and receiving of these positions.

I. Harvey (HCGSA) replied that they cannot conclude anything right now as they would need to renegotiate the collective agreement.

Speaker called motion to extend speaking rights to Justin Irwin (guest).

Speaker called motion to a vote.

Motion passed with 1 abstention.

7:15 PM

7.2 Creation of the Sustainability Committee

(Moved by Regine Debrosse)

WHEREAS PGSS place a high value on sustainability,

WHEREAS there is a need for PGSS members to coordinate their actions and consult each other to foster sustainability,

BIRT the SAM be amended to read as follows:

Section 11: Sustainability Committee (StC)

1. Purpose

1.1. The Sustainability Committee shall:

1.1.1. Survey, assess, monitor and work towards improving the initiation and implementation of sustainable practices at PGSS;

1.1.2. Be responsible for the education and promotion of sustainability issues;

1.1.3. Collaborate with other group that focus on sustainability;

1.1.4. Advise and make recommendations to the PGSS business and Board of Directors about major sustainable initiatives;
1.1.5. Make recommendations to Council on any sustainability related matters.

2. Composition

2.1. The Members Services Officer (chair);

2.2. The Equity Commissioner;

2.3. The Environment Commissioner;

2.4. The PGSS Operations Manager;

2.5. One (1) PGSS staff member;

2.6. Three (3) At-large PGSS members.

R. Debrosse (GASP) mentioned that there is no sustainability committee in the student activities manual. She announced they would be creating a board of directors for the newly created sustainability committee.

Environment Commissioner expressed her support for this governing body. She noted that PGSS has a sustainability action plan that has been approved and asked why there has not been an inclusion of this matter in this committee.

Financial Affairs Officer answered that they should put a plan into a governing document since the document would last longer than the plan.

Environment Commissioner proposed the following amendments to be made.

1.1.3 Group –> s

1.1.4 Sustainable to Sustainability

1.1.5 "matters related to social, economic, and environmental sustainability"

Speaker called amendment to a vote.

Motion Passed.

Speaker called this motion to a vote.

Motion Passed.

7:22 PM 7.3 New Grants Program Policy

WHEREAS the existing policy for the Grants Program has lead to lots of confusion and appeals to the Appeals Board due to lack of clarity in the policy and no internal mechanism;

WHEREAS based on feedback from users and administrators this policy has been drafted and sent to PSAC for comments;

BIRT these SAM changes proposed to Chapter 13, Section 1.

New Grants Program Policy

Financial Affairs Officer explained the problems with the existing grants policy. She noted that there were guidelines missing and the new changes would make it more user friendly.

Y. Bresler (MGAPS) asked if the goal was to give out the same amount of money each month.

Financial Affairs Officer replied that they went to the PGSS researcher and got a rough idea of the amount of money that needed to be allocated. A monthly allocation would be ideal and would give the CMA more flexibility in terms of how the money should be distributed.

A. Olanrewaju (BMESS) asked what the threshold is regarding that statement in 2.1.1 (g).
Financial Affairs Officer replied that there is subjectivity when it comes to individuals ranking but this matter is up for discussion amongst the CMA.

Speaker called motion to a vote.

Motion Passed.

7:27 PM

**7.4 PGSLF Reform Package**

WHEREAS the PGSLF is an important tool for financing the activities and events of all PGSAs,
WHEREAS the proposed modifications are important for the proper functioning of the fund,
WHEREAS the proposed modifications reflect current practices and include novel mechanisms for the management and disbursement of funds,

BIRT Council approves the PGSLF Reform Package in first reading reading.

PGSLF Reform Package

Financial Affairs Officer motivated in favour of this motion. She explained the changes made to this package. Clause 13 would mention a change in the allocation of money that post-doc fellows pay. At the moment they have no funding. They have a 75/25 split to their department and post-doc fellows respectively.

R. Bahous (HGSS) asked about the sort of events that would be hosted by the post-docs committee now that since the money is going to post-docs.

Financial Affairs Officer replied that this was the reason for the 75/25 split, because the departmental program that the post-doc is associated with is very important. However, there are special circumstances that are universal to all post-docs.

E. Vincent (APF) mentioned events such as the non academic affairs event where post-docs came back and spoke with current post-docs. In terms of the Arts v. Science post-docs question, she noted that they would do their best to accommodate and represent everyone.

I. Carrillo Rodriguez (APF) noted that she is part of the Arts Faculty in her post-doctoral studies. She supported this motion as there was a lack of events organized for post-docs in her department and this change would probably bring positive results.

S. Josephy (GSAN) asked if they consulted the post-docs on their opinion regarding the allocation of their money.

Financial Affairs Officer replied that the consultation with post-docs indicated support of this motion.

E. Vincent (APF) expressed support of this motion.

R. Bahous (HGSS) asked about timing of submission of the report, to whom it should be submitted to, and whether there would be a list of pre-approved events.

Secretary-General replied that there would be no pre-approved list of events and that they would have a one week deadline for submissions.

R. Simmons (FMGSS) asked whether the pertinent areas in Article 12 Section 3.2.4 would be included in training.

Financial Affairs Officer replied yes.

Speaker called this motion to a vote.

Motion passed.
7:38 PM  **7.5 Universal Public Transit Pass for Students**

Moved by the Executive Committee

WHEREAS Je Vois Montréal is an organization that provides significant funding to initiatives aiming to stimulate the development of Montreal.

WHEREAS a coalition wants Je Vois Montréal to support the creation of a universal student pass that would function as both a student ID and an OPUS card.

WHEREAS this coalition wants to launch a campaign across the city to encourage businesses to give significant rebates to the holders of this card.

WHEREAS students over the age of 25 don’t benefit from preferential rates on their OPUS card

BIRT that PGSS supports the creation of a Universal Student Pass to access public transit

BIFRT that PGSS will use this opportunity to advocate for the lifting of the 25 year old age limit on preferential rates

BIFRT that PGSS nominates Julien Ouellet to be its representative to Je Vois Mtl, should the need arise

External Affairs Officer motivated in favour of this motion. He noted that it would be a universal pass that would also serve as a student ID pass. (Think "Montreal Student Mastercard")

F. Voisard (MMGES) noted that the McGill ID card is used to attain access to buildings and OPUS card for ID purposes. He asked whether it was shown that these two cards would have compatible uses on the same card.

External Affairs Officer replied not all McGill ID cards were able to open all doors.

N. Hope (GASP) asked whether it was necessary to specify who was nominated to be representative of them. She also noted the following grammatical changes that should be made: Nominees and rebates were spelt wrong.

External Affairs Officer answered that this would not be renewed annually and it would be important to nominate someone soon in case they were called to defend this proposition.

M. Duval-Stojanovic (GASA) asked whether this offered everyone public transfer access for a year.

External Affairs Officer explained the purpose of this project is to combine all your cards into one card and not to gain free access to STM.

Speaker called this motion to a vote.

Motion passed

7:45 PM  **7.6 Election Regulation Reform (first reading)**

WHEREAS the existing rules governing PGSS elections and referendums are often ambiguous or illogical

WHEREAS this proposed reform package is based on extensive review and consultation with voters, committees, executive members, and PSAC

BIRT council adopt the proposed changes to the Society Activities Manual, as recommended by the Chief Returning Officer and Elections Committee

Election Regulation Reform (first reading)

Chief Returning Officer noted that new Election Regulations was drafted over the summer and would be sent to PSAC for approval.
R. Simmons (FMGSS) asked how often it was that the timetable messed up.

Chief Returning Officer: "Before Colby, all the time. With Colby, rarely, because he is awesome."

R. Debrosse (GASP) asked about Clause 914 and whether this meant one individual can run for several positions at the same time and how it would be resolved if a person is elected for more than one position.

Chief Returning Officer replied that the goal of that clause was to not have one individual run for multiple positions.

J. Mooney (CGSS) noted that "market" in Section 9.6.3 should be "marked" instead. He also asked for clarification on Section 9.10.4. He also mentioned that in 9.10.7 that the Appeals Board had been renamed to the Judicial Board.

Chief Returning Officer replied that with regards to the ascribed or acquired statuses, it is a sociological term for people who are status required (ex. Christianity). He noted that PSAC could fix those errors.

Speaker called motion to a vote.

Motion passed.

7.7 Referred by the Policy and Structure Advisory Committee-Bylaws Reform Package

WHEREAS PSAC reviewed the proposed modifications to the Bylaws,
WHEREAS the proposed modifications are important for the proper functioning of the Society,
WHEREAS PSAC recommends Council to approve the Bylaws Reform Package as amended by PSAC,
BIRT Council approves the Bylaws Reform Package in first reading.

Referred by the Policy and Structure Advisory Committee-Bylaws Reform Package

Secretary-General explained that this package was reviewed by PSAC.

Speaker called this motion to a vote.

Motion Passed.

7.8 Referred by the Policy and Structure Advisory Committee-SAM Reform Package

WHEREAS PSAC reviewed the proposed modifications to the Society Activities Manual,
WHEREAS the proposed modifications are important for the proper functioning of the Society,
WHEREAS PSAC recommends Council to approve the SAM Reform Package as amended by PSAC,
BIRT Council approves the Society Activities Manual Reform Package in second reading.

Referred by the Policy and Structure Advisory Committee-SAM Reform Package

Secretary-General explained the revised package and PSAC recommended Council approve this.

Y. Bresler (MGAPS) asked what it would entail when the word anglophone was deleted.

Secretary-General replied that it meant we would not have to work exclusively with anglophone students but all students.
Financial Affairs Officer further clarified this section of the Society Activities Manual described the job and function of the External Affairs Officer. It meant that he was going to remove all student associations, not exclusively English speakers.

Speaker called motion to a vote.

Motion passed with a 2/3 majority.

7:56 PM  Adjourned
Agenda

1 Approval of the agenda

2 Speaker’s report

3 Approval of the minutes

4 Question Period

5 New Business
   5.1 Grants Policy (2nd Reading)
   5.2 Sustainability Committee (2nd Reading)
   5.3 PGSLF Modifications (2nd Reading)
   5.4 Society Activities Reform (Elections) - Second Reading

6 Floor Items
   6.1 Council Meeting October 8, 2014
Attending

Amanda Winegardner (environment.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Andrew Blakney (andrew.blakney2@mail.mcgill.ca), Barbara Christina Mindt (barbara.mindt@mail.mcgill.ca), Benjamin Alexander Schmidt (benjamin.schmidt@mail.mcgill.ca), Brighta Lungu (membership.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Christina Liu (recording.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Cheng Zhu (cheng.zhu@mail.mcgill.ca), Chung-Kuang Chen (allen.chen@mail.mcgill.ca), Colby Briggs (elections.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Courtney Christine Ewan (courtney.ewan@mail.mcgill.ca), Douglas Cote (douglas.cote@mail.mcgill.ca), Dieta Ruth Hanson (dieta.hanson@mail.mcgill.ca), Elizabeth Fiset (health.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Fayden Sara Bokhari (fayden.bokhari@mail.mcgill.ca), Erin Shier Coyne (erin.coyne2@mail.mcgill.ca), Frédéric Louis Voisard (frederic.voisard@mail.mcgill.ca), Grace Olivia Dupuis (grace.dupuis@mail.mcgill.ca), Jaclyn Adriana Hearnden (jaclyn.hearnden@mail.mcgill.ca), Jennifer Marton (jennifer.marton@mail.mcgill.ca), Jason Paul Danovitch (jason.danovitch@mail.mcgill.ca), Jenny Ann Pura (jennyann.pura@mail.mcgill.ca), Jessica Nadeau (jessica.nadeau@mail.mcgill.ca), Juan Camilo Pinto (president.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Jonathan Logan Karpetz (jonathan.karpetz@mail.mcgill.ca), Kaviyanka Selvasandran (kaviyanka.selvasandran@mail.mcgill.ca), Krause Michael (equity.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Laura Marie Whidden (laura.whidden@mail.mcgill.ca), Laura Marie Cohen (laura.cohen@mail.mcgill.ca), Kristin Marie Franseen (kristin.franseen@mail.mcgill.ca), Maeghan O’Neill (maeghan.oneill@mail.mcgill.ca), Marisa Emily Cressatti (marisa.cressatti@mail.mcgill.ca), Nicolas Chatel-Launay (nicolas.chatel-launay@mail.mcgill.ca), Nora Hatton Hope (nora.hope@mail.mcgill.ca), Nikki Meadows (finance.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Rebecca Flore (rebecca.flore@mail.mcgill.ca), Peter T Jermyn (peter.jermyn@mail.mcgill.ca), Renata Helena Bahous (renata.bahous@mail.mcgill.ca), Régine Fernande Débrosse (regine.debrosse@mail.mcgill.ca), Sarah Ann Morin Dodsworth (sarah.dodsworth@mail.mcgill.ca), Sarah Marcil (sarah.marcil@mail.mcgill.ca), Sarah Kesia Bonish (sarah.bonish@mail.mcgill.ca), Sebastien Dery (sebastien.dery@mail.mcgill.ca), Shaun Daniel Wilson Retallick (shaun.retallick@mail.mcgill.ca), Suzanne Elizabeth George (suzanne.george@mail.mcgill.ca), Sylvia Elena Josephy (sylia.josephy2@mail.mcgill.ca), Victor Manuel Frankel Vilches (victor.frankel@mail.mcgill.ca), Willy-Dac Gia-Hao Huynh (willy-dac.huynh@mail.mcgill.ca), Yony Bresler (yony.bresler@mail.mcgill.ca)

Guests

Stephen Clarke (Philosophy), Roxanne Caron (Philosophy), Jonathan Mooney (Chemistry), Maryse Thomas (McGill IPN), Karim Bouayad (GASP), Cem Ertekin (McGill Daily), Cece Zhang (McGill Tribune)

Quorum has been satisfied.

6:07 PM Call to order

1 Approval of the agenda

Speaker called to approve the agenda.

Motion Passed.
2 Speaker’s report

Speaker informed council that she just got back to Canada 2 hours ago. She intends to finish this meeting as efficiently as possible.

3 Approval of the minutes

4 Question Period

No questions.

5 New Business

5.1 Grants Policy (2nd Reading)

WHEREAS Council approved the new Grants Policy in first reading at last Council;
WHEREAS PSAC has approved the new Grants Policy;
BIRT that the proposed SAM changes to Chapter 13, Section 1 regarding the Grants Policy be approved in second reading.

Speaker called motion to a vote.
Motion Passed.

5.2 Sustainability Committee (2nd Reading)

WHEREAS, Council approved the creation of the Sustainability Committee in first reading at last Council;
WHEREAS soon to be members of this committee met and looked over its mandate;
BIRT the proposed SAM changes to Chapter 5, Section 11 to create the Sustainability committee be approved in second reading.
BIFRT that upon its creation, the Sustainability Committee be mandated to track and monitor the implementation of the Sustainability Action Plan (SAP)

Speaker called motion to a vote.
Motion Passed.
5.3 **PGSLF Modifications (2nd Reading)**

WHEREAS Council approved the PGSLF modifications in first reading at last Council;
WHEREAS PSAC has approved the PGSLF modifications;
BIRT the proposed SAM changes to Chapter 13, Section 2 regarding the PGSLF policy be approved in second reading.

**PGSLF Modifications (2nd Reading)**

*Speaker called motion to a vote.*

*Motion Passed.*

5.4 **Society Activities Reform (Elections) - Second Reading**

Whereas PGSS Election regulations are sometimes confusion, vague or illogical
Whereas PGSS wishes to conduct its elections as efficiently as possible, while offering members a fair and clear means to express their wishes on its governance
Whereas the Chief Electoral Officer has put forward a reform package with the assistance and endorsement of PSAC, and in consulting the PGSS Council, Governance Committee and various other internal committees
BIRT Council adopt the proposed reform to the Society Activities Manual

**Society Activities Reform (Elections) - Second Reading**

*Speaker called motion to a vote.*

*Motion Passed with one abstention from Regine Debrosse (GASP).*

6 **Floor Items**

6.1 **Council Meeting October 8, 2014**

6:11 PM **Adjourned**
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  7.9 Motion regarding Supervision 15
Attending

Alexander Arthur Emmott (alexander.emmott@mail.mcgill.ca), Alexei Kazarine (alexei.kazarine@mail.mcgill.ca), Amanda Claire Howes (amanda.howes@mail.mcgill.ca), Amanda Winegardner (environment.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Andrew Blakney (andrew.blakney2@mail.mcgill.ca), Amy Vincent (society.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Brightita Lungu (membership.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Benjamin Alexander Schmidt (benjamin.schmidt@mail.mcgill.ca), Behrang Shariff (behrang.shariff@mail.mcgill.ca), Caleb John Horn (caleb.horn@mail.mcgill.ca), Camille Carrier Belleau (camille.carrierbelleau@mail.mcgill.ca), Cheng Zhu (cheng.zhu@mail.mcgill.ca), Camille Plante-Vachon (camille.plante-vachon@mail.mcgill.ca), Christina Liu (recording.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Colby Briggs (elections.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Courtney Christine Ewan (courtney.ewan@mail.mcgill.ca), Danielle Claire Toccalino (danielle.toccalino@mail.mcgill.ca), Dieta Ruth Hanson (dieta.hanson@mail.mcgill.ca), Douglas Cote (douglas.cote@mail.mcgill.ca), Elizabeth Fiset (health.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Fayden Sara Bokhari (fayden.bokhari@mail.mcgill.ca), Emma Elizabeth Vincent (emma.vincent@mail.mcgill.ca), Erin Shier Coyne (erin.coyne2@mail.mcgill.ca), Frédéric Louis Voisard (frederic.voisard@mail.mcgill.ca), Frédéric Armstrong (frederick.armstrong@mail.mcgill.ca), Gesa (internal.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Grace Olivia Dupuis (grace.dupuis@mail.mcgill.ca), Jaclyn Adriana Hearnden (jaclyn.hearnden@mail.mcgill.ca), Jacob Peter Ziegler (jacob.ziegler@mail.mcgill.ca), Jason Paul Danovitch (jason.danovitch@mail.mcgill.ca), Jennifer Marton (jennifer.marton@mail.mcgill.ca), Jennifer Murray (academic.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Jenny Rose Gaboury (jenny.gaboury@mail.mcgill.ca), Jonathan Godin (jonathan.godin@mail.mcgill.ca), Juan Camilo Pinto (president.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Julien Ouellet (external.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Kaviyanka Selvasandran (kaviyanka.selvasandran@mail.mcgill.ca), Krause Michael (equity.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Laura Marie Whidden (laura.whidden@mail.mcgill.ca), Leora Tova Ruth Frimer (leora.frimer@mail.mcgill.ca), Marisa Emily Cressatti (marisa.cressatti@mail.mcgill.ca), Mathieu François Eric Préau (mathieu.preau@mail.mcgill.ca), Mike Asare Quashie (mike.quashie@mail.mcgill.ca), Nikki Meadows (finance.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Rebecca Flore (rebecca.flore@mail.mcgill.ca), Nora Hatton Hope (nora.hope@mail.mcgill.ca), Renata Helena Bahous (renata.bahous@mail.mcgill.ca), Régine Fernande Débrosse (regine.debrosse@mail.mcgill.ca), Sandrine Couldwell (sandra.couldwell@mail.mcgill.ca), Sarah Ann Morin Dodsworth (sarah.dodsworth@mail.mcgill.ca), Sarah Kesia Bonish (sarah.bonish@mail.mcgill.ca), Sarah Marcil (sarah.marcil@mail.mcgill.ca), Sarah Meghan Hau-Sing Mah (sarah.mah@mail.mcgill.ca), Sebastien Dery (sebastien.dery@mail.mcgill.ca), Sri Budhi Utami (sri.utami@mail.mcgill.ca), Stéphanie Bergeron (stephanie.bergeron@mail.mcgill.ca), Suzanne Elizabeth George (suzanne.george@mail.mcgill.ca), Sylvia Elena Josephy (sylvi.josephy2@mail.mcgill.ca), Vikrant Bhosle (ssc.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Victor Manuel Frankel Vilches (victor.frankel@mail.mcgill.ca), Vincent Maurice Cutilias (vincent.cutilias@mail.mcgill.ca), Xavier Laplante Laberge (xavier.laplantealberge@mail.mcgill.ca)

Guests

Calin Murgu (HCGSA), Basem Danish (MDGSS), Tony Bresler (MGAPS), Barbara Mindt (MIGSA), Andy Wei (McGill Daily), Jenny Shen (McGill Tribune), Emma Brasell (HGSS), Jonathan Mooney (CHEGSS), John Fiset, Cem Ertekin (McGill Daily), Jonathan Bouchard (FEUQ), Philippe Dumais (McGill Tribune)

6:31 PM  Call to order
1 Approval of the agenda

6:32 PM

Academic Affair Officer moved a motion from the floor regarding a Graduate Student Supervision Working Group.

Speaker reminded everyone that to accept a motion from the floor, a two thirds majority is needed to add an item to the agenda. She also requested an explanation as to why the item was not on the agenda.

Academic Affairs Officer explained that the Senate passed the recommendations and guidelines regarding supervision on October 22. Another meeting was held and a working group formation was recommended. She noted that she submitted the motion to the executives but did not realize that it had to be submitted to council also, hence resulting in this motion being to add the item to the agenda right now.

Speaker called motion to a vote.

Motion Passed.

Speaker noted this would be added under "New Business" as the last item.

Speaker called motion to vote on agenda.

Motion Passed.

1.1 Add Item: McGill Tribune

7:10 PM

Jenny Shen, editor of chief of McGill Tribune introduced herself. She wanted to clear up the confusion about the referendum period that they are running. She reiterated that the Tribune Publication Society (TPS) is a student society independent of SSMU. This referendum held by the Tribune would imply no fee increase. It would be a matter of renewal and question of continual existence of the McGill Tribune, since their memorandum of agreement would expire May 2015. They also made a wording change in the email sent out, from graduate students to PGSS members and this has been clarified on files. She explained that the Referendum period is independent of SSMU and PGSS and is run by TPS.

Equity Commissioner asked what would happen if there was a divide between SSMU and PGSS on the decision of the outcome.

Jenny Shen replied that SSMU members pay more compared to PGSS members. Should the existence question not pass, the Tribune would not continue its existence. However, the fee renewal question would be treated separately. Should the existence question pass, and the fee renewal question not pass, a different referendum would have to be held or the Tribune would simply not continue its fee collection with PGSS.

Equity Commissioner further asked if they would be able to distinguish between PGSS and SSMU members.

Jenny Shen replied this is noted in their list. However, since their members are listed under the TPS as opposed to PGSS and SSMU as separate entities, their quorum goes by their society as a whole as opposed to a split between PGSS and SSMU.

1.2 Add Item: Announcement from Financial Affairs Officer

7:14 PM
Financial Affairs Officer announced referendum dates proposed by the CFS would be posted this week. The referendum would probably be in January. She encouraged members to encourage PGSAs to vote since it would be paper ballot fun stuff taking place during winter.

R. Debrosse (GASP) explained that she is the graduate student on the advisory committee that would be helping in choosing the next Dean of Science. She noted that she is also the council director who represents councilors. She welcomed everyone to come to her with comments, input, and questions.

2 Speaker’s report

Speaker Rachel Simmons introduced herself. She noted that for the January council meeting, there would be a joint SSMU-PGSS council meeting where McGill’s financial situation and the austerity budget would be discussed. She welcomed questions during question period and any other concerns could be directed to Nida via council.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca. Finally she noted that the agenda for the January meeting would be uploaded by the latest at the beginning of January.

3 Announcements

3.1 Presentation + Questions by the FEUQ

Five minutes then questions.

Speaker moved this item to the bottom of the announcements until the presenter for this presentation arrived.

3.2 Announcement on Mandatory Institutional Fee Policy

We are drafting a new transparent, efficient and democratic policy to approve a category of university fees called FIOs (Frais Institutionels Obligatoirs). Before we submit this policy for first reading, we want to give councilors a brief overview of the provincial legislation behind FIOs and of the policy we are proposing.

5 mins

External Affairs Officer gave background information on a new policy that would be introduced in the Activities Manual. He explained the 'Mandatory Institutional Fees' which are fees (ex. late library fees) on your bill that cannot be opted out of. There are 4 categories of fees and students only have power over Category III (fees that affect faculty, program and course related fees collected for materials, supplies, services or use of outside facilities). Students have the power to veto the decision of the university when they want to impose such a fee. There were concerns with legitimacy on imposing such fees due to the lack of transparency.

The External Affairs Officer presented two options to this problem:

1. Representative on Advisory Committee would oversee the whole process to make sure the university acts accordingly and ensure that PGSAs respond quickly.

2. Give PGSS executive committee the task of defending the implementation of the fees.
Until next council, the executives would be consulting with PGSAs on their preferred model.

S. Josephy (GSAN) asked about the feasibility of this new policy.

External Affairs Officer answered that PGSS process less fees annually compared to SSMU. Most of the fees being ratified affect only the Faculty of Management. Overall, it would not be a burden to PGSS as a whole.

F. Armstrong (PPSMUA) asked for examples of reasons to reject, or veto these kinds of fees.

External Affairs Officer answered that the university must provide valid reasons before rejecting a fee and noted that no decisions would be made based on vague information.

V. Frankel (BGSA) asked about the amount of time that would be allocated to PGSAs to make a decision.

External Affairs Officer replied that deadlines for decisions should be flexible since the documentation would be given to executives before their meeting and they would approve it then. He estimated that PGSAs would be given either a month or two to make a decision.

Y. Bresler (MGAPS) asked the procedure that would be take should the vote is split.

External Affairs Officer answered that according to Robert’s Rule, if a vote is split the motion would not pass. However, in the situation where a course would affect many PGSAs, this is a problem that would still need to be sorted out with.

Chief Returning Officer suggested a PGSA level referendum be held should a situation of a split vote happens.

External Affairs Officer answered that a referendum process would overburden the system and would be too inefficient to yield fast results. For the time being, single courses would require the consultation with executives whereas courses that affect the whole faculty or PGSS as a whole would resort to a referendum process.

F. Armstrong (PPSMUA) asked if there was a principle way for PGSS to access the legitimacy of a file.

External Affairs Officer noted that there is an extensive explanation written in the law. Usually it would be a file that goes above and beyond what is expected of the traditional content of the course (ex. hiring more TAs).

3.3 Motion to Reconsider: Presentation + Questions by the FEUQ (Last item on announcements)

6:50 PM

Jonathan Bouchard introduced the FEUQ. He explained that the FEUQ represents thirteen member associations across Quebec with PGSS being one of them. The main objective is to defend students rights and institutional support against specific action plans.

He then introduced the Annual Campaign, where an update on the student loan program (financial aid program of the government) would be implemented. Cost of living has increased faster than loans and bursaries, causing a discrepancy in numbers.

The goal would be to update the evaluation system to actual living costs and introduce an automatic annual indexation mechanism.

He then explained the two main action plans:
1. **Political Action Plan:** Participate in different commissions and meet different members of national assemblies to form coalitions.

2. **Mobilization Action Plan:** New government has strong economic plan to go back to zero deficit. There would be local and national events to raise public awareness.

S. Josephy (GSAN) asked for an elaboration on where the money would come from.

Jonathan Bouchard answered that the FEUQ has participated on two commissions, one being the fiscal reform the government wanted to put forward, the second being the revision of all government programs. All new investments must come from money within the same ministry. They are proposing many options to having a more progressive fiscal system. Their campaign was more adapted to the government goals where they would be looking for measures that could be reinvested directly from the education ministry’s budget. They would be looking to transfer money from these inefficient measures to the student loan program. Some inefficient measures include:

1. Tax credit for tuition which only favours students who make enough throughout the year.
2. Education Savings Plan, which is dependent on family decisions and heir actual revenues.

Equity Commissioner noted that there would be a demonstration against austerity on November 29, and asked whether the FEUQ supporting this.

Jonathan Bouchard answered that the FEUQ would be supporting this demonstration and an informal collective has been grouped to organize this demonstration.

Equity Commissioner noted that when the PQ was in power, the FEUQ said that the university had enough money and it was simply a mismanagement of funds. He asked where the FEUQ would stand in this issue whether anything else has changed besides the government.

Jonathan Bouchard answered that there have been changes. There was a report written by independent commissioners that would shed light on how the university was financed and their actual needs. Huge cuts have been imposed by governments in only 6 months of activity. There are also many programs that are being cut.

S. Bergeron (MGAPSS) asked how students who are not on loans and bursaries would be covered in the annual campaign.

Jonathan Bouchard replied that they are working with French government and making sure that the tuition hike does not affect most students.

J. Mooney (CGSS) noted that the FEUQ has given a lot of gains for students. Often we have specific needs (CFS referendum) He asked about ways the FEUQ can help PGSS when it comes to specific needs such as the CFS referendum.

Jonathan Bouchard replied that they would be giving all logistic support needed, whether on campus or media with regards to the PGSS v. CFS referendum

F. Armstrong (PPSMUA) asked for an explanation on the no cost solution that the FEUQ has decided on.

Jonathan Bouchard explained that this was only for annual campaign. The FEUQ thinks this kind of measure would be the most beneficial but they have also proposed other measures mentioned in the two commissions.

R. Bahous (HGSS) asked for a differentiation between the FEUQ and CFS.
Jonathan Bouchard explained that the main value perpetuated by the FEUQ is that member associations is the most important thing that they work for and that they have absolute local sovereignty.

D. Hanson (PGSA) asked whether there are any fees associated in joining the FEUQ.

Jonathan Bouchard answered that when an association join, all of its student would pay $2.50 per semester.

External Affairs Officer pointed out that PGSS students had paid $15 annually to the CFS and have been suing them annually.

6:55 PM 3.4 PGSS Flu Shot Clinic, November 6, at TH, 11:30 to 16:30

Flu season will be soon upon us, and no one has time to get sick, especially as a grad student. Visit the PGSS ballroom November 6th 11:30-4:30pm, if you have the PGSS ASEQ health insurance. For those who are not on the ASEQ plan the Flu Shot will be $15. There will be snacks/drinks available. Shots will be first come, first serve (come early as we always run out).

Member Services Officer reminded everyone that Flu Shot Clinic would take place on November 6 from 11:30 to 16:30.

4 Floor Items

7:15 PM 4.1 Emergency Meeting of Council, October 22nd

Speaker called motion to a vote.

Motion passed.

5 Reports

7:16 PM 5.1 Report of the Financial Affairs Officer to Council (Nov 2014)

Report of the Financial Affairs Officer to Council (Nov 2014)

No questions.

7:16 PM 5.2 Report of the Internal Affairs Officer to Council (Nov 5th, 2014)

Report of the Internal Affairs Officer to Council (Nov 5th, 2014)

No questions.
5.3  Report of the Equity Commissioner

Report of the Equity Commissioner

No questions.

5.4  Report of Member Support Commissioner for November (2014) Council


No questions.

5.5  Health Commissioner Report

Financial Affairs Officer asked for an explanation on the procedure for flu shot clinic tomorrow.

Health Commissioner explained that it would take place from 11:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Those who have private insurance would need to pay $15 and would receive a receipt for reimbursement. She reminded everyone to bring their Student ID and wear a short sleeve shirt. Snacks would be provided. Long lines would be expected in the beginning but flu shots tend to run out over the course of the day.


Environment Commissioner introduced two upcoming events:
1. Divest McGill, where an information session held for those who are interested in Divest McGill would be held next council.
2. This weekend there would be an event called Convergence (Conference focusing on sustainability and fossil fuel issues) Those who are interested could visit fossilfree.ca for more information.
V. Frankel (BGSA) asked whether PGSS have investments in fossil fuel companies.
Environment Commissioner replied no.

5.7  Report of the Academic Affairs Officer to Council - November 5, 2014

Report of the Academic Affairs Officer - November 5, 2014

Health Commissioner asked for an elaboration on supervision training.
Academic Affairs Officer explained that they are forming a working group with administration to ensure mentor supervision is in place for the next academic year. The goal would be to make supervision better and to better track success.

R. Debrosse (GASP) thanked the Academic Affairs Officer for clear and concise report. She asked for reports in the future to continue to be like this.

7:23 PM 5.8 Member Services Officer Report to Council - November 2014

Member Services Officer Report to Council - November 2014

Health Commissioner asked for an elaboration on the details regarding ‘Study Saturdays’. Member Services Officer explained currently, around 30 kids are attending every Saturday. Parents sign up and leave them with the hands of volunteers (10-15) while student parents go upstairs to study. There is a $5 fee per month.

Academic Affairs Officer asked about the progression of the mental health first aid training. Member Services Officer replied that it went very well and they had a substantial amount of participation from 3 executives, 2 commissioners graduate students and staff.

7:26 PM 5.9 Report of the Secretary-General to Council Nov 5-2014

Report of the Secretary General to Council

Report of the Secretary-General to Council Nov 5-2014

Health Commissioner asked Secretary General to elaborate on the work plan on mental health mentioned in the report.

Secretary General explained there are initiatives focusing on mental health currently. The goal is gather all these initiatives and present them as a coherent report to the society.

Health Commissioner noted that the most recent uploaded executive minutes are from 2012 and asked where the more recent minutes could be found.

Secretary General answered that with the advancement of the Ubriety system, they are currently compiling the minutes and he would give a more definite answer next council meeting. He asked for more time so that this could be revised.

7:28 PM 5.10 External Affairs Officer Report to Council - November 2014

External Affairs Officer Report to Council - November 2014

No questions.
6  Question Period

7:29 PM

No questions.

7  New Business

7.1  Anti-Austerity Protest on November 29th

7:29 PM

WHEREAS the AGM officially denounced the drastic austerity measures of the Liberal government.

WHEREAS McGill could face cuts of 13 to 15 million dollars, would significantly impact the quality of its education and services.

WHEREAS an important anti-austerity protest will be held on the 29th of November.

BIRT that PGSS will support this protest and encourage its members to take part in it.

External Affairs Officer moved in favour of this motion. He noted that a very important protest against austerity would be taking place on November 29 and suggested PGSS to take part in that.

R. Debrosse (GASP) noted a typo in the motion in the second sentence.

S. George (NGSA) asked whether PGSS would be doing anything more formal about the austerity measures.

External Affairs Officer explained that this motion concerned only the protest. However, a motion that would entitle PGSS to give itself the means to protest against austerity using a broad mean of tactics was still in discussion. Should there be any new major initiatives, it would be brought to council.

M. Quashie (EEGSS) asked what the result of the recent protests was.

External Affairs Officer replied that PGSS was not involved in protests during his mandate however, judging from previous protests, they were successful in repelling the tuition increase brought forth by the government.

M. Quashie (EEGSS) followed up and noted that there had been a protest two to three weeks ago.

External Affairs Officer explained that PGSS did not take part in that protest because although it was brought up in the AGM there was not enough information or time was given.

Speaker called this motion to a vote.

Motion passed.

7.2  Numeration in Governing Documents-PGSS

7:36 PM

WHEREAS the numeration present in our governing documents has not been properly updated;

WHEREAS the tables of contents of our governing documents have not been updated to reflect substantial changes in numeration, including additions and deletions;

WHEREAS the numeration does not allow for a proper reading of our governing documents;
BIRT that Council authorizes the Secretary-General to update the numeration of all governing documents of the Society.

BIFRT that Council authorizes the Secretary-General to revise the presentation and correct minor grammatical mistakes present in these documents.

Secretary General explained that this is a motion to correct and modify documents. The numeration has been altered due to changes to the bylaws and other documents.

R. Debrosse (GASP) asked if this was an amendment to the bylaws.

Secretary-General answered that they are not amending the documents but simply correcting the numbers.

Y, Bresler (MGAPS) asked how they would decide whether a grammatical change would be needed.

Secretary-General gave an example where if there are repeated words, they would strike one out.

Speaker called this motion to a vote.

Motion passed.

7.3 Motion Regarding Mental Health Subcommittee Priorities

7:39 PM

Moved by Melissa Dick from Mental Health Working Group

Motion Regarding Mental Health Subcommittee Priorities

Health Commissioner seconded this motion and explained that the Mental Health Working Group is based off of volunteers. They are trying to get an idea on the things council wants them prioritize on this year. There are three main focus points:

1. Increasing awareness
2. Collaboration
3. Advocacy

She asked for feedback and comments on these three points mentioned above.

Motion to move into five minute discussion.

Motion passed.

N. Hope (GASP) spoke in favour of the third point on advocacy because she expressed that if there are not enough resources available, it would not be effective to move forward with the other points.

B. Sharif (GAP) spoke in favour for the first priority. He believes there are plenty of resources available at McGill but they are not well advertised. He suggested to work more on the awareness of these conditions and reducing the stigma.

S. Josephy (GSAN) suggested in decentralizing from downtown campus and expand to other locations (ex. MAC campus) so that more people could be included. She spoke in favour of raising awareness of the issue.

V. Frankel (BGSA) also spoke in favour of prioritizing point number three, believing that access is the most important.
F. Armstrong (PPSMUA) asked whether these three points are self reinforcing and what the person’s motivation for these three priorities were.

Health Commissioner answered these three priorities came from the Mental Health Policy that PGSS accepted. There are different projects going on that addresses all three of these priorities. She explained that this is a separate group and they are a group of students that would solely focus on this, wanting to know what they should focus on.

B. Schmidt (MGAPS) asked what the wait time would be to see someone and the accessibility of these services.

Health Commissioner replied that in the case of an emergency, it would be the same day. If it is not an emergency, the best case scenario would be one to two weeks and the worse case scenario would be one semester.

Speaker called to vote on the three priorities.

Vote results: Number 3 as a priority.

7.4 Clarifying our Stance on International Student Tuition Deregulation - Sovereignty vs. Solidarity

Whereas international student have faced the deregulation (privatization) of certain programs (e.g. MBAs)
Whereas our Policy Manual leaves the issue of program deregulation open to interpretation.
Whereas a significant number of international students at McGill are affected by this deregulation.
BIRT that PGSS will support the stances of individual PGSAs on the deregulation of international that directly affects their programs when representing them.
BIFRT that this will not affect the overall stance of PGSS on tuition, as described in the Policy Manual.
BIFRT that PGSS will demand that no program be deregulated without obtaining consent from its students through democratic means.

External Affairs Officer noted a typo in his document (‘Fees’ is missing) He explained the policy manual takes what we ought to do in terms of advocacy in the university level and the external level. Cohesive and individual stances are wanted.

He explained that the goal of this motion would be to have PGSS support individual stance of individual student associations and would not affect overall policy. For the university to deregulate a program, they need to consult students by democratic means using a referendum.

D. Toccalino (GSAN) asked whether PGSS have the legal capability to make this decision by themselves.
External Affairs Officer explained that PGSS their representatives and they do have the capability to do so.

7.5 Clarifying our Stance on International Student Tuition Deregulation - Sovereignty vs. Solidarity

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Whereas our Policy Manual leaves the issue of program deregulation open to interpretation.

Whereas a significant number of international students at McGill are affected by this deregulation.

BIRT that PGSS will support the stances of individual PGSAs on the deregulation of international that directly affects their programs when representing them.

BIFRT that this will not affect the overall stance of PGSS on tuition, as described in the Policy Manual.

BIFRT that PGSS will demand that no program be deregulated without obtaining consent from its students through democratic means.

BIRT that PGSS will support the creation of a policy that includes the following points:

- The PGSS shall support the stances of individual PGSAs on the deregulation of international fees that directly affect their programs when representing them.

- This will not affect the overall stance of PGSS on tuition, as described in the Policy Manual.

- PGSS will demand that no program be deregulated without obtaining consent from its students through democratic means.]Motion to Amend: Replace all BIRT clauses with:

BIRT that PGSS will support the creation of a policy that includes the following points:

- The PGSS shall support the stances of individual PGSAs on the deregulation of international fees that directly affect their programs when representing them.

- This will not affect the overall stance of PGSS on tuition, as described in the Policy Manual.

- PGSS will demand that no program be deregulated without obtaining consent from its students through democratic means.

*External Affairs Officer suggested an amendment to the motion to read ‘BIRT that PGSS will support the creation of a policy that includes the following points.’ because the way it was phrased would only keep it valid for one semester.*

*Speaker called amendment to a vote.*

*Motion passed.*

External Affairs Officer suggested an amendment to the motion to read ‘BIRT that PGSS will support the creation of a policy that includes the following points.’ because the way it was phrased would only keep it valid for one semester.

Speaker called amendment to a vote.

Motion passed.

Speaker called motion to a vote.

Motion passed.

7.6 Applications sent from the Appointments Board Committee for Approval
Committee Applicant Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Policy Committee</td>
<td>Marzieh Ghiasi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equity Committee</td>
<td>Monika Sergueeva Viktorova</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee on Monetary Affairs</td>
<td>Cheng Zhu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Governance Committee</td>
<td>Fatima Tokhmafshan</td>
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<td>Committee on Enrolment and Student Affairs</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy and Structure Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Kaila Rose de Boer</td>
<td>Approved</td>
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<tr>
<td>Work Group on Service to Quebec and Canada</td>
<td>Kaila Rose de Boer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mental Health Services Advisory Board</td>
<td>Melissa Lauren Dick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equity Committee</td>
<td>Kayla Diena Morad</td>
<td>Approved</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scholarship and Student Aid Advisory Board</td>
<td>Jonathan Robert Spring</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health Services Advisory Board</td>
<td>Wing Hoi (Annie) Poon</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Planning Service (CaPS) Advisory Board</td>
<td>Aniko Vanesa Zaha</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Note that Marzieh Ghiasi is an alternate on the Appointments Board Committee.

Speaker called this motion to a vote.

Motion passed.

8:01 PM

7.7 Applications sent from the Appointments Board Committee for Approval

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Committee on Student Grievances</td>
<td>Ravishankar Palanisamy</td>
<td>Approved</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equity Committee</td>
<td>Anastasia Glushko</td>
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<tr>
<td>JBSCE Subcommittee on Women</td>
<td>Anastasia Glushko</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enrolment and Student Affairs Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Fatima Tokhmafshan</td>
<td>Approved</td>
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<td>External Affairs Committee</td>
<td>Stéfanie Bergeron</td>
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<tr>
<td>McGill Writing Centre-Program Committee</td>
<td>Ali Shahrad</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health and Wellness Committee</td>
<td>Kayla Diena Morad</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Student Services Advisory Board</td>
<td>Nufar Avni</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarship and Student Aid Advisory Board</td>
<td>Nufar Avni</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subcommittee on Admissions Review</td>
<td>Wing Hoi (Annie) Poon</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enrolment and Student Affairs Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Aniko Vanesa Zaha</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy and Structure Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Saturnin Espoir Ndamba Ndanadala</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Planning Service (CaPS) Advisory Board</td>
<td>Ziqian Zhang</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletics and Recreation Advisory Board</td>
<td>Christina Lynn Norris</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APC Subcommittee on Academic Unit Reviews</td>
<td>Maria Zamfir</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities &amp; Social Sciences Library Advisory</td>
<td>Ann-Marie Hansen</td>
<td>Approved</td>
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<tr>
<td>Committee</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyclical Review of Academic Units 2014-2015</td>
<td>Illa Carrillo Rodriguez</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee for Member Support</td>
<td>Sarah MacVicar</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health Services Advisory Board</td>
<td>Sarah MacVicar</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyclical Review of Academic Units 2014-2015</td>
<td>Sarah MacVicar</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counselling &amp; Tutorial Service Advisory Board</td>
<td>Kaitlyn Marie Enright</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note that Ravishankar Palanisamy is an alternate on the Committee on Student Grievances.

Speaker called motion to a vote.
Motion passed.

8:02 PM 7.8 Applications sent from the Appointments Board Committee for Approval

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Status</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CKUT Board of Directors</td>
<td>Diego Sandoval Hernandez</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Speaker called motion to a vote.

Motion passed.

8:03 PM 7.9 Motion regarding Supervision

Academic Affairs Officer moved in favour of this motion and noted that should this pass, she would start the recruitment process as soon as possible.

B. Sharif (GAP) asked about the procedure and mechanism to choosing general members.

Academic Affairs Officer explained that they would advertise the recruitment through normal means of communication (email, Facebook group, etc.) They would then proceed with the revision of applications, interview, and present the chosen candidates to be ratified by council.

Speaker called this motion to a vote.

Motion passed.

8:10 PM Adjourned
Agenda

1 Approval of the agenda
   1.1 Add Item: Report of Council Director

2 Speaker’s report

3 Announcements
   3.1 Presentation by the Vice-Principal Communications and External Relations
   3.2 Sustainable Projects Fund presentation
   3.3 CFS Announcement

4 Floor Items
   4.1 Emergency Meeting of Council, October 22nd
   4.2 Council Meeting November 5th 2014

5 Business Arising
   5.1 Applications sent from the Appointments Board Committee for Approval
   5.2 Applications sent from the Appointments Board Committee for Approval
   5.3 Add Item: 5.3. Applications sent from Appointments Board Committee

6 Reports
   6.2 Report of the Steering Committee to Council, December 2014
   6.3 Member Services Officer Report to Council - December 2014
   6.4 Report of the External Affairs Officer to Council - Dec 2014
   6.5 Report of the Secretary-General to Council Dec 2014
   6.6 Academic Affairs Officer Report to Council December 2014
   6.7 Internal Affairs Officer Report to December 2014 Council
   6.8 Financial Affairs Officer Report to Council (Dec 2014)
   6.9 2014-12-03- Report of the Environment Commissioner (Dec 2014 Council)
   6.10 Report of the Equity Commissioner _Dec14
   6.11 Member Support Commissioner (December-2014 Council Report)
   6.12 Add Item: Report of the Councillor Director

7 Question Period

8 New Business
   8.1 Council Report Presentation
   8.2 SAM Modification (First Reading)
   8.3 Bylaws modification - First Reading
   8.4 Co-Signature of GU15 Advocacy Letter - Indirect Costs of Research
   8.5 Co-Signature of GU15 Advocacy Letter - SSHRC Student Internships
   8.6 Co-Signature of GU15 Advocacy Letter - Student Representation on Tri-Council
   8.7 Clarifying our Stance on International Student Tuition Deregulation - Sovereignty vs. Solidarity (Second Reading)
   8.8 Motion Regarding McGill Divestment from Tar Sands, Oil Pipelines and other Fossil Fuel Industries
At the Council Meeting on December 3rd, 2014, the following individuals were present:

**Attending**

Amanda Claire Howes (amanda.howes@mail.mcgill.ca), Amanda Winegardner (environment.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Amy Vincent (society.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Andrew Blakney (andrew.blakney2@mail.mcgill.ca), Behrang Sharif (behrang.sharif@mail.mcgill.ca), Basem Adel Danish (basem.danish@mail.mcgill.ca), Anila Naz (anila.naz@mail.mcgill.ca), Ashley Chin (ashley.chin@mail.mcgill.ca), Ayokunle Olanrewaju (ayo.olanrewaju@mail.mcgill.ca), Bailey Ann Rathwell (bailey.rathwell@mail.mcgill.ca), Barbara Christina Mindt (barbara.mindt@mail.mcgill.ca), Benjamin Alexander Schmidt (benjamin.schmidt@mail.mcgill.ca), Brighita Lungu (memberships.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Colby Briggs (elections.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Christina Liu (recording.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Danielle Claire Toccalino (danielle.toccalino@mail.mcgill.ca), Dieta Ruth Hanson (dieta.hanson@mail.mcgill.ca), Elizabeth Fiset (health.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Eliza Kate Bateman (eliza.bateman@mail.mcgill.ca), Frédéric Louis Voisard (frederic.voisard@mail.mcgill.ca), Fayden Sara Bokhari (fayden.bokhari@mail.mcgill.ca), Erin Shier Coyne (erin.coyne2@mail.mcgill.ca), Emma Elizabeth Vincent (emma.vincent@mail.mcgill.ca), Ilia Eleonora Carrillo Rodriguez (ilia.carrillorodriguez@mail.mcgill.ca), Grace Olivia Dupuis (grace.dupuis@mail.mcgill.ca), Gesa (internal.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Jacob Peter Ziegler (jacob.ziegler@mail.mcgill.ca), Jaclyn Adriana Hearnden (jaclyn.hearnden@mail.mcgill.ca), Jennifer Marton (jennifer.marton@mail.mcgill.ca), Jason Paul Danovitch (jason.danovitch@mail.mcgill.ca), Jason Olaf Jensen (jason.jensen@mail.mcgill.ca), Jennifer Murray (academic.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Jenny Ann Pura (jennyann.pura@mail.mcgill.ca), Julien Ouellet (external.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Juan Camilo Pinto (sec-gen.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Jonathan Godin (jonathan.godin@mail.mcgill.ca), Krause Michael (equity.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Lindsay Elizabeth Vanstone (lindsayvanstone@mail.mcgill.ca), Leora Tova Ruth Frimer (leora.frimer@mail.mcgill.ca), Kristin Marie Franseen (kristin.franseen@mail.mcgill.ca), Laura Marie Cohen (laura.cohen@mail.mcgill.ca), Laura Marie Whidden (laurawhidden@mail.mcgill.ca), Madeleine Cressatti (marisa.cressatti@mail.mcgill.ca), Maxime Duval (maxime.duval-stojanovic@mail.mcgill.ca), Nikki Meadows (finance.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Renata Bahous (renata.bahous@mail.mcgill.ca), Sahil Kumar (sahil.kumar@mail.mcgill.ca), Régine Fernande Débrosse (regine.debrosse@mail.mcgill.ca), Sandrine Coulwell (sandrine.couldwell@mail.mcgill.ca), Sarah Ann Morin Dodsworth (sarah.dodsworth@mail.mcgill.ca), Sarah Kesia Bonish (sarah.bonish@mail.mcgill.ca), Sarah Marcili (sarah.marcili@mail.mcgill.ca), Sarah Meghan Hau-Sing Mah (sarah.mah@mail.mcgill.ca), Sebastien Dery (sebastien.dery@mail.mcgill.ca), Suzanne Elizabeth George (suzanne.george@mail.mcgill.ca), Stéfanie Bergeron (stefanie.bergeron@mail.mcgill.ca), Sylvia Elena Josephy (sylvia.josephy2@mail.mcgill.ca), Victor Manuel Fralicher (victor.frankel@mail.mcgill.ca), Vikrant Bhosle (ssc.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Yevgen Nazarenko (yevgen.nazarenko@mail.mcgill.ca), Yoni Bresler (yoni.bresler@mail.mcgill.ca)

**Guests**

Joanna Richardson (GLSA), Jonathan Mooney (CGSS), Igor Sadiskor (Daily), Lem Ertekin (Daily), Philippe Dumais (McGill Tribune), Anastasia Glushko (Equity Committee), Ana Best (BoD), Sara Houshmand (PGSS Member), Temel Uruncu (MISSC), Naomi Barshi (ADAMS CLUB), Rachel Simmons (Speaker)

**Call to order**

6:35 PM Call to order
1 Approval of the agenda

6:35 PM

R. Debrosse (GASP) introduced herself and noted that she is the liaison between the council and board of directors. She wanted to add in a section in the reports - ‘Report of Council Director.’

Speaker noted that it will be an oral report.

Speaker called this item to a vote.

Motion Passed.

Speaker called motion to a vote.

Motion Passed.

7:52 PM 1.1 Add Item: Report of Council Director

R. Debrosse (GASP) introduced herself as council director. She addressed the issues that were discussed in the meeting during Nov.13 2014. They discussed the complaints about events (ex. Halloween Party). They also received reports documenting this event pertaining to management of staff and PGSS. The board vote in favour of motion on censure of Secretary General. They removed all human resources responsibilities from him and required an apology to staff. Vote of confidence would be placed before Dec.13. During this meeting, the board gave her the mandate of presenting this matter to council.

Internal Affairs Officer said according to bylaws, human resources, employment, and contractual obligations falls under corporate responsibility, which is a joint purview of the Board of Directors and executives. He asked her to clarify that the board is ultimately responsible for HR to elaborate on that.

Council Director explained that from what she remembered, it did mention that the board is more responsible for corporate affairs and that HR and society side is joint. She noted that executive members were present during the meeting.

Internal Affairs Officer provided a point of information where in Section 1, it introduced four types of activities within PGSS (business, corporate, society, and shared). Corporate activities including contractual and legal obligations and appointments fall under the joint purview and executives and board of directors. Societies activities, which are all activities funded by society, fall under the sole purview of executives. He also noted that Section 6.2 of bylaws states that the Board of Directors have zero purview on anything that is exclusively funded by the society activities fund. Business activities are what the board is responsible for and the society has no say in those matters. Finally shared activities do not fall under the previous three categories and are under the joint purview of the board of directors and executives.

E. Batemen (GLSA) asked for an elaboration on the procedural fairness requirements that was needed for the case of the Halloween party.

R. Debrosse (GASP) replied that the reports are confidential. For the most part, the Secretary General did not deny or question.

Equity Commissioner asked if all the matters talked about so far are HR and board related matters, why were the disciplinary matters for Secretary General on the report.

R. Debrosse replied that they asked for each member of the executive committee to talk to them before they went into closed session. She mentioned that she is not sure if she can answer.
S. Kumar (EMGSS) asked for more clarification on what the censure of the Secretary General entailed. Council Director that it was motion that signifies the disapproval of behaviour of Secretary General. She said he could also look into the bylaws for more details but this was ultimately a disciplinary measure.

2 Speaker’s report

Speaker introduced herself and mentioned that she will be filling in for Nida as the speaker today. The Speaker invited those who thought she was incompetent to a SSMU council where she knows what was going on, to witness what a great job she can do.

3 Announcements

3.1 Presentation by the Vice-Principal Communications and External Relations

Presentation of the Vice-Principal Communications and External Relations on the Royal Victoria Hospital site.

Presenters are not present.

3.2 Sustainable Projects Fund presentation

Kim McGrath from Sustainable Projects Fund Office will join us to give a presentation on what SPF is and how students can benefit from it.

Kim McGrath introduced herself. She works with the office of sustainability. She proceeded to give an overview of the SPF.

She said the mandate of SPF is to build a culture of sustainability. At McGill, the SPF funds projects that impact the McGill stakeholders directly. They also encourage the culture shift on campus. She explained seed-funding, which is funding that is used to kick start a project. They also fund interdisciplinary projects.

Commitment is needed for the SPF. It is not a grant system. Initiatives will need to be big in order to be funded.

There is partnership between students and staff. SPF has been an increasing part of McGill’s identity.

Examples of projects include: Sustainable Thomson House Project.

She explained the Vision 2020 Sustainability Strategy Categories.

Reasons for involvement would include staying connected to people on campus, making new connections and contacts, and polishing your resume.

Those who are interested can visit the website: www.mcgill.ca/sustainability/spf for more information on projects and give feedback.

Get in touch with MOoS McGill or contact Kim McGrath once a draft your project is ready.

Deadline is January 19th 2015.
3.3 CFS Announcement

Jonathan Mooney introduced himself. He gave an overview of the CFS. He announced that the referendum will take place on January 15-16, 2015. He emphasized the importance of this referendum. VOTE people!

Those who want to be more involved, campaign period starts on January 5, 2015. He emphasized that the CFS bylaws say that there should not be any campaigning between now and January 5, 2015. However, once campaigning start, members can proceed with mobilization and advocating for the side that they favour.

For more information get in touch with Jacinthe at studentlife.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca.

He noted that this referendum will be done using paper ballots. He also said that 10% of PGSS would have to participate for the vote to count.

F. Voisard (MMGESA) asked if they are allowed to start mobilizing for voting starting now or if they have to wait until campaigning period starts before they can proceed with any mobilization.

J. Mooney (CGSS) answered that from his understanding, you can tell people this is coming up and that they should be ready to vote.

S. Josephy (GSAN) asked for more clarification as to what they would be charging the students should this referendum now pass

J. Mooney (CGSS) replied that the membership fee for CFS is $12.66. If the referendum does not pass, this fee will continue to be collected.

S. Josephy (GSAN) further added that she was asking about the legal fees.

External Affairs Officer replied that the membership fees and the legal fees are two separate things. The problem currently is that five years ago the membership fees stopped being collected. Should PGSS loses this referendum, they will have to reactivate it.

Speaker noted that in the future it should be J. Mooney (CGSS) who answers the question since this is his announcement.

V. Frankel (BGSA) asked who the representative lawyers are why it was necessary to charge that much. He further asked whether there would be any fear that the referendum would be deemed invalid.

J. Mooney (CGSS) answered that this is a complex case. BLG (largest law firm in Canada) is representing PGSS on this case. He said that a summary of PGSS’ position and other resources are online. He encouraged members to be very careful with CFS regulations and hopefully both parties would act in good faith and this referendum would be recognized.

J. Marton (HGSS) asked whether there will be any off-campus polling stations.

J. Mooney (CGSS) answered that PGSS has asked for 14 polling stations (hospitals, MAC campus, Stewart Bio, Burnside...). The goal would be that students have access to polls. Polling stations will operate from 8AM-7PM.

External Affairs Officer made announcement about FEUQ protest. They are going to hold the first action of the campaign tomorrow (December 4, 2014) at the corner of Sherbrooke and University. He encouraged everyone to come and support!

S. Bergeron (MGAPSS) asked how long this will this last.
External Affairs Officer replied ‘lightning fast!’

4 Floor Items

7:03 PM 4.1 Emergency Meeting of Council, October 22nd

Speaker called motion to a vote.
Motion Passed.

7:04 PM 4.2 Council Meeting November 5th 2014

Speaker called motion to a vote.
Motion Passed.

5 Business Arising

7:04 PM 5.1 Applications sent from the Appointments Board Committee for Approval

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<th>Committee</th>
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<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sustainability Committee</td>
<td>Daniel Haberman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environment Committee</td>
<td>Daniel Haberman</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal’s Prize for Outstanding Emerging Researchers</td>
<td>Deepa Jahagirdar</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyclical Review of Academic Units 2014-2015</td>
<td>Nicolas Chatel-Launay</td>
<td>Approved</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schulich Library Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Irem Nur Onay</td>
<td>Approved</td>
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<tr>
<td>McGill Centraide Committee</td>
<td>Fanny Guimont-Desrochers</td>
<td>Approved</td>
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<tr>
<td>Committee for Member Support</td>
<td>Fanny Guimont-Desrochers</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equity Committee</td>
<td>Stéfanie Bergeron</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Writing Support Program</td>
<td>Trevor Neil May</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Services Advisory Board</td>
<td>Julia Christine Nantes</td>
<td>Approved</td>
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</table>

Speaker called motion to a vote.
Motion Passed.

7:05 PM 5.2 Applications sent from the Appointments Board Committee for Approval

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<tr>
<td>Graduate Supervision Working Group</td>
<td>Xavier St Denis</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judicial Board</td>
<td>Daniel Mark Simeone</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Supervision Working Group</td>
<td>Johanna Mancini</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Speaker called motion to a vote.
Motion Passed.

8:32 PM 5.3 Add Item: 5.3. Applications sent from Appointments Board Committee

Motion to add item passed.

Motion to approve two appointments to the PGSS Judicial Board

E. Batemen and L. Bruno passed.

6 Reports

7:05 PM 6.1 Health Commissioner Report to Council December 2014


No questions.

7:06 PM 6.2 Report of the Steering Committee to Council, December 2014

2014-12-01 Report of the Steering Committee to Council, December 2014

No questions.

7:07 PM 6.3 Member Services Officer Report to Council - December 2014

2014-11-27 Member Services Officer Report to Council - December 2014

No questions.

7:07 PM 6.4 Report of the External Affairs Officer to Council - Dec 2014


No questions.

7:07 PM 6.5 Report of the Secretary-General to Council Dec 2014

Report of the Secretary-General to Council Dec 2014

By the motion carried out by the executive committee, the Secretary General apologized to council for the use of the title 'president' in conjunction with 'secretary general'.

He also addressed the motion that passed to censure the secretary general at the board of directors. He said that this arose due to the conflict during the Halloween party where students threatened staff members of PGSS. He noted that there were 5 police officers present and that he was eager to try to understand and help with the situation. He acknowledged that his behaviour and attitude was unacceptable when he persistently tried to ask the staff about what is happening despite her level of distress. He further noted that he should have let entrusted the PGSS staff to handle the situation. He apologized to council for his behaviour.

V. Frankel (BGSA) asked for the reason why he was calling himself 'president' externally and 'secretary-general' internally?

Secretary-General explained that 'secretary-general' is usually used for a person who organized internal matters whereas the president was the representative of the student body. There were confusions about the title of his role and his responsibilities which why he chose to adopt the use of different titles externally and internally.

6.6 Academic Affairs Officer Report to Council December 2014


Academic Affairs Officer mentioned that she sat on Senate. She explained that this is a great body for students raise concerns and submit questions to. She welcomes feedback and encouraged students to use it as a forum to raise concerns.

She also noted that those who are interested in getting involved with committees or have any questions or comments can email her at academic.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca

J. Mooney (CGSS) asked what they hope to accomplish this year in terms of supervision.

Academic Affairs Officer answered that they aim to incorporate mandatory orientation for departments and faculty. They also are planning to organize a supervision workshops once a month starting next year in Thomson House. She also talked about an online tracking system called 'Milestones,' that will help you track your progress in your program.

6.7 Internal Affairs Officer Report to December 2014 Council

2014-11-26 Internal Affairs Officer Report to December 2014 Council

No questions.

6.8 Financial Affairs Officer Report to Council (Dec 2014)

2014-11-26 Financial Affairs Officer Report to Council (Dec 2014)

Financial Affairs Officer discussed the building of a PGSS sports grant or program with the goal of encouraging athleticism among PGSS. She announced that they will do a straw pull on whether the membership
would be favourable to a fee levy in order to support a grants program or the simple creation of a non-fee levy scheme to encourage sport (information campaign).

Straw poll

In favour of researching a fee levy?

Failed

Straw Poll

In favour of encouraging sport via non-financial means.

Council is favourable

D. Hansen (BGSA) presented the GOAL network. She suggested making use of it as it works well.

Financial Affairs Officer said she would take that into consideration but mentioned they are focusing on graduate specific teams.

6.9 2014-12-03- Report of the Environment Commissioner (Dec 2014 Council)


No questions.

6.10 Report of the Equity Commissioner _Dec14

Member Services Officer wanted more information on the Equity Award.

Equity Commissioner explained that McGill has an award rewarding institutions and individual students who make pro-equity initiatives. Any questions on the application could be emailed to him at equity.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca the deadline for applications is March 6, 2015.

6.11 Member Support Commissioner (December-2014 Council Report)

M. Duval (GASA) explained that he missed the names on the applications that were went to the appointments board for approval (added in section 5.3). He asked for them to be repeated.

Speaker said it would be better if he were to ask this again during question period.
6.12  **Add Item: Report of the Councillor Director**

The Council Director, R. Debrosse (GASP), asked for a closed session for the presentation of this report.
Speaker suggested to do this at the end of the meeting if she insisted on a closed session.
After discussion report will come to the end.
Y. Bresler (MGAPS) asked whether council vote whether they approve to move this to the end.
Speaker asked members to vote whether they approve to move this item to the end of the meeting.
Council agreed. This item has been moved to end of the meeting.

7  **Question Period**

V. Frankel (BGSA) mentioned that there was a motion introduced at the board of governors meeting regarding the application to the SPF for the commission of the study of a particular subject. He asked the Secretary-General for more clarification on what the study is.
Secretary-General replied that they want to do a comparative study of the practices in Canada of the universities. He explained that the Sustainability Projects Fund also funds projects that would encourage sustainability amongst universities.
Environment Commissioner referred to the SPF presentation noting that they said in order to obtain funding, there must be a greater component to SPF projects than just research. She asked what is consisted of this component and what is it that consisted of changing the culture.
Secretary General replied they are trying to compile information from different resources to determine what the best practices are for students. Should this be determined, this would probably change the practices and in a sense, the culture of how things would be run in the university.
S. Josephy (GSAN) asked if anybody went to the Anti-Austerity protest and what the results of the protest were.
External Affairs Officer said that he went. He said that a lot of McGill people went but they did not go as a contingent. Hence he suggested that for future protests, they should go as a whole group.
I. Rodriguez (APF) asked whether the Secretary-General is still using President externally.
Secretary General replied no.
Equity Commissioner noted that there was an email sent out from the Principals office regarding the matter sexual assault. He mentioned amongst the cosigners was the Secretary-General but he noticed no other major organizations signing onto the email. He asked why the Secretary General decided to sign onto it unilaterally.
Secretary-General answered that it was a statement from the McGill Community that they asked him to sign it.
Member Services Officer mentioned that since she was involved in Sexual Assault sitting group and other related initiatives, she wondered why the Secretary-General did not inform her of this letter. She asked what changes were made to the initial letter.
Secretary-General asked to add procedural fairness to the letter but they said procedural fairness is implied within the respect of judicial procedure.

Internal Affairs Officer said not to place unnecessary concern on this matter. He mentioned it was already addressed in the executive meeting and it was part of his mandate.

M. Duval-Stojanovic (GASA) asked why the Secretary General signed something without the consultation with whole executive.

Secretary General replied that some decisions made need to be very fast.

Ana Best (Board of Directors) asked why it was signed ‘Secretary General’ and not other positions?

Secretary General replied that he was asked to sign as the Secretary General.

Member Services Officer asked whether he was aware of all the changes made to the letter.

Secretary General replied that he cannot speak on behalf of SSMU but he was aware that they changed from the wording from victim to survivor.

R. Debrosse (GASP) asked for more details on endorsement of the universal card.

External Affairs Officer said that PGSS is endorsing a universal card, combining the STM card and the Student Card. He noted that there will be no lower tariffs for graduate students because government has too much debt.

Y. Bresler (MGAPS) asked for 5 minute dessert break.

8 New Business

8.1 Council Report Presentation

Whereas executive reports can be tedious to read and difficult to understand by councillors if not put in context.

Whereas council needs this essential information to monitor the progress of executives throughout their mandate.

BIRT each executive shall give a 2 minutes maximum presentation highlighting the major points of their report before standing for question.

S. Bergeron (MGAPSS) proposed that executive officers to present a brief highlight of their reports to better understand and synthesize information.

Academic Affairs Officer suggested an amendment to add commissioners to this motion.

Speaker called amendment to a vote.

Motion passed.

External Affairs Officer spoke in favour of this motion.

Financial Affairs Officer also spoke in favour of this motion. Strongly support.

A. Blakney (MAC Campus) questioned about the deliverables, whether there would be some ways to make the reports ‘meatier’.
Equity Commissioner spoke against the motion for efficiency’s sake and expressed that should anyone have any concerns on the reports, they should call out to the executives.

Internal Affairs Officer also expressed that it is better to be reactive. Spoke in favour of this motion.

External Affairs Officer said that he does not think deliverables would be a prerequisite.

Speaker called this motion to a vote.

Motion Passed.

8.2 SAM Modification (First Reading)

Whereas Chapter 14 Section 1 subsection 2.1.1 establishes the eligibility criteria for the grant program;
Whereas Chapter 14 Section 1 subsection 2.1.1.d establishes that eligible academic projects include "symposia, conferences, lectures, workshops, excursions, and competitions."
Whereas Chapter 14 Section 2 subsection 2.2.2.1 establishes that the following expenses are ineligible for funding “Expenses related to academic conference participation;”
Whereas Chapter 14 Section 2 subsection 2.2.2.f contradicts Chapter 14 Section 1 subsection 2.1.1.d;

BIRT Council approves the elimination of Section 14 Section 2 subsection 2.2.2.f.

Secretary General asked to strike this from agenda.

Item Striked

8.3 Bylaws modification - First Reading

Whereas Section 6.5.5.4 (Judicial Board) establishes the meeting times for the Judicial Board;
Whereas Section 7.1.5 establishes meeting times and procedures that contradict Section 6.5.5.4;

BIRT Council approves the elimination of Section 7.1.5 of the Bylaws.

Secretary General moved in favour of this motion.

Y. Bresler (MGAPS) provided a point of information that they would need to vote on a first reading.

Speaker called motion to a vote.

First reading passes with abstention from R. Debrosse (GASP), disapproval from I. Carrillo Rodriguez (APF)

8.4 Co-Signature of GU15 Advocacy Letter - Indirect Costs of Research

Whereas we have been asked to co-sign this letter as a member of the GU15
Whereas indirect costs of research often impedes universities ability to carry out research.

BIRT that PGSS will co-sign this advocacy letter and use it to make recommendations to the government.
Co-Signature of GU15 Advocacy Letter - Indirect Costs of Research

External Affairs Officer explained that the GU15 include the 15 most research intensive universities in Canada. These letters would be used to lobby against the government for the next election to obtain certain benefits.

Currently the government only covers 21.5% of what is necessary to maintain the lab in operation. This motion would suggest that the government cover 40% of the indirect cost of research as what was promised initially by them.

S. Josephy (GSAN) asked where the money would come from.

External Affairs Officer explained that the government currently is going through austerity. However, on a financial level they are doing pretty well. He expect they will expect the increase because the GDP relies on innovation.

R. Bahous (HGSS) asked for a clarification on what the Indirect Costs of Research are.

External Affairs Officer replied that the Indirect Costs of Research currently is money taken out of the operating budget of the university. This motion ask that the government does not touch the money that they currently issue by the CIHR. PGSS would want more money to make sure labs could keep running after being issued this money.

D. Toccalino (GSAN) asked whether she was correct in assuming this 20% increase would be applied to all universities since it is coming from the federal government. She further asked whether it would change what funds individual provinces can apply to research.

External Affairs Officer replied that from the way the letter is drafted currently, it would be applied to all provinces to ensure equality amongst all universities.

Academic Affairs Officer asked whether there are any student societies not signing and if there are, why.

External Affairs Officer replied that this is the first wave of co-signatures. They will know until next week probably. Other students organizations so far do not seen any bad side effects to this policy. It actually created a lot of consensus amongst student associations that are research intensive across the country.

Speaker called this motion to a vote.

Motion passed.

8:26 PM 8.5 Co-Signature of GU15 Advocacy Letter - SSHRC Student Internships

Whereas Social Sciences and Humanities students have fewer internships opportunities then students of other fields

BIRT that PGSS will co-sign this letter asking the SSHRC to create internships for social sciences and humanities students within the SSHRC.

Co-Signature of GU15 Advocacy Letter - SSHRC Student Internships

External Affairs Officer would like the opinion of council on this matter. He suggested that they take a stance for undergraduate students in social sciences and humanities programs who are interested in pursuing graduate studies. To support these students, PGSS would be agreeing to ask SSHRC to create internships and provide undergraduate students with this opportunity.
I. Carrillo Rodriguez (APF) asked who was behind this initiative.

External Affairs Officer replied that it was the Federation of Associations from the Campus and Universities of Montreal.

Speaker called this motion to a vote.

Motion passed.

8.6 Co-Signature of GU15 Advocacy Letter - Student Representation on Tri-Council

Whereas students are important beneficiaries of federal research funding
Whereas there is currently no student members on their Board of Directors
BIRT that PGSS will co-sign this advocacy letter calling for the creation of student seats on the board of directors of federal funding agencies.

Co-Signature of GU15 Advocacy Letter - Student Representation on Tri-Council

External Affairs Officer spoke in favour of this motion. He mentioned that PGSS has a particular relationship with the funding agencies and should have a seat on the board of directors of federal funding agencies.

Speaker called this motion to a vote.

Motion Passed.

8.7 Clarifying our Stance on International Student Tuition Deregulation - Sovereignty vs. Solidarity (Second Reading)

Whereas international students are facing the deregulation (privatization) of certain programs (e.g. MBAs)
Whereas our Policy Manual leaves the issue of program deregulation open to interpretation.
Whereas a significant number of international students at McGill are affected by this deregulation.
BIRT that the following three points policy will be introduced in Society Policy Manual

1. PGSS supports the stances of individual PGSAs on the deregulation of international student fees that directly affects their programs when representing them.
2. This does not affect the overall stance of PGSS on tuition, as described in the Policy Manual.
3. PGSS will demand that no program be deregulated without obtaining consent from its students through democratic means.

External Affairs Officer explained the idea of this motion is that they want smaller associations who may not agree with the general stance of PGSS to be able to stand represent their positions by themselves.

Speaker pointed out that this must have a 2/3 majority to pass.

Academic Affairs Officer asked for clarification on third point (democratic means).
External Affairs Officer explained that this would go into their policy manual. They want the university and the student associations to come to an agreement on how much power they are administered. They would not want to micromanage and pre-determine the democratic process might not be applicable to all associations one university to another.

Speaker called this motion to a vote.

Motion Passed with an abstention from R. Debrosse (GASP)

8.8 Motion Regarding McGill Divestment from Tar Sands, Oil Pipelines and other Fossil Fuel Industries

8:36 PM

Motion Regarding McGill Divestment from Tar Sands, Oil Pipelines and other Fossil Fuel Industries

V. Frankel (BGSA) motivated in favour of this motion. He spoke on behalf of the Divest McGill Campaign and explained the importance of the issue of global warming. *Limit use of profanity please Council Frankel* He would want McGill to be the first university to divest its investments from fossil fuels.

Environment Commissioner spoke in favour of this motion. She emphasized that this campaign has been very active over the past years.

Y. Bresler (MGAPS) spoke in favour of this motion. He pointed out that this week Concordia announced that they have a 5 million fund plan.

Secretary General spoke in favour of this motion and commented that it would bring PGSS closer to their initiatives regarding sustainability.

B. Shariff (GAP) said McGill has about 8% of its funds allocated in investments. He asked what the monetary effects are of contracting these investments.

V. Frankel (BGSA) answered that a 5 year window would be important to offset those investments. They proposed to reinvest in other sustainable and stable energy companies and would expect a stabilization in investments.

Academic Affairs Officer spoke in favour of this motion and noted that she would like to represent PGSS’ views on this matter instead of her own.

External Affairs Officer spoke in favour of this motion. He expressed that he is glad to see members using FEUQ’s resources.

Internal Affairs Officer asked whether they would expect Secretary General and Academic Affairs Officer to support details of this motion.

V. Frankel (BGSA) answered that he would not expect much from representation because it is against bylaws. Hope they would act in good faith to represent best that they can to represent the views of the student bodies.

R. Debrosse (GASP) expressed that she liked this motion. To play the devil’s advocate she asked the mover and the floor whether would be anything sacrificed by voting in favour of this motion.

V. Frankel (BGSA) answered that the devil does not need an advocate. He agreed that they could potentially sacrifice professional corporate relations. However, should fossil fuel companies retract funding from (e.x Engineering department), he would say "good riddance".

Environment Commissioner wanted to correct typo in motion.
Frederic Voisard (MMGESAA) mentioned that engineers are currently working hard to make the environment a better place by creating greener processes. He asked whether he supported the disrespecting of an entire field of studies based on his own personal interests.

Speaker asked the floor to refrain from personal remarks directed at any members.

V. Frankel (BGSA) apologized to the engineers and said that global warming is something that fossil fuels companies are contributing greatly to and that this is a global issue. He commented that this motion will not break the backbone of fossil fuel industry.

D. Toccalino (GSAN) Would it be a good idea to add a BIRT clause that would say McGill only actively supports the work of engineers who are working towards a greener direction.

B. Shariff (GAP) expressed that he is taking back support (abstention) because he thought that the statement is too bold. He noted that this might affect engineering department and financial situation of McGill. He asked to count through the forum.

Add: BIFRT PGSS and its members support McGill students and faculty currently involved in amelioration of issues with emissions related to fossil fuels and the related industry.

Speaker called motion to a vote.

Motion passed with an abstention from B. Shariff (GAP)

8:56 PM  Adjourned
Agenda

1 Approval of the agenda 2
2 Speaker’s report 3
3 Business Arising 3
   3.1 Motion to take an official position on the CFS referendum . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 3
Attending

Christina Liu (recording.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Colby Briggs (elections.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Daniel Robert Kaufman (daniel.kaufman@mail.mcgill.ca), Danielle Claire Toccalino (danielle.toccalino@mail.mcgill.ca), Dylan James Putzel (dylan.putzel@mail.mcgill.ca), Elizabeth Fiset (health.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Erin Shier Coyne (erin.coyne2@mail.mcgill.ca), Frédéric Louis Voisard (frederic.boisard@mail.mcgill.ca), Gesa (internal.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Grace Olivia Dupuis (grace.dupuis@mail.mcgill.ca), Jacinthe Deschenes (studentlife.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Jason Paul Danovitch (jason.danovitch@mail.mcgill.ca), Jennifer Marton (jennifer.marton@mail.mcgill.ca), Jennifer Murray (academic.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Julien Ouellet (external.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Laura Marie Cohen (laura.cohen@mail.mcgill.ca), Laura Marie Whidden (laura.whidden@mail.mcgill.ca), Maeghan O’Neill (maeghan.oneill@mail.mcgill.ca), Marisa Emily Cressatti (marisa.cressatti@mail.mcgill.ca), Mathieu Francois Eric PrZau (mathieu.preau@mail.mcgill.ca), Michael Turabian (michael.turabian@mail.mcgill.ca), Nikki Meadows (finance.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Nora Hatton Hope (nora.hope@mail.mcgill.ca), Rebecca Flore (rebecca.flore@mail.mcgill.ca), Renata Helena Bahous (renata.bahous@mail.mcgill.ca), Sahil Kumar (sahil.kumar@mail.mcgill.ca), Sandrine Couldwell (sandrine.couldwell@mail.mcgill.ca), Sarah Kesia Bonish (sarah.bonish@mail.mcgill.ca), Sarah Marcil (sarah.marcil@mail.mcgill.ca), Shauna Daniel Wilson Retallick (shaun.retallick@mail.mcgill.ca), Sri Budhi Utami (sri.utami@mail.mcgill.ca), Stéfanie Bergeron (stefanie.bergeron@mail.mcgill.ca), Suzanne Elizabeth George (suzanne.george@mail.mcgill.ca), Sylvia Elena Josephy (sylvia.josephy2@mail.mcgill.ca), Victor Manuel Frankel Vilches (victor.frankel@mail.mcgill.ca), Vladimir Reinhartz (vladimir.reinhartz@mail.mcgill.ca), Xavier Laplante Laberge (xavier.laplantelaberge@mail.mcgill.ca), Brighita Lungu (membership.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Barbara Christina Mindt (barbara.mindt@mail.mcgill.ca), Ayokunle Olarewaju (ayo.olarewaju@mail.mcgill.ca), Ashley Chin (ashley.chin@mail.mcgill.ca), Andrew Blakney (andrew.blakney2@mail.mcgill.ca), Amy Vincent (society.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Amanda Winegardner (environment.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Alexander Arthur Emmott (alexander.emmott@mail.mcgill.ca), Alexander Amundsen (alexander.amundsen@mail.mcgill.ca) Guests

Logan Smith (BGSA), Alice Chan (EGSS), Joanna Richardson (GLSA), Luigi Bruno (GLSA), Hector Galvez (MCGSS), Joey Van Weelden (PPSMUA), Catherine Auger (SPOTGSA), Cem Ertekin (Daily), Shrinkhanla Dawade (Tribune), Jenna Stanwood (Tribune), Ana Best (BoD)

Call to order

7:22 PM

1 Approval of the agenda

Speaker informed council that there would only be one item on the agenda during this emergency meeting.

Speaker called the agenda for approval.

Agenda approved.
2 Speaker’s report

7:22 PM

Speaker introduced herself. She went over the CFS Referendum rules that will be taking place on January 15-16, 2015 to ensure council members are notified and will comply with the rules of the referendum set out by the CRO of CFS. She also noted that there will be no business arising or approval of the minutes during this meeting.

3 Business Arising

7:24 PM

3.1 Motion to take an official position on the CFS referendum

WHEREAS a vote will be held on January 15-16, 2015 to determine whether the Post Graduate Students Society of McGill (PGSS) should be a member of the CFS

WHEREAS the CFS is a federal corporation that claims PGSS owes it over $100,000 per year in membership dues.

WHEREAS CFS’ purpose is “to represent Canadian students in the federal level of decision making...” but according to the Canadian constitution, education is an exclusively provincial matter.

WHEREAS in the past three years, CFS has not met with the Quebec Education Minister or appeared before the Quebec National Assembly to advocate on behalf of Quebec students.

WHEREAS the CFS National Executive originally tried to schedule this vote during December exams.

WHEREAS In 2009, CFS subsidiary Travel CUTS was put into receivership after losing $4.3 million the previous year.

WHEREAS for this referendum, the CFS-appointed Chief Returning Officer “will not approve materials that...refer to legal or quasi legal action/s before the courts that relate to the Referendum, or to other legal or quasi legal actions...”

WHEREAS according to CFS bylaws, if McGill students do not vote to leave CFS in this referendum, they will not be permitted to vote again for another five years.

BIRT PGSS Council endorse a “NO” vote in the CFS referendum of PGSS members

Financial Affairs Officer asked to extend speaking rights to the Chair of the No Committee

Financial Affairs Officer motivated in favour of this motion. She proceeded to explained some of the reasons leading up to the CFS Referendum.

J. Mooney (CGSS) introduced himself as the Chair of the No Committee. He explained that CFS is a federal corporation that "represents Canadian students in the federal level of decision making." CFS bylaws required at least 20% of the members of a local association to sign a petition to initiate the process to leave CFS and that a decision would be made within 90 days of receiving the petition. In the case of McGill, it took CFS 301 days to process the petition. He further noted that CFS originally tried to schedule this referendum last year during exam session, which violated their own bylaws. According to their own bylaws, if the referendum does not meet quorum, it would be deemed invalid.

He continued to explain the rules for the referendum. There would be no campaigning in Thomson House. No misleading campaigning material, which would be determined by CRO of CFS. The process of leaving
CFS was made very difficult. Their fees are over $100,000 annually. He encouraged everyone to vote in favour of this motion.

D. Kaufman (GAP) said from his understanding, this referendum was approved by Quebec Court, and asked why was it that the CFS was deciding upon the details of the referendum itself.

J. Mooney (CGSS) explained that he cannot discuss anything involving legal or quasi-legal questions. These rules apply to the referendum because they are from the CFS bylaws and it also empowers the CRO of CFS to create the addition rules that are applied to this referendum.

S. Josephy (GSAN) asked where the money went if it was not used to represent Quebec students.

J. Mooney (CGSS) explained that the only thing he is approved to reveal is that in 2009, the CFS-owned subsidiary Travel CUTS was put into receivership after losing $4.3 million the previous year.

F. Voisard (MMGESAs) asked what the Travel CUTS were.

J. Mooney (CGSS) explained that purpose of the Travel CUTS (subsidiary of CFS) was to provide discounted airfares to students. He noted that this is public information that could be found on the CFS website.

A. Olanrewaju (BMESS) commented that the Travel CUTS and the quasi-legal actions seemed a bit of a stretch. He asked since education is a provincial matter, why was it that PGSS joined the CFS in the first place.

Speaker noted that we cannot discuss WHEREAS clauses.

J. Mooney (CGSS) suggested for him to check out s. 93 of the Constitution that would provide additional information on laws in relation to education.

S. George (NGSA) asked whether there are any pre-edited emails available to councils for them to send out to their fellow graduate students.

J. Mooney (CGSS) answered that there is a template email. He also noted that there is a website (www.notocfs.com), a Facebook page (www.facebook.com/notocfs), and also Twitter (www.twitter.com/notocfs) for more information. #PGSSnotoCFS

Financial Affairs Officer added that the reason council was only hearing from a No Committee member was because there were no identified Yes Committee members present.

S. Kumar (EMGSS) asked whether PGSS has come up with a plan on what to do with the fees paid to the CFS.

Financial Affairs Officer explained that the fees have been paid. After the referendum there will be a later discussion about this. She noted that the total amount PGSS would owe is around $100,000, which would be approximately $13 per full-time student.

N. Hope (GASP) asked whether PGSS is the only student government in McGill voting on this referendum?

Financial Affairs Officer replied yes, since PGSS is the only student government within McGill that is a member of the CFS.

A. Amundsen (MEGA) asked how student organizations would benefit for the ‘saved’ membership fees.

J. Mooney (CGSS) said he cannot answer. He will try to get a statement approved for what was just asked.

Speaker asked for all doors to be barred.

Speaker called this motion to a vote.
Motion passed.

Yes - 44

No - 0

Abstention - 1

7:44 PM Adjourned
## Agenda

1. Approval of the agenda
2. Speaker’s report
3. Announcements
   3.1 Power shut down at Thomson House
   3.2 Love Sex Week Performances
   3.3 Tabled - Presentation by the Vice-Principal Communications and External Relations
   3.4 Reminder to Council members re: reports and agenda items
   3.5 Call for Candidates & Referendum Questions
   3.6 Advisory Committee on the Selection of the Dean of Science - last call
   3.7 Board of Directors
4. Floor Items
   4.1 Council Meeting December 3th, 2014
   4.2 Special Meeting of Council January 2015
5. Reports
   5.1 Applications sent from the Appointments Board Committee for Approval
   5.2 Applications sent from the Appointments Board Committee for Approval
   5.3 2015-02-04 Report of the Financial Affairs Officer (February 2015 Council)
   5.4 External Affairs Officer - Report to Council February 2015
   5.5 Equity Commi Report February 2015
   5.6 2015-02-04 Report of the Member Support Commissioner (February 2015 Council)
   5.7 2015-02-04- Report of the Environment Commissioner (February 2015 Council)
   5.8 Report from the Board of Directors
   5.9 IAO Report to Council, Feb 2015
   5.10 AAO Report to Council February 2015
   5.11 Member Services Officer - Report to Council - February 2015
   5.12 Report of the Secretary General
6. Question Period
7. New Business
   7.1 Resignation of the Secretary General
   7.2 Confidence Vote
   7.3 PGSS 2015 Interim Election
   7.4 2015-2016 General Elections & Referendums
   7.5 Motion to advocate for the suspension of existing tuition policies for time limit students
   7.6 Intramural Sports (Grants) Program
   7.7 Motion Regarding Murdered And Disappeared Students In Mexico
Call to order

6:31 PM

1 Approval of the agenda

Equity Commissioner requested to remove his motion, “Confidence Vote.”

Speaker called this agenda to a vote.

Motion Passed.

2 Speaker’s report

Colby introduced himself as speaker of the night.
3   Announcements

6:33 PM  3.1 Power shut down at Thomson House

Please note that there is a planned power shut down scheduled for 10:00pm this evening. Please be advised that you may be asked to leave the building by 9:45pm.

Speaker announced to everyone that they would have to leave the building by 9:45 PM this evening. He advised everyone to use their speaking time wisely.

6:33 PM   3.2 Love Sex Week Performances

A performance will take place at Thomson House the 13th of February

S. Kumar (EMGSS) gave a brief overview of the events that will take place during Love Sex Week.

He announced that there will be a Burlesque Show this week. He warned everyone that there will be limited seating. The Speaker noted that his friend will be performing. There will be a chance to win three pre-screening tickets to Fifty Shades of Grey.

There is also Trivia Night and Speed Dating.

A Valentine party will take place at the Thomson House Ballroom on Friday, February 13 starting at 9:30 PM to end Love Sex Week. Again this event has limited capacity so be sure to come early. There will be a photobooth, candy bar, and a 90s throwback music from live DJs. Each student is allowed two guests.

6:36 PM   3.3 Tabled - Presentation by the Vice-Principal Communications and External Relations

Presentation of the Vice-Principal Communications and External Relations on the Royal Victoria Hospital site.

O. Marcil (Vice-Principal Communications/External Relations) provided an update on the Royal Victoria Hospital Project.

He mentioned the deficit of space of McGill University. With limited options and knowing that Royal Victoria Hospital is going to move, McGill thought of acquiring the hospital. It has long relations with McGill Medicine Faculty. Its ideal location gives it a reason to incorporate it into the campus.

He further explained that the plan is to tear down the patrimonial elements and rebuild it for academic purposes. McGill has notified the government that they are interested in the Royal Victoria Hospital. The proposal is to become the owner of all of the facilities, but more discussion would be required to decide on this matter.

Since McGill is a green campus, the parking lots would be given back as green spaces as part of Mont Royal. Carbon footprint on the mountain would be smaller than before. Height of buildings would be shorter also. Other new facilities (i.e. cafes) could be possible. The part of University Street leading up to the Neuro could become a pedestrian street.

There are also plans to build a New convocation Hall that we are all probably not going to be able to enjoy.
The government would be the first partner (Government owns the building now). It would be emptied April 2015. Since the emptied hospital could become an urban ghost area during the time of reconstruction, it would be important to maintain the security of the facility.

The next step would be for to determine how to organize the space for academic purposes. McGill would like to finish works by 2021.

Financial Affairs Officer asked where we are going to get the $250 million from to finance this project.

O. Marcil (Vice Principal Communications) answered that there are many ways to fund this project. Since this is a building owned by the government, they would allocate money to McGill should we reconstruct it for academic purposes. He explained some possible ways of financing.

1. McGill would have to sell some of its assets (houses given to McGill over the years that are not useful for academic purposes).

2. Many spaces are rented by McGill currently. He noted the possibility of launching charity projects during the 250th anniversary of McGill.

Financial Affairs Officer followed up and mentioned that space is already scarce. Selling more property would limit more space and there would be a lapse during this project. She asked what would be done about this problem.

O. Marcil (Vice Principal Communications) answered that a plan would be in place should this plan go forward.

Y. Bresler (MGAPS) asked how does the size of the proposed campus compares to our current size

O. Marcil (Vice Principal Communications) answered that it would be approximately 10% of the current downtown campus

F. Armstrong (Philosophy) noted that there might be other people could be interested in the Royal Victoria Hospital and asked whether there is anyone else who is interested.

O. Marcil (Vice Principal Communications) answered that he is not aware of any other projects and interests expressed for the Royal Victoria Hospital.

3.4 Reminder to Council members re: reports and agenda items

Please remember to title your reports and agenda items when uploading them to the stream

Example: Report of the Chief Returning Officer to Council February 4th 2015

Speaker notified councilors that Amy wanted everyone to follow the formula of uploading reports and agenda items to increase efficiency and make things easier.

3.5 Call for Candidates & Referendum Questions

The Chief Returning Officer invites councilors to put forward their candidacy for the 2015 - 2016 General Elections, as well as for the position of Interim Secretary-General, of which the nominations are currently in progress.
As well, the officer reminds council that referendum questions must be submitted to the CRO one week prior to the March Council meeting. Any questions submitted after the 4th of March will not be put on the ballot.

Lastly, the officer invited Councils to attend, and publicize, the dates of the election and by elections, including the debates on February 10th and 17th, as well as the nomination period which ends February 9th.

Chief Returning Officer announced that 2015-2016 General Elections is coming up. He encouraged everyone to apply. They are also looking to fill the position of Interim Secretary-General and nominations are currently taking place.

He also reminded council that referendum questions must be submitted one week prior to the March Council Meeting.

Lastly, he encouraged councilors to notify everyone the dates of the debates taking place on February 10th and 17, as well as the nomination period that is ending on February 9th.

7:02 PM  
3.6 Advisory Committee on the Selection of the Dean of Science - last call

Last call to provide input!

R. Debrosse (GASP) announced that they are currently finalizing the candidates that they are considering for the Dean of Science. Any last input should be addressed to her by next Wednesday.

She also announced that she is trying to put forward ideas on how to improve the governance for Board of Directors. A resolution would probably be presented next council. She summarized 3 potential bylaws changes that will address the following three problems:

1. Lack of independence (Independent chair, not Secretary-General)
2. Increased stability and accessibility (Increase the number of people on the board. There are currently 7 people and they would like to add 2 more people to the group).
3. Concerns regarding nomination process (More democratic process, perhaps elect members at AGM)

She wanted to consult with council regarding this proposal. She encouraged everyone to bring forward any comments and suggestions to this process.

7:09 PM  
3.7 Board of Directors

A few modifications of the board’s functioning is considered, please provide input!

L. Cheung (MGSSA-Sociology) explained that past PhD7, candidates are in a de-registered state. However before PhD9 you have to apply for reinstatement.

Reinstatement fees policy states that the student must pay required fees at the time of registration. They are defined as the tuition portion (Up to 2 years, maximum of 6 semesters). She asked council to bring this information to fellow students.

Another solution is that candidates can forcefully withdraw from their program, but when they are ready to submit their thesis, they can apply for readmission. However, this withdrawal would be permanent on their transcript and some students might not want to resort to this option.
She noted that they are considering to revisit this policy. She suggested everyone to speak with their Associate Dean for more information should this be an applicable problem.

4 Floor Items

7:13 PM 4.1 Council Meeting December 3th, 2014

Speaker called to vote on December minutes.
Motion passed.

7:13 PM 4.2 Special Meeting of Council January 2015

Speaker called to vote on January Minutes.
Motion passed.

5 Reports

7:14 PM 5.1 Applications sent from the Appointments Board Committee for Approval

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student Co-Curricular Involvement Advisory Group</td>
<td>Danielle Claire Toccalino</td>
<td>Approved</td>
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<tr>
<td>Committee on Libraries</td>
<td>Danielle Claire Toccalino</td>
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<tr>
<td>Academic Affairs</td>
<td>Nurmemet Abdukerim</td>
<td>Approved</td>
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<td>Internal Affairs Committee</td>
<td>Igor Kozlov</td>
<td>Approved</td>
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<td>Life Sciences Library Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Danielle Claire Toccalino</td>
<td>Approved</td>
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<tr>
<td>Council of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies</td>
<td>Natheer Alatawneh</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies</td>
<td>Stephanie Law</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies</td>
<td>Arun Duraisamy</td>
<td>Approved</td>
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</table>

Academic Affairs Officer asked to approve this.

Speaker called this motion to a vote.
Motion Passed.

7:15 PM 5.2 Applications sent from the Appointments Board Committee for Approval

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<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tr>
<td>Judicial Board</td>
<td>Luigi Bruno</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judicial Board</td>
<td>Eliza Kate Bateman</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Speaker called this motion to a vote.
Motion Passed.

7:15 PM 5.3 2015-02-04 Report of the Financial Affairs Officer (February 2015 Council)


Financial Affairs Officer thanked everyone who voted during CFS Referendum. Final results of referendum will available next Tuesday.

Any other questions that are not CFS related could be addressed to Nikki.

R. Debrosse (GASP) asked when results would be here and she also asked what the reaction was from the CFS about this referendum.

Financial Affairs Officer said results would probably be in by next Tuesday. The CFS have not yet reached out to PGSS. However, they said they would respect the democratic rights of students.

7:18 PM 5.4 External Affairs Officer - Report to Council February 2015

Report of the External Affairs Officer

2015-01-28 External Affairs Officer - Report to Council February 2015

External Affairs Officer mentioned that they had one of the best conferences last week at the FEUQ. They were able to push what council wanted in December (Divest McGill). They were able to get a research pass on sustainable development within universities. Changes were also made to the annual campaign that are beneficial to Graduate students.

He also noted that he wanted to do a PGSA executive vote to approve the Fuel Policy. They are trying to add a referendum so people affected by this could vote. This would be mentioned in emails.

Lastly, he addressed about the CFS Referendum stating that "WE WERE AMAZING." PGSS has received several calls from other universities.

R. Debrosse (GASP) asked about the FEUQ Congress that happened on January 23 and inquired which position Amélie Bourduge got.

External Affairs Officer answered that she would be the internal coordinator because she was the only one nominated.

Lastly, the External Affairs Officer noted that the next FEUQ conference will be at Thomson House and he encouraged everyone to get involved.

7:22 PM 5.5 Equity Commish Report February 2015

Equity Commish Report February 2015
2015-01-28 Equity Commish Report February 2015

Equity Commissioner thanked everyone again for CFS referendum participation.

He noted on his participation at Sub-committees that raises ethnic relations, where they are currently editing changes to report.

He also announced that Healthy McGill will put forth with a poster, digital, web based form that will show all McGill related services available to Graduate students.

He also announced that there will be another joint event on Games Night for those who are new to winter. It will be on Feb 23 and it will encompass a game of Monopoly.

Academic Affairs Officer asked for more information about the interest group committee.

Equity Commissioner explained that PGSS members are allowed to join and start SSMU clubs. The interest group committee oversees these clubs. It would be fused into the portfolio of the equity commissioner. It ensures that that the best interest of PGSS is safeguarded.

5.6 2015-02-04 Report of the Member Support Commissioner (February 2015 Council)

Member Support Commissioner announced that if anyone is interested in becoming a Member Support Commissioner, they are welcomed to speak with him.

5.7 2015-02-04- Report of the Environment Commissioner (February 2015 Council)

Environment Commissioner announced that there will be a McGill Sustainability Symposium ran by Geography Graduate Students that will take place on March 13th in the Thomson House Ballroom. For more information, please visit https://mcgillsustainabilitysymposium.wordpress.com/

She also noted that Monthly green drinks events are continuing. Any topics and broader issues of the environment could be addressed to her.

Finally she pointed out that they are currently working with Divest McGill on projects relating to advocacy. They are also working the external affairs committee on gathering research to push forward climate change advocacy to present at the FEUQ Congress. There is also research done on PGSS travel.

5.8 Report from the Board of Directors

R. Debrosse (GASP) went through the following topics on her report.
On November 24th, Ubriety reported that $200,000 has been spent on this system and it is not working (perfectly)

She also mentioned that council voted in favor of paying fees to CFS, around $270,000, under protest (which was necessary for the referendum to take place)

She also noted that on December 11th they decided to postpone the discussion regarding PGSS leadership due to the CFS referendum after confidence vote of executives was received.

Health Commissioner asked where budget line the CFS payment came out of.

Financial Affairs Officer answered that there is a line of credit that PGSS is working under. They are trying to figure out the long term solution for this situation. For now, PGSS is using internal money.

Health Commissioner followed up and asked whether this money going to come from the special projects fund?

Financial Affairs Officer answered that some of it did come from the special projects fund. Regarding where the money is going to come from, this is something that is still under more discussion.

7:35 PM 5.9 IAO Report to Council, Feb 2015

2015-01-29 IAO Report to Council, Feb 2015

Internal Affairs Officer noted that the first half of the month was dominated by CFS related matters. Currently, everything else is happening normally. He noted that there are a ton of events coming up, such as Love Sex Week next week. He encouraged council to read Newswire regarding upcoming events and redistribute this information back to their GSAs.

Health Commissioner mentioned that not many people seemed to be participating in Love Sex Week events. She asked why there was a delay in promoting the events.

Internal Affairs Officer questioned the source of her statistics. Currently all events are sold out.

7:38 PM 5.10 AAO Report to Council February 2015

2015-01-29 AAO Report to Council February 2015

Academic Affairs Officer mentioned that the CFS referendum went well. She sent out her gratitude to everyone involved, especially J. Mooney and N. Meadows.

She announced that there will be a wonderful supervision event coming up (Managing My Supervisor). The next two session will be held on Feb 24th & March 21th. She encouraged more students to come forward with supervision issues. She also mentioned that an online platform is will be available in a year or so.

7:40 PM 5.11 Member Services Officer - Report to Council - February 2015

click on the links ;)

Post Graduate Students Society of McGill University
3650 McTavish Street, Montreal, Quebec
2015-01-29 Members Services Officer - Report to Council - February 2015

Member Services Officer thanked everyone for their CFS participation. She mentioned the Federal government trip had a great response and she encouraged everyone who is interested government and policy to participate since it is a great networking event.

They are still waiting for Dean of Students to answer emails on Grant applications.

7:42 PM 5.12 Report of the Secretary General

Report of the Secretary General

2015-01-28 Report of the Secretary General

Secretary-General gave thanks to those who helped with the CFS. He noted that he already applied for his resignation. However, during this period, he will still be attending meetings. He has been concentrating on organizing documents to ensure a smooth transition.


Health Commissioner mentioned about the infographic that will describe all students services. This will be clickable.

She also mentioned the student services mental health website. It will be a Portal for mental health information. It also includes a screening tool to assess mental health status.

She also went to a lunch for women and leadership.

6 Question Period

7:44 PM

Y. Bresler (MGAPS) asked for an update on budget.

Financial Affairs Officer mentioned most of the costs are CFS related, which were highly over-budgeted. However, this was expected. However, she promised a full report on March.

7 New Business

7:46 PM 7.1 Resignation of the Secretary General

Whereas the Secretary General has presented his resignation letter to the Executive Committee;

Whereas the Executive Committee has approved the resignation of the Secretary General;

BIRT Council ratifies the resignation of the Secretary General
Resignation of the Secretary General

Secretary-General announced that he had presented his resignation to executive committee. Council would now need to ratify this resignation.

Equity Commissioner asked why the resignation was only coming into effect on Feb 16th when there is a lack of commitment currently from the Secretary-General. He noted that there were CFS meetings that the Secretary-General did not attend last year for the first week of campaigning without approved leave.

Secretary-General answered that he was conducting research in Mexico. He mentioned he did not go to the meeting for the CFS because he went to another meeting regarding his transitioning.

Health Commissioner asked when transition period start. She explained that she is asking this question because someone holding the post and someone during transition period is different.

Secretary-General answered that he is still fully active as of the 16th of February. Transition period starts on February 16th.

Speaker called this motion to a vote.

Motion passed.

7:50 PM 7.2 Confidence Vote

WHEREAS the Secretary-General was absent with pay during large parts of the CFS referendum campaign even though he did not receive the explicit approval of Executive Committee for this leave as required by Society Activities Manual 1.14.1,

WHEREAS the Secretary-General lost a motion of confidence at the Executive Committee by a greater than 2/3 majority in December 2014,

WHEREAS the Secretary-General unilaterally signed a letter regarding university policy on sexual assault using his title and the PGSS name without previously informing, consulting, or seeking the approval of any body within the PGSS,

BIRT the Council express its lack of confidence in the Secretary-General

BIFRT the Council requests that the PGSS Executive Committee rescinds its motion to have Juan Pinot represent the PGSS on the McGill Board of Governors and the McGill Senate after the his resignation is effective.

Removed from the Agenda.

7:50 PM 7.3 PGSS 2015 Interim Election

Whereas the PGSS Secretary-General has resigned and the SAM, at section 9:14, requires the CRO to conduct a by-election to fill any vacancies within 10 business days.

Whereas the CRO has proposed that Council adopt the following dates that respect the periods outlined in the SAM for by-elections

BIRT Council approved the CRO’s proposed By-Election voting days of February 18th - 24th, 2015
Chief Returning Officer said that the dates presented looked reasonable and suggested everyone to approve this so we can have a new Secretary-General to keep things moving smoothly.

Speaker called this to a vote.

Motion passed.

7:51 PM **7.4 2015-2016 General Elections & Referendums**

Whereas the Chief Returning Officer, as per SAM article 9:1 & 2:2, has elected to delay the General Elections and Referendums as to accommodate the Defederation Referendum of the Canadian Federation of Students.

Whereas the CRO has proposed that Council adopt the following dates that respect the periods outlined in the SAM,

BIRT Council approved the CRO’s proposed General Election and Referendum voting days of April 6th - 15th, 2015.

**Chief Returning Officer explained that the General election was delayed because of CFS referendum.** He moved in favour of this motion because these proposed voting days will get new executive team in time for turnover date.

D. Toccalino (GSAN) asked whether there will be a conflict with exam period.

**Chief Returning Officer replied that he has no idea when exam period is. He mentioned that this election will be done through online voting and requires minimal time.**

Speaker called this to a vote.

Motion passed.

7:53 PM **7.5 Motion to advocate for the suspension of existing tuition policies for time limit students**

Submitted by Jason Jensen (MGSSA-SOCIOLOGY)

Motion to advocate for the suspension of existing tuition policies for time limit students

WHEREAS students who exceed the time limitation are de-registered and are unable to benefit from student status both inside and outside of the university, as well as lose access to university services, facilities, and academic repositories.

WHEREAS students who later submit their thesis within 2 years of de-registration are charged retroactively for all semesters between the time limitation and the thesis submission, up to a maximum of six semesters.

WHEREAS students are thereby charged for services not rendered and cannot benefit from student status.

WHEREAS the GPS has admitted to the need for revisions to existing policy and is revising it.

WHEREAS current students hitting the time limit are still subject to the current policy.
BIRT PGSS advocate for the immediate suspension of the current policy of charging students for services and student status not rendered.

BIFRT PGSS motion for this suspension at the McGill senate.

BIFRT PGSS work with McGill on creating new time limitation policies which are fair.

Motion to advocate for the suspension of existing tuition policies for time limit students

J. Jensen (MGSSA-Sociology) asked to extend speaking rights to Leslie Cheung.

L. Cheung noted that students should also bring forward the issue of reinstatement fees to their GPD as well as Associate Dean.

She mentioned so far, individual solutions have been found to pay these fees. However, she asked PGSS to advocate on the revision of a policy that is beneficiary to students. She mentioned that any revisions to the policy should be in consultation with PGSS.

B. Sharif (GAP) asked for an elaboration on solutions.

L. Cheung (MGSSA-Sociology) explained that there is the option to Withdraw, where a withdraw narrative would be on the transcript, and readmission is not guaranteed. Students can also simply pay for the fees.

R. Debrosse (GASP) asked for an expansion on third clause and what fair entails.

L. Cheung (MGSSA-Sociology) explained that she is targeting reinstatement fees because it is unfair to students since it asks for full payment for services that are not provided.

Health commissioner supported this motion. She asked whether the GPS mentioned if they are willing to change their policy and information regarding the timeline of the re-evaluation of this issue.

L. Cheung (MGSSA-Sociology) answered that they are only willing to revisit this issue at this point. With regards to the time limit, she mentioned that some policy took at least a year for revision.

J. Jensen (MGSSA-Sociology) added that regarding the third clause examples of unfairness, this could be applicable to students who are heavily in debt and international students because they lose their VISA status and have to repay their debt once they are de-registered.

Academic Affairs Officer spoke in favour of this motion.

Speaker called this motion to a vote.

Motion Passed.

7.6 Intramural Sports (Grants) Program

WHEREAS the Executive Committee has discussed developing and implementing an Intramural Sports (Grants) Program that would allow Post-Graduate teams to connect with one another and form intramural sports teams and potentially apply for financial support for various intramural teams;

WHEREAS this sort of program has the ability to take on several different forms, including as a form similar to the existing Grants Program or one that is more logistic in nature;

BIRT Council enter into a ‘Committee of the Whole’ for 10 minutes to discuss this program and possible criteria for its implementation.

Already addressed this in another meeting.
7.7 Motion Regarding Murdered And Disappeared Students In Mexico

WHEREAS three students from the Ayotzinapa teacher-training college were found dead in the southern Mexican city of Iguala on September 26, 2014, after the municipal police opened fire on them;

WHEREAS the body of one of the students was found with his face skinned and his eyes gouged out;

WHEREAS 43 students from the same college also disappeared in the city of Iguala on September 26, 2014, and the whereabouts of 42 of them remain unknown;

WHEREAS, according to Amnesty International, students from that college had been attacked in December 2011 by federal and state police, resulting in widespread torture and two student deaths;

WHEREAS any citizen has the right to voice a critical opinion on public funding for education without being subjected to grave human rights abuses;

BIRT that interested PGSS members be authorized to work with student federations like the FÉUQ (Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec) in raising awareness about: the disappeared and murdered students of Ayotzinapa, Mexico; the actions taken by their families to find them; and the initiatives put forth in Canada and around the world to support the victims of these human rights violations and ensure that those responsible for perpetrating them are brought to justice.

I. Rodriguez (APF) gave background information on the event where students were found dead at the Ayotzinapa teacher-training college.

She asked PGSS to write a letter to support the family of students denouncing their murder and put pressure on the Mexican government.

External Affairs Officers motivate in favour of this motion.

S. Josephy (GSAN) asked whether the Canadian government done anything in this regard.

I. Rodriguez replied no.

Speaker called this motion to a vote.

Motion Passed.

Adjourned
Agenda

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Attending

Academic Affairs Officer (Jennifer Murray), Alexander Arthur Emmott, Alexei Kazarine, Anila Naz, Andrew Blakney, Ayokunle Olanrewaju, Apollina Sharma, Bailey Ann Rathwell, Benjamin Alexander Schmidt, Basem Adel Danish, Barbara Christina Mindt, Chief Returning Officer (Colby Briggs), Daniel Robert Kaufman, Danielle Claire Toccalino, Douglas Cote, Dominique St-Pierre, Environment Commissioner (Amanda Winegardner), Equity Commissioner (Krause Michael), External Affairs Officer (Julien Ouellet), Farshad Navah, Fayden Sara Bokhari, Financial Affairs Officer (Nikki Meadows), Frédérick Armstrong, Grace Olivia Dupuis, Health Commissioner (Elizabeth Fiset), Illa Eleonora Carrillo Rodriguez, Internal Affairs Officer (Gesa), Jaclyn Adriana Hearnden, Isabel Harvey, Jason Olaf Jensen, Jason Paul Danovitch, Jennifer Marton, Jessica Nadeau, José Héctor Gálvez López, Kaviyanka Selvasandran, Kristin Marie Franseen, Laura Marie Whidden, Laura Marie Cohen, Logan James Smith, Marisa Emily Cressatti, Member Services Officer (Bright Lu), Member Support Commissioner (Vikrant Bhosle), Nora Hatton Hope, Pierre Fanzhu, Recording Secretary (Christina Liu), Rebecca Flore, Renata Helen Bahous, Sahil Kumar, Sarah Marcil, Sarah Kesia Bonish, Sarah Meghan Hau-Sing Mah, Shaun Daniel Wilson Retallick, Society Affairs Coordinator (Amy Vincent), Sri Budhi Utami, Stéfanie Bergeron, Suzanne Elizabeth George, Sylvia Elena Josephy, Willy-Dac Gia-Hao Huynh, Yony Bresler

Guests

Hayley Lim (McGill Tribune), Laurie-Anne Benoit (McGill Tribune), Joshua Chin (SSMU), Shrinkhwala Dawadi (McGill Tribune), Leslie Cheung, Karim Bouayad-Gervais (Board of Directors), Regine Debrosse (Board of Directors), Ana Best (Board of Directors), Yining Chen (GSAN), Samara Perez (GASP), Eleonore Nouel (Le Delit), Shane Caldwell (BGSS), Jonathan Mooney (CGSS), Devin Mills (EGSS), Marina Cupido (McGill Daily), Esther Perrin (Le Delit), Krista Reimer (GSAMS)

6:18 PM Call to order

1 Approval of the agenda

6:18 PM 1.1 Add Item: SSMU

R. Simmons (Parliamentarian) welcomed everyone who is interested to volunteer for the SSMU General Assembly that is happening on Sunday, March 15, 2015.

Bribes include recommendation letters. A link to information about the SSMU General Assembly will be available soon.
1.2 Approval of the agenda

Speaker said to disregard item 8.1.

Secretary-General asked about limit on speaking time, to which the Speaker replied is one (1) minute. The Secretary-General also asked to move an item to the floor.

The Speaker noted to admit this item to the agenda would require a two-third majority.

Equity Commissioner motivated against this adding this item to the agenda. He noted that there has been no budget update yet and hence there was not enough information or time to make a decision on such a large fee increase.

External Affairs Officer motivated for this motion. He expressed that it was a reasonable request to debate the actual content of the fee increase matter.

Health Commissioner motivated against this motion. She noted that she has met with Financial Affairs Officer and at this point still does not have a clear understanding of the state of financial affairs. She expressed that there was not enough information provided to have a well informed debate.

Secretary-General noted that if this motion was approved, it would go into referendum. He also said that this has already been approved by the executive committee. He advised everyone to at least approve this motion for discussion.

S. George (NGSA) asked what would happen if the motion was not approved today.

Secretary-General replied that it would not go on to the referenda.

Health Commissioner asked whether there was a second referendum period in fall where this could be asked.

The Speaker replied that there is another referendum period in the fall, since there is one every semester. However, she is not certain whether or not this could be asked.

Financial Affairs Officer pointed out that a referendum period could be called at any point.

Speaker called this motion to a vote.

The motion does not pass. The item is not added to the agenda.

Motion passed.

1.3 Add Item: Academic affairs officer report to council march 2015

No questions.

1.4 Add Item: Academic Affairs Officer Report to Council March 2015

No questions.
2 Announcements

6:18 PM 2.1 Vacant Seats on the PGSS Board of Directors

The PGSS Board of Directors is looking for two members:
1) An external (non PGSS member) position, currently vacant.
2) An internal (PGSS member) position, opening May 1st.

Yony Bresler introduced himself as the new interim Secretary General. He announced that there are currently two vacancies within the Board of Directors, one being an external position open to non-PGSS members. Those with business, accounting, or legal experience are welcomed to apply. The other position is an internal position that is open to PGSS members. For more information on that position, candidates can email the Secretary-General or other members of the executive.

6:20 PM 2.2 Committee Vacancies

Join some committees, because we need you to.

Academic Affairs Officer noted that there are vacancies currently in different committees and any interested candidates can email academic.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca. For more information, candidates can also check Facebook and Newswire.

6:20 PM 2.3 Add Item: Post Doctoral

K. Reimer (GSAMS) and S. Perez (GASP) introduced themselves. They are currently sitting on the Committee for the selection of the new Dean of Post Doctoral Studies and are looking for input from certain graduate and post doctoral students. Those who have information can contact them at krista.reimer@mail.mcgill.ca and samara.perez@mail.mcgill.ca.

6:21 PM 2.4 Add Item: CRO Announcement

For those who are interested in forming a referendum committee, contact Colby Briggs (CRO). He announced that he would send out more information out on the listserv including nomination form which would give individuals access to the online voting system.

3 Speaker’s report

Speaker introduced herself. She would allow items to be moved onto the floor due to time constraint issues. Discussion would take place with two speakers for and two speakers against on the matter. She reminded everyone to use their time wisely.
4 Reports

4.1 Secretary-General Report to Council March 2015

2015-03-06 Secretary-General Report to Council (March 2015)

The new Secretary-General introduced himself. He noted that he started last Tuesday at 5 PM. He welcomed questions from everyone.

4.2 Applications sent from the Appointments Board Committee for Approval

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Committee for the Selection of the Family Care Coordinator</td>
<td>Brighta Lungu</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal Affairs Committee</td>
<td>Alireza Samani</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies</td>
<td>Devin J Mills</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Students Caucus</td>
<td>Naresh Gaj</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal Affairs Committee</td>
<td>Mina Naz Anadolu</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Studies Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Rafal Ramzi</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Thomson Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching &amp; Supervision</td>
<td>Stephanie Giovanna Scala</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JBSCE Equity Subcommittee on First People</td>
<td>Kaila Rose de Boer</td>
<td>Approved</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Speaker called this motion to a vote.

Motion passed.

4.3 Health Commissioner Report to Council March 2015

2015-03-06 Health Commissioner Report to Council March 2015

Health Commissioner apologized to council that most of her report was pertaining to the GU15.

4.4 Internal Affairs Officer Report to Council March 2015

2015-03-05 Internal Affairs Officer Report to Council, March 2015

Internal Affairs Officer reminded everyone that the Sugar Shack event is taking place on March 28th. Interested members can purchase tickets and keep also their eye out for more upcoming events on the website and Newswire.

4.5 External Affairs Officer Report to Council March 2015
2015-03-07 External Affairs Officer Report to Council (March 2015)

External Affairs Officer asked for a closed session for first part.

Speaker noted that this would require a vote and suggested to move the closed session at the end of the meeting.

External Affairs Officer announced that they will create a new campaign that would ask students to call the members of the National Assembly to explain their research and possibly generate new money for the research.

This would be coming into effect in August, and this campaign would be launched soon.

6:38 PM 4.6 Member Services Officer Report to Council March 2015

2015-03-10 Member Services Officer Report to Council March 2015

No questions.

6:38 PM 4.7 Financial Affairs Officer Report to Council March 2015

2015-03-05 Financial Affairs Officer Report for Council, March 2015

Financial Affairs Officer noted that mostly logistical work and budget work has been done.

There are no questions.

6:39 PM 4.8 Budget Update Through February 2015

2015-03-06 Budget Update Through February 2015

2015-03-06 Budget Update Through February 2015

Financial Affairs Officer explained the budget update.

1. The white section is anything pertaining to the society
2. The grey section is all the business activity
3. The teal section shows the shared activity between the business and the society

What is shown is a rough document. There has been $500,000 CFS related spendings. Other than this item, everything else has fallen within their expected range.

6:40 PM 4.9 Member Support Commissioner Report to Council March 2015

2015-03-04 2015-03-11 Report of the Member Support Commissioner (March Council)

No questions.
4.10 Environment Commissioner Report to Council March 2015

Environment Commissioner report for March 2015 Council. AGM report will be in AGM stream. Please ignore comment posted on Vikrant’s report below, was posted in error.

2015-03-04 2015-03-11 Report of the Environment Commissioner (March Council)

Environmental Commissioner noted she is part of a working group called the Sustainable Labs Program, which promotes lab sustainability. Interested members can contact her through email.

4.11 Equity Commissioner Report Report to Council March 2015

Equity Commissioner Report

2015-03-06 Equity Commissioner Report

No questions.

5 New Business

5.1 Tabled - Motion RE: Terms of Reference for JAAMWG

Motion RE: Terms of Reference for JAAMWG

Adjourned
Agenda

1 Speaker’s report

2 Announcements
   2.1 Announcement regarding Lease Negotiations
   2.2 Update Public Transit - Société des Transports de Montréal (STM)
   2.3 Presentation by Deputy Provost
   2.4 Dodgeball League

3 Approval of the minutes
   3.1 February Council Meeting
   3.2 Council Meeting March 11 2015

4 Reports
   4.1 Add Item: Report of Member Services Officer for May 2015
   4.4 Report of the Academic Affairs Officer to Council May 2015
   4.6 Report of the Secretary-General for May 2015 Council
   4.10 Report from Board to Council
   4.11 Reports of the Judicial Board for May 2015 Council

5 Question Period

6 Business Arising
   6.1 2015-2016 Budget
   6.2 Endorsement of the Sexual Assault Policy
   6.3 Council Schedule Motion
   6.4 Joining the Projet for a Movement Étudiant
   6.5 Support for AGSEM $15 minimum wage campaign
   6.6 Board of Directors Reform
   6.7 Appointments Board: Note about decision to nominate two Environment Commissioners

7 Approval of the agenda
   7.1 Approval of the Agenda
Attending

Academic Affairs Officer (Devin Mills), Ayokunle Olanrewaju, Basem Adel Danish, Barbara Christina Mindt, Cheng Zhu, Chief Returning Officer (Colby Briggs), Devon James Watt, Environment Commissioner (Amanda Winegardner), Erin Shier Coyne, Equity Commissioner (Krause Michael), External Affairs Officer (Bradley Por), Farshad Navah, Financial Affairs Officer (Behrang Sharif), Frédérick Armstrong, Grace Olivia Dupuis, Internal Affairs Officer (Sahil Kumar), Jason Olaf Jensen, Jennifer Marton, Jenny Ann Pura, Jonathan Godin, Laura Marie Whidden, Leora Tova Ruth Frimer, Logan James Smith, Maeghan O’Neill, Melissa Anne Lenker, Mathieu François Eric Préau, Member Services Officer (Brighita Lungu), Member Support Commissioner (Vikrant Bhosle), Recording Secretary (Christina Liu), Renata Helena Bahous, Reshmi Raman, Sarah Kesia Bonish, Secretary-General (Danielle Toccalino), Shaun Daniel Wilson Retallick, Sri Budhi Utami, Sylvia Elena Josephy, Willy-Dac Gia-Hao Huynh

Guests

Anna Ma (Tribune), Alex Magdzinski (NGSA), Devon Mills (EGSS), Bradley Por, Jullia Nantes (New Health Commissioner), Shabnam Taherian (SPOT), Laura Merdsoy (NGSA), Igor Sadikov (Daily), Regine Debrosse (GASP), Jane Li (NGSA), Kathrin Rothermitch (APF), Justin Gagnon (FMGSS)

6:40 PM  Add Item: Dodgeball League

Agenda approved. Speaker called agenda to a vote.

Agenda approved.

6:41 PM  1 Speaker’s report

Speaker announced that there will be a council meeting on June 17 with new executives. She also welcomed everyone to take her bread since she cannot eat it. She notified everyone that Item 3.3 (Presentation by the Provost) will be pushed back since he will be arriving at 7pm.

2 Announcements

6:42 PM  2.1 Announcement regarding Lease Negotiations

Financial Affairs Officer

Financial Affairs Officer announced that the lease is prepared after two years of negotiation. It will be going to Board of Governors this week. Currently the lease agreement is signed in spirit, and will be sent for approval. This will be a ten year lease. She also stated that the MOA is almost ready to be signed, with the details to be finalized. The existing conditions should be good for five to ten years.
2.2 Update Public Transit - Société des Transports de Montréal (STM)

Currently, the Montreal public transit system requires students above the age of 25 to pay full price when purchasing their monthly transit pass. While lifting this age limit has been a priority of the external portfolio this year, our research has shown that it would be unrealistic for us to expect the STM to lift this restriction given their current deficit. Therefore, instead of trying to arm-wrestle an agreement from them, we presented them with a revenue neutral idea.

The external affairs officer met with Ms. Isabelle Ouellet (the director of marketing at the STM) on April 17th to discuss the creation of a new university fee that would give Montreal students full access to STM services. Our proposition emphasized the following points:

- The possibility of all Montreal based student associations to opt-into this system
- The possibility for all students to opt-out of the system
- The inclusion of part-time student and 25+ students
- That the fee be payable on a semesterly basis

We are pleased to announce that our proposition was very well received by the STM it would likely be revenue neutral and allow them to expend its customer base. Furthermore, this will likely be immensely beneficial for the image of Montreal as a university city.

A number of student associations have been invited to join us at our May 21st meeting to discuss the different modalities of this system and discuss the failure of past campus-specific models such as the one implemented at the University of Montreal.

Partners - Student Associations

All of the student associations we approached have either officially committed themselves or showed significant interest in part in this project. These include Polytechnique (undergrads), Concordia (grad and undergrads), University of Montreal, and UQAM management.

Partners - Sponsorships

In an attempt to provide additional support and to cut to cost pertaining to this system, we plan on approaching a number of potential sponsors.

Milestones

- The STM will conduct a survey of our students this Fall to help shape parameters of this system.
- This system will likely be integrated in the universal student card project adopted by Je Vois Mtl. As such, it will likely come in effect at the start of the 2016 school year when we will transition from our current university ID system to the Montreal universal university student card system.

External Affairs Officer gave a brief overview of his initiatives in the past month. He mentioned his meeting with the marketing department of STM. He explained the goal of wanting to eliminate the restriction of having students above the age of 25 to pay full prices for monthly transit passes. However, this cannot be accommodated due to budgetary constraints of the STM. Hence a revenue neutral idea was proposed, where a new university fee would give Montreal students full access to STM services. He also mentioned that students can choose to either opt in or out of this system. This project would be a multi-million deal and so far students have agreed to join this project as well as sponsors. Those who are interested in monitoring this project or have any questions can also contact the External Affairs Officer.
F. Armstrong (PPSMUA) asked about the differences between this new system versus the ones that are implemented already in other schools. He also asked whether this system would include CEGEPs.

External Affairs Officer answered that the systems implemented in other schools do not have the option to opt out. Students are forced into a service that they may or may not want. Also, administrative costs for them were also extremely high, leading to near bankruptcy. This collaboration with STM will entail lower administrative costs where only infrastructure is added. He also mentioned that CEGEPs have a different fee system than universities but noted that their involvement would be wanted at some point due to economies of scale.

F. Armstrong (PPSMUA) asked whether this proposition is reserved only for students living on island of Montreal.

External Affairs Officer replied that it cannot be answered at this point.

7:10 PM 2.3 Presentation by Deputy Provost

A presentation by the deputy provost regarding Student Services

The Deputy Provost gave a presentation regarding the details of Student Services. He started off by showing the budget, which showed the data from fiscal year 10 through fiscal year 16.

He explained that a grant was received from the government to help students but it did not specify student services. A total of 2.5 million was received, where 75% was allocated to student services and the 25% to athletics. During fiscal year 10, there was an expense of $8.7 million. However, there has been an increase of 50% to student service. In 6 years, no cuts were made to student services and $1.8 million was allocated to student services from the given government grant. He further explained that the increase of expenses was mostly created by salary. Every year, there has been a surplus in the student services budget. With the cut of university transfers from the government, ($70 million cut), cuts had to be made to part of his portfolio. With the cut to transfer funds, overhead costs is expected to increase by around 3%.

He said that we can allow student services to go into a bit of a deficit but otherwise, the cut would have to come from somewhere else. This year, provost office said there was around $800,000 in cuts. With the accumulated surplus of around $6 million in student services over the years, he explained that he is taking part of that surplus and using it in other areas of deficit. This brings the surplus of students services to approximately $4.4 million, which would allow the university to continue to provide the same services as previous years. He noted that this unfunded liability is not a long term solution and they want to keep the surplus of student services at around $1.5 million. They are aiming to slowly increase fees to get to a balanced point.

Equity Commissioner noted that the overhead cost went up by 19 times. He asked what students are being charged of.

Deputy Provost replied that human resource, retirement, and etc are all expenses.

Financial Affairs Officer noted that salaries had almost a 40% increase which is higher than CPI. She asked if adjustments were considered and what types of positions were included in the salaries component.

Deputy Provost answered that the continuous increase in number of staff contributed to the rising expense in salaries. He noted that compared to its competitors, salaries at McGill are too low. It was mentioned at senate and they are going to commit to this decision regarding salaries. He also notes that everyone in student services are included in the salaries component.
V. Frankel (BGSA) suggested to have the numbers available to students and include a breakdown of the staff.

Deputy Provost noted that there has been more demand on services and increase in staff over the years. They cannot include breakdown of staff included in the salaries.

Environment Commissioner asked for a breakdown of the overhead costs.

Deputy Provost answered that some data are difficult to obtain. He noted that a 3% overhead is not too high compared to other universities.

Secretary-General noted that they are using the surplus from student services to bring down other deficits. However as it stands right now, there are no direct cost allocated to student services. He asked whether it would be fair to ask for fee increase.

Deputy Provost explained that student services extend outside of the services that the Brown Building provides. He said that cuts have to be taken somewhere and they are trying to take a hit for this year.

F. Armstrong (PPSMUA) asked whether they can provide a breakdown for services providers (including management positions) for the salaries component.

Deputy Provost answered that all those working in student services provide services.

D. Toccalino (GSAN) asked if there are concrete plans in place to reinvest in student services? She also asked whether there is a plan in place should the government decide to not reinvest in universities.

Deputy Provost replied that he doesn’t know if there are plans. However, he noted that once things are cut, it would be hard for them to reinvest. He explained that priorities would have to be decided and that there is a limit to how much health care services can be provided.

External Affairs Officer asked whether it would be possible to merge employees into certain categories (i.e. mental health, health, stude for the ease of identifying where the money is going. He also noted the Deputy Provost emphasizing on the importance of mental health services at McGill and mentioned that it is important to provide these services students who are engaged in stress inducing activities.

The Deputy Provost acknowledged that people want to know where the money is going and mentioned he will try to provide as much information as possible, mostly with regards to the number of employees. He also acknowledged that mental health at McGill is important and needed to be provided for students. He said that they can try to provide with as much information as possible. He notes the constant increase in demand for mental services but states that we need to take into account for other services also. He said that the issue right now is providing services at the end of the line. He stated that 75% of the cases are situation specific, not chronic mental health issues. He reminds everyone to be careful and not throw money at one thing.

Member Services Officer asked whether it would be possible to see a breakdown of the overhead costs. She also asked that out of the $600,000 that went into athletics, what percentage went into varsity athletes. She asked why athletics have been given a large priority. She also stated that this is not going to be shared to students, but noted that there are other universities that are making this information public. She asked for an explanation as to why McGill cannot do so. She also notes that waiting times are long in mental health and asked what measures McGill will be taking to alleviate this problem.

Deputy Provost answered that the core mission in university is academics and that there is a limit with regards to the services they can provide. He stated that it is not within his area to decide on micromanagement decisions on student services and that it is the job of the executive directors. He also notes that many students are using athletic services, hence the attention given to athletics.
S. Kumar (EMGSS) asked what the cost of new hirings would be feasibility wise.

Deputy Provost answered that 25 more full time people would be needed, costing roughly $1 million to stabilize the issue. He also notes that this number could increase with time and that we have to meet an increasing demand.

Academic Affairs Officer noted that the university charged athletics fee but student services are included also.

Deputy Provost notes that fees for athletics are submitted to referendum.

Member Services Officer stressed that this information is not being shared online

The Deputy Provost stated that he is sharing the information now at the meeting.

5:53 PM 2.4 Dodgeball League

Internal Affairs Officer announced that Dodgeball League will be commencing on June 2, and tournaments will happen every Tuesday and Thursday between 6:30 - 8pm for 9 weeks until August 18. There needs to be a minimum of 8 people per team ($50/team). Interested students can find out more information or register on the PGSS website.

3 Approval of the minutes

6:50 PM 3.1 February Council Meeting

Speaker called minutes for approval.

Minutes approved.

6:50 PM 3.2 Council Meeting March 11 2015

Speaker called minutes for approval.

Minutes approved.

4 Reports

6:52 PM 4.1 Add Item: Report of Member Services Officer for May 2015

The Member Services Officer announced that a lot of mental health videos will be coming out this month. She noted that she will be meeting with the editors tomorrow and they are expecting for a launch in the fall. She also announced that we finally have a new family resource coordinator.

Academic Affairs Officer noted that the provost is coming soon. She mentioned that he will be presenting one image slide with a lot of numbers. She noted that he will not be sharing this information unless he is
there to present it. She encouraged everyone to think of questions they might want to ask, such as why this document is not available to students online.

V. Frankel (BGSA) asked about what family issues the coordinator deals with.

The Member Services Officer answered that the coordinator raises awareness on students with children. They also do research and helps to streamline everything on campus.

6:52 PM


The Financial Affairs Officer stated that she has been working with the Secretary-General on the lease negotiation. She also noted that she has been to 8 states and 2 provinces over the past month. She welcomed questions.

6:53 PM


The External Affairs Officer went through his report. He noted that large part of his report was allocated to the STM project. He has also been working on a new federation that will replace the FEUQ and represent the students in the future. Since the FEUQ is now in a hibernation state, he stated that some things had to be done by PGSS themselves. Currently, the External Affairs Committee is trying to create a network with members of the parliament so that they can set a line of communication.

6:55 PM

4.4 Report of the Academic Affairs Officer to Council May 2015


The Academic Affairs Officer noted that she took some time off to finish up her program. She stated that for the past month she has been working on supervision workshops. In addition she has also been collaborating with the Environment Commissioner on divest initiatives. A working group for the Glen Site has been formed and they are looking to offer more services. The Academic Affairs Officer encouraged everyone to let the working group know how they can help. She also noted that many applications were submitted for the Academic Affairs Committee.

6:56 PM


The Internal Affairs Officer mentioned that this past year has been a terrific year. There has been 8000-9000 participants to all events. He also noted that we managed to stay within the same budget constraint
as last year with all events going very smoothly. He announced that there are still openings to the Internal Affairs Committee, so get involved!

6:57 PM  4.6 Report of the Secretary-General for May 2015 Council

2015-05-14 Report of the Secretary-General for May 2015 Council

The Secretary-General noted that he has been dealing with HR issues in the past month. He announced that Amy Vincent is no longer with PGSS. He has also been working on his transition to the next Secretary-General.

The Academic Affairs Officer pointed out that he did a great job as interim Secretary-General.


6:59 PM


No Questions.


Equity commissioner report May 2015


The Equity Commissioner noted that the Award Ceremony for the Equity Community Awards were took place last month. Awards were won by the members of the Equity Committee.


Please replace May 6th report with this updated report for the May 20 Council.


The Environment Commissioner gave an update on the events that happened in the previous month. She stated that the last Green Drinks event of this academic year happened in April. Those with ideas for Green Drinks events next year can communicate with the Environment Commissioners for the next academic year. She also mentioned about the beehive project that was submitted to the Sustainability Projects Fund with the intention to increase pollinator friendly planting around Thomson House. The planting will take place this Friday (May 22) and she encouraged everyone to come out and help. She noted that a lot of honey was produced last year but unfortunately the beehive did not survive through the Montreal winter. They aiming to get a stronger queen for the beehive this year. She also stated that she has been working with the Academic Affairs Officer on the Sustainable Labs Program.
7:07 PM 4.10 Report from Board to Council

2015-05-15 Report from the board to council

The Council Director stated that this will be her last report to Council. Over the past month she had been attending discussions relating to HR, the information of which is confidential. The information policy is currently in its stages of preparation and will be submitted to the board soon. She announced that they are looking to recruit for the board due to a number of resignations. Those interested in applying can contact Regine at regine.debrosse@mail.mcgill.ca. She also stated that they have had discussion about board governance over the past month. The board also had discussions about the court cases involving the CFS.

8:01 PM 4.11 Reports of the Judicial Board for May 2015 Council

Reports submitted by the Judicial Board regarding recent rulings.


The Secretary-General stated that new rulings have been made by the Judicial Board. The report has been posted on the website.

5 Question Period

8:02 PM R. Debrosse (GASP) asked the External Affairs Officer whether the affiliation with the new student federation will affect the CFS case.

The External Affairs Officer stated that this is not a case of double standard. He explained that this is fundamentally a different situation and should not have an effect on the CFS case.

6 Business Arising

8:04 PM 6.1 2015-2016 Budget

WHEREAS the PGSS budget requires Council and Board or Directors approval;
BIRT that Council approve the attached budget;
BIFRT if approved, the budget be referred to the Board for approval.

2015-2016 Budget

The Financial Affairs Officer said that there will be a lot of tabs on the budget. She explained that this budget consisted of a breakdown on the large events that happen annually. She went over the details of
association fees for Law and Med School as well as salaries for the 2015-2016 academic year. She also touched upon society activities but noted that there is no oversight of business activities on the budget.

She announced that Midnight Kitchen is now reflective on the budget. She also stated that PGSS has spent more on referendum this year due to the CFS referendum and the hiring for poll clerks for the paper ballot shenanigans. She noted that the numbers for Study Sundays have not changed but they will have to change the way the program is run.

J. Jensen (MGSSA-SOCIOLOGY) asked how the saving of $1 million on health fund came about. With the ongoing court case for CFS, he also asked why there was no fund budgeted for court costs this year.

The Financial Affairs Officer replied that the budget is only up until April and that the health fund is paid in installments. Also with regards to court expenses, she noted that the CFS court case is not scheduled until 2017 which is why no court costs was reflected in the 2015-2016 budget.

She also stated that depending on the outcome of the case, the numbers on the budget could be different. Since there were severe cuts made to the university, she stated that the cuts made will have to be maintained during the next few years. The new executives will probably have to take a look at this again.

Secretary-General added that even with this budget and the cuts are in, a need for a fee increase in the fall is still likely depending on the evaluation made by the new executives.

V. Frankel (BGSA) asked who the students can go to for more information.

The Financial Affairs Officer replied that there are some sensitive information that cannot be shared as of the moment. Those with burning questions can contact Danielle.

A. Olanrewaju (BMESS) asked about the budget item regarding lawyer costs and the red box.

The Financial Affairs Officer replied that $330,00 was paid and member support has also agreed to pay for some of the legal costs. Should the 2017 court case go well, we are expecting to get those fees back. With regards to line 70 (PGSA Funding), she explained that the number was higher because of the change this year where PGSAs have control of their funding.

Speaker called this budget for approval.

Budget Approved.

8:19 PM

6.2 Endorsement of the Sexual Assault Policy

WHEREAS PGSS Council is committed to creating an environment free of oppression and strives to create a community that exceeds social standards of equitable treatment, creating a safer space for all of our members;

WHEREAS PGSS Council recognizes that the existing Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Policy does not promote a pro-survivor approach and does not fight pre-existing structures that make it difficult for People Who Have Experienced Sexual Assault (PWESAs) to feel safe or seek recourse;

WHEREAS this Sexual Assault Policy promotes a pro-survivor approach that empowers PWESAs and focuses on pro-active measures to “[uphold] the rights of those who have experienced Sexual Assault, and [foster] cultural change around themes of consent” (SAP);
WHEREAS “McGill University recognizes that Sexual Assault is a serious offence with severe consequences that is systematically under-reported and under-addressed” and “the University acknowledges that Sexual Assault occurs disproportionately on university campuses and within university communities” (SAP);

WHEREAS the motion of support for the Sexual Assault Policy passed at the last PGSS Executive Committee meeting on March 31, 2015;

BIRT PGSS Council expresses its support for the Office maintained by the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator under the Office of the Dean of Students.

BIFRT PGSS Council expresses its endorsement for the Sexual Assault Policy

Endorsement of the Sexual Assault Policy

The Member Services Officer noted that this was supposed to go to Senate in April. However it was delayed until May because of the issues raised from groups on campus stating how the language of the policy did not address sexuality. The working group that was created for this policy will be working on editing the policy over the summer and they are aiming to have it available for September.

She also noted that two issues were brought up regarding the Sexual Assault Policy.

1. The concern on budget issues to support a non-McGill student (If a McGill student is a perpetrator of a non-McGill student).

The Member Services Officer stated that it was decided that they should not discriminate especially when a McGill student is involved.

2. The second issue is ‘confidentiality’, where it was adjusted to include the word ‘legal’ in the terms.

This indicates that we cannot ensure confidentiality beyond legal terms.

Speaker called this motion to a vote.

Motion passed.

8:23 PM 6.3 Council Schedule Motion

WHEREAS General meetings are usually preceded by Council meetings, which are often scheduled so as to open 30 minutes before the scheduled opening of the general meetings; Council meetings usually start 5 to 10 minutes after the scheduled time of their opening; General meetings require for members to sign up individually at the door, which usually takes 10 to 15 minutes; the shortest Council meetings usually take at least 15 minutes, from opening to end; which altogether signify that there is a systematic lack of time scheduled for Council meetings that precede General meetings;

WHEREAS quorum is difficult to reach at General meetings, and might be more difficult to reach if there is a bottleneck at the door, if the meeting starts late and if the opening of the General meeting is stressful;

WHEREAS sufficient time should be planned for debating and voting on Council motions as to not impede the quality of the debates;

BIRT the bylaw 1.1, which reads "Council shall meet regularly, at least nine (9) times in the calendar year" be amended to read "1.1 Council shall meet regularly, at least nine (9) times in the calendar year. Council
meetings shall not be scheduled to begin any less than an hour prior to the scheduled beginning of a General Meeting."

R. Debrosse (GASP) noted that this would be a bylaw change and that this is a first reading. This motion will go to board after council. She motivated in favour of this motion stating that council meetings rarely ever start on time. She referred back to the situation on March 11, where there was a council scheduled at 7pm and things were extremely rushed. For efficiency’s sake, this new bylaw change was proposed.

The Equity Commissioners spoke against this motion. He stated that this bylaw change restricts executives. He stated that even if you give council an hour, the tradition is that we run overtime.

D. Toccalino (GSAN) spoke in favour of this motion, stating that it will make life easier. She mentioned that this bylaw change will allow for a more productive council while still having an AGM where students can participate in.

F. Armstrong (PPSMUA) asked whether there is a bylaw that states council and AGMs have to be scheduled on the same day.

The Speaker replied yes.

B. Sharif (GAP) spoke in favour of this motion. He noted that half an hour is not enough to do anything real and productive especially when quorum is involved. He suggested to start council at 5:30.

Speaker called this motion to a vote.

Motion passed.

8:31 PM 6.4 Joining the Projet for a Movement Étudiant

Whereas PGSS actively participates in ongoing discussions with other student associations to attempt to create a new student federation in Quebec;

Whereas these student associations decided to create a formal, contractual agreement in order to formalize the process of creating this new federation;

Whereas this group, referred to as the Projet pour un Movement Étudiant, is expected to give rise to a new federation within the next year;

Whereas ratification of this contract grants PGSS the right to have a representative on the Board of Directors of this association;

Whereas this contract allows PGSS to leave the PPME at anytime;

Whereas PPME membership doesn’t oblige any mandatory financial contributions;

Whereas the executive committee has signed this entente pending council approval, to participate in the election of the interim committee;

BIRT council ratifies PGSS adhesion to the Projet pour un Mouvement Étudiant.

Joining the Projet for a Movement Étudiant

The External Affairs Officer motivated in favour of this motion. He explained that this project is designed as a student federation. Its purpose is to provide a legal structure to protect members of this association. He mentioned that a contact is being drafted. He noted that the Projet for a Movement Étudiant will allow
PGSS to send a representative to the Board of Directors to speak about concerning issues. He mentioned that withdrawal is allowed at point. Members are allowed to dissolve this project should they deem it to be inefficient. He also stated that PGSS is not obligated to provide a fee for this project. He explained that this project is important because PGSS needs a coordination team designed for member associations to create bylaws in a timely manner.

S. Josephy (GSAN) asked whether the purpose of this new federation is on a provincial or national level. The External Affairs Officer replied that this is a "National Student Federation", but it is used to describe Quebec. Hence it is a student federation on a provincial level.

D. Toccalino (GSAN) asked whether students still have the choice to choose whether or not they want to join should this body create this new organization. The External Affairs Officer replied yes.

Speaker called this motion to a vote.

Motion passed.

8:37 PM 6.5 Support for AGSEM $15 minimum wage campaign

WHEREAS the Association of Graduate Students Employed at McGill (AGSEM) is undertaking a campaign to set a $15 hourly minimum wage for employees at McGill;

WHEREAS this campaign is run in collaboration with other unions at McGill, including AMUSE, AMURE, MUNACA and MCLIU;

WHEREAS various McGill employees are currently paid less than $15 an hour, including invigilators, many of which are graduate students;

BIRT PGSS Council endorses the $15 minimum wage campaign.

Council voted to extend speaking rights to Justin Irwin (AGSEM President).

He stated that there are 15,000 workers on campus that make $12 or less. The living wage of Montreal is $15.38. He stated that it will take approximately a quarter percent of the operating funds of McGill to get people of McGill a working minimum wage. He encouraged everyone to reach out to others and endorse this campaign.

V. Frankel asked where this extra money would come from.

J. Irwin (AGSEM President) stated that it will be 0.27% of McGill operating fund and that McGill will have to decide on that matter.

Speaker called this motion to a vote.

Motion passed with an abstention from Jenny Ann Pura (ESGSS).

8:41 PM 6.6 Board of Directors Reform

WHEREAS The following package of bylaw changes has been approved by the Board of Directors;

WHEREAS These changes would allow for flexibility in the Board selecting its own chair;
WHEREAS Increasing the size of the board from 7 to 9 members would be beneficial to its governance; BIRT Council approves the attached proposed changes

Board of Directors Reform

R. Debrosse (GASP) spoke in favour of this motion, stating that it will allow the board to elect their own chair instead of always having it to be the Secretary-General. They are also looking to increase the size of the board from 7 to 9 members. This will allow for more people to look at matters while also diminishing the voting powers of executives.

S. Kumar (EMGSS) asked about the rationale of changing from 7 to 9 members. He asked whether this would change the efficiency of the board.

R. Debrosse (GASP) replied that it would make things more transparent for members. She explained that in most student associations, there are more members on their boards, usually a lot more than 7. She stated that reports were submitted to council mentioning the different issues that the board was facing. Following all these meetings and consultations, this solution was derived.

B. Sharif (GAP) asked to make an amendment: Add ‘yearly’ at the beginning of June for ‘the appointment of the chair for the board of directors’. He explained that there are members that are allowed to stay for more than one year and this would make it easier as a recurring event annually.

The External Affairs Officer spoke against this amendment. He expressed that this is not a good amendment because there is a high turnover rate.

B. Sharif (GAP) stated that this would force a shuffle in the board.

Amendment 2: “The board of directors shall elect a chair annually elect in June amongst its members. in absence of a chair, the board may appoint a director to serve as interim chair. In the event of the chair’s resignation or removal, the board shall elect a new chair at the next meeting.”

Speaker called the second amendment to a vote.

Amendment passed with one abstention from Regine Debrosse (GASP).

Amendment 1: “3.2.3 Secretary-General should act as the president of the corporation.”

Speaker called first amendment to a vote.

Amendment passed.

Speaker called the motion to a vote.

Motion passed.

6.7 Appointments Board: Note about decision to nominate two Environment Commissioners

6:01 PM

Upon reviewing the applications and interviewing the candidates for the Environment Commissioner position, it was brought to the Appointments Board’s attention that the most suitable candidates were the two individuals applying jointly to become co-commissioners. Their motivation was to complement each other’s portfolio through their diverse skill sets and different backgrounds, and to share equally the responsibilities and remunerations for the position. Both candidates expressed strong interest in working with each other as co-commissioners and are both highly qualified for the position. The Appointments
Board consulted the Society By-laws and Manuals, and discussed with the Operations Manager about the feasibility of splitting commissioner remunerations. After ensuring that there is neither procedural nor practical restrictions against appointing co-commissioners, the Appointments Board recommends the appointment of Victor Frankel and Amir Nosrat to the positions of Environment Co-Commissioners for the 2015-2016 year, to be ratified by Council.

Speaker called motion to a vote.

Motion passed.

7 Approval of the agenda

7.1 Approval of the Agenda

Internal Affairs Officer asked to add an announcement regarding the Dodgeball League into the Agenda.

Speaker called agenda for approval.

Agenda approved.

8:55 PM  Adjourned