Agenda

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   1.2 Add Item: Announcement of the Polish Institute
   1.3 Add Item: Peer Support Centre
   1.4 Motion to Remove: Changes to SAM - First View by Council
   1.5 Applications sent from the Appointments Board Committee for Approval
   1.6 Motion to Reconsider: New budget template and draft of next budget proposal

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   5.2 McGill Student Services FY17 budget update
   5.3 Report from GPS on Graduate Funding
   5.4 Discussion of the Positions Book

6 New Business
   6.1 Motion to Approve: FEUQ Fee Discontinuation Question
   6.2 Tabled - Motion to Approve: QSU Referendum Question
   6.3 Tabled - Motion to Approve: AVEQ Referendum Question
Attending

Alexei Kazarine, Alexandre Magdzinski, Alisha Michalovic, Anastasia Berwald, Amarjot Singh, Anastasia Howe Bukowski, Angelica Avisha Gopal, Barbara Christina Mindt, Brenda Janice Sanchez Sanchez, Camille Delouche, Brian Hsu, Christopher Nzediegwu, Connie Luu, Claire Elizabeth Anne McLeish, Equity Commissioner (Debrosse Regine), Environment Commissioner (Amir Nosrat and Victor Frankel), External Affairs Officer (Bradley Por), Financial Affairs Officer (Behrang Sharif), Frédéric Armstrong, Gilbert Louis Primeau, Gregor Zymek, Grace Olivia Dupuis, Hamed Rafezi, Internal Affairs Officer (Mina Anadolu), Jaaved Singh, Jaclyn Adriana Hearnden, Jonathan Godin, Joshua Christopher Adams, Josué López, Katelyn Mary Dawn Rooney, Leora Tova Ruth Frimer, Member Services Officer (Brighta Lungu), Member Support Commissioner (Ayo Olanrewaju), Morgan Kenzie Foret, Natalia Jaworska, Nicolas Chatel-Launay, Olivier Sulpis, Qiushi Cui, Rachel La Selva, Rebekah McCallum, Rehab Salem Alhasani, Rui Li, Secretary-General (Danielle Toccalino), Senjuti Kundu, Simon Bertrand, Sofia Delia Salsi, Sophie Elizabeth Kabbash, Tessa Claire Maclean, William Weiqian Liu, Yony Bresler, Academic Affairs Officer (Devin J. Mills)

Guests

7:03 PM Call to order

1 Approval of the agenda

7:04 PM 1.1 Add Item: Discussion of the Positions Book

Passes unanimously.

7:05 PM 1.2 Add Item: Announcement of the Polish Institute

Passes unanimously.

7:06 PM 1.3 Add Item: Peer Support Centre

Passes unanimously.

7:09 PM 1.4 Motion to Remove: Changes to SAM - First View by Council
1.5 Applications sent from the Appointments Board Committee for Approval

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<td>Schulich Library Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Shuang Gao</td>
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<td>2015-2016 Cyclical Review: Department of Pediatrics</td>
<td>Jason Hu</td>
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<td>Governance Committee</td>
<td>Yony Bresler</td>
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<td>Ad-Hoc Mental Health Policy Working Group</td>
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<td>University Access Capital Projects Working Group</td>
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<td>Health and Wellness Committee</td>
<td>Andrew Taehun Song</td>
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Passes unanimously.

1.6 Motion to Reconsider: New budget template and draft of next budget proposal

2 Announcements

2.1 Presentation on McGill’s "Wellness Strategy"

Robyn Wiltshire, Interim Senior Director of Student Services, will give a short presentation followed by a question period.

Robyn Wiltshire introduced herself and her role in the development of the campus-wide health and wellness strategy. The strategy aims to set in motion a health shift at McGill by strengthening existing services, reframing policy development, increasing education, and ensuring that interconnected supports are readily accessible. It is informed by best practices at other institutions, as well as extensive consultation with different groups of students.

She explained how the framework is built along two axes: 1) inclusive & accessible supports, and 2) source of action (student groups, campus services, university community, and local community). There are 20 intersections between the two axes, and the next step is to populate these intersections and identify the gaps. They want to learn from students’ lived experience, particularly graduate students who have a unique and diverse experience. Students are welcome to give feedback through the online consultation form: mcgill.ca/student services/wellness-feedback

The objective is to draft a preliminary strategy by end of the academic year, present to Senate and the Board in May, then work over the summer to identify gaps and determine what work needs to be done next.

A. Berwald (GLSA): Sometimes structures or lack thereof (ie. choosing courses, getting instructions for papers, grading, etc.) are huge causes of stress, is that one of the things that is being looked into?
R. Wiltshire: Institutional structures and policies are recognized as having a huge and not always healthy effect, so providing some of those supports and making processes easier. The other thing we are doing is developing guidelines that can be used in policy development, so that we don’t create new policies. We may even suggest there is an opportunity to review policies with an eye to what is contributing in a negative way in terms of health and wellness of the campus community. It is important but not easy work, and won’t be in place by September. Need to bring everyone to the table to improve health literacy across campus, a culture shift will be important.

J. Singh (MCGSS): I was wondering if services will be provided at equal levels on both campuses or at least an increase in services to Mac students?

R. Wiltshire: Yes. Outside of the strategy, student services has just been through a cyclical review, and one of the recommendations was around fixing the services provided at Mac campus. We have done some work but need to do a better needs analysis. Working group has been created, asked to report with recommendations by the end of Sept. Will be meeting with the Dean to discuss further. The administrative response will be up on the website in the coming days, so people know what was recommended and how we are going to go about delivering on them.

Y. Bresler (MGAPS): Are there students sitting on the working group?

R. Wiltshire: The working group is very small, but we do have an extensive consultation practice and are inviting students into other aspects. Hiring two students this summer, one of which will be a grad student. Also reaching out to students with lived experience to populate the strategy. The small work group does not have students on it, but we do have an advisory group that has upwards of 60 members, half of which are students.

C. Nzediegwu (MCGSS): How do you ensure that the student groups are really represented? If you are going to have groups from downtown, you should have groups from Mac as well.

R. Wiltshire: I do agree, we are scheduled to meet with the MCSS as well and hope that some Mac students will participate in other focus groups as well. Long list of student associations and groups that we are reaching out to, and happy to come talk to other groups that are identified to us. Lots of manpower to do that, just let us know who else we haven’t reached.

C. Mcleish (MGSS): In music, funding is major concern and stress for a lot of students. We have heard recently of the possibility of universal funding package for students in the arts that may not include music. I was wondering if there are any ways that your strategy will engage with these types of stresses that are unique to graduate students.

R. Wiltshire: Completely. Within the services, we talk about the 4 main health and wellness units. Health, mental health counseling, and office of students with disabilities are the core steering committee, but we recognize that wellness extends beyond physical, and includes financial and all other aspects of wellness. The other services provided in the building see themselves as key contributors to wellness. The strategy is broad and includes every imaginable contributor. If there are aspects you think we may be forgetting, please go online or send an email to let us know.

7:25 PM 2.2 Peer Support Centre

W. Liu (EMGSS) gave a reminder that the Peer Support Centre has graduate-student specific hours in Thomson House on Tuesday nights from 5-7 PM. There is also Mac campus version of the Peer Support Centre. Lastly, WRAP is looking for students to act as co-facilitators; the application is on the PGSS Facebook page.
2.3 Announcement of the Polish Institute

A. Magdzinski (NGSA) introduced himself as the VP Internal of the NGSA, and member of the McGill Polish Student Association. At the end of January, it was decided that the building the Polish Institute is housed in needs renovations, so they had to leave. However, they have 50,000 books, which now don’t have a place to go. Thus, a petition is being distributed to ask the university to discuss with the Polish Institute to see if they can keep the institute going, or have the books somewhere while they look for alternative spaces. The petition can be accessed online and at 3479 Peel Street.

AAO: Would you like McGill to integrate these books into the existing libraries or would you like them just to hold it so that when the Institute has space, they can get those books back?

A. Magdzinski (NGSA): They have 10,000 books integrated now, but 40,000 aren’t. It’s just trying to find space for those books. The other issue is whether there is a place on campus that can continue to house the books. Trying to see if they can stay in the current location for a few more years until the Vic opens up and maybe they can get a space over there. A lot of students use the books, and would like them kept on campus.

2.4 CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS: Fall 2016 Post-Graduate Orientation

The Internal Affairs Committee is looking for sociable and enthusiastic individuals for the Fall 2016 Post-Graduate Orientation (August 28-September 11) for the following:

1. Orientation Planning: Volunteers to assist the Internal Affairs Committee in the planning and logistical aspects of orientation events
2. Discover McGill and PGSS BBQ on September 7th: Volunteers to be on site to greet new students and help guide them where they need to go
3. Promotion Team: Volunteers to help secure sponsors and to promote Post-Graduate Orientation Week
4. MTL Food Crawl and other guided tours: Volunteers to be Group Leaders (similar to Frosh Leaders)

If you are interested in volunteering, please email internal.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca.

M. Andolou (IAO) talked about the different volunteer roles available for orientation and encouraged members to sign up.

Question: How long is the volunteer call open for?

IAO: For Discover McGill, PGSS BBQ, and orientation planning, we need people immediately. For the promotion team, guided tours, and group leaders, the latest to apply is end of July, but the earlier the better for flexibility in choosing tasks.

2.5 Representatives needed for Search Committees

We are looking for PGSS representatives on the Advisory Committee for the Selection of a Vice-Principal (Research and International Relations), and the Advisory Committee for the Selection of a Vice-Principal (Administration and Finance). If you are interested in serving on either or would like more information, please email Danielle (sec-gen.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca) or Devin (academic.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca)
D. Mills (AAO): Need to know by a week from Friday. It is a lot of work, but very meaningful process to take part in. Also recruiting for other committees for next year.

3 Floor Items

7:24 PM 3.1 March 16th Council Meeting

Motion passes by majority.

4 Business Arising

7:32 PM 4.1 Course evaluation contestation procedure!

Research suggests that female and racialized instructors tend to receive lower ratings and more disrespectful comments. In partnership with the JBSCE subcommittee on Racialized and Ethnic persons, I was attempting to document complaints and issues that TAs have received. However, since February, anyone who wants to submit a complaint about an inappropriate comment will be able to send it to the office of Angela Campbell (Associate Provost). If the comment is judged inappropriate, the entire answer set of answers associated with it will be removed.

See more info on the bottom of this page: https://www.mcgill.ca/mercury/instructors/information

Course evaluation contestation procedure!

R. Debrosse (EDC) announced that the new course evaluation contestation policy is now in place. She also announced that a Queer Research Colloquium is being held at IGSF on April 19 starting at 9:30 and ending at 5, followed by a reception.

5 Discussion

7:37 PM 5.1 New budget template and draft of next budget proposal

Whereas the current template of the PGSS budget is complicated and confusing and is not easy to summarize and discuss.

Whereas the breakdowns of each budget line was not properly determined in the previous template and the template provided in the last fiscal years did not have functioning formulas and links.

Whereas a preliminary new template for the budget was presented to the council by the FAO in the fall of the current fiscal year.

Whereas clarity and comprehensiveness of the budget is crucial for better managing the financials of the corporation.

Whereas the FAO believes discussion and input from the council is essential before approval of the next year fiscal road map.
Whereas details of some cost projections require board approval and are in process (specifically salaries) hence the attached document is still a draft.

Attached is the new interactive template of the last year budget with preliminary proposal for the next year budget lines that are under the council’s purview. Please take the time and review the template and bring your questions and concerns as the prospective financial planning of the organization requires full vigilance of the council in order to absorb the deficits that PGSS is facing in the next 5 years.

Note: the summary sheets are interactive and by clicking on the + you can see more details. Also lines can be sorted by selecting and dragging rows.

New budget template and draft of next budget proposal

B. Sharif (FAO) explained the new budget template, which is more organized and broken down by the different funds. The proposed budget is still a draft for two main reasons: 1) salary negotiations, and 2) progress is a bit slower than expected due to the replacement accountant having just started. As the referendum has not yet been held, there are points that need to be discussed in terms of what lines we have to cut and how to make a balance for the next year.

Y. Bresler (MGAPS): Can you walk us through any lines that have changed drastically or where a big cut more than 5-10% is being proposed?

FAO: There are some lines that we have cut more than 10%, but compared to the actual costs that we have used their lines, they are not cuts at all. For example, for Study Sunday, we have budgeted $9000 this year, but the cost was ~$3400, and we have budgeted for the next year ~$4000. This is more than a 50% decrease, but the actual is still less than what we are budgeting for next year. Another change is in the salaries of the society staff. We have abolished the position of full-time researcher in the society, which was not utilized much and because we are in deficit situation, so are saving ~$20 000 there. There is also a cut in the events budget, but that is an in and out - the event technically pays for itself, not coming out of the fees. The leisure courses line is also significantly changed; last year we lost ~$12000 in that line from the membership, this year hopefully going to make a couple hundred dollars. There were no budget breakdowns or events or leisure courses, all of those are made now.

C. Nzediegwu (MCGSS) suggested coming up with an index for the proposed budget.

FAO: Yes, that is something we can do, can also make figures to compare between last year and this year and give percentage in change of budgets.

The MSO expressed that she wishes that she and the councillors had more time, at least a week, to look through the draft budget. She also reminded councillors that the cost from Study Sundays was reduced a lot because they took out the food for kids, parents, and volunteers. The whole point of Study Sundays is to give parents a break so they can study, without having to cook. Participation is going down because there is no point for parents to prepare food and bring it to Thomson House. If keeping this budget, the program will basically disappear and FAO will argue no usage for this program. She then asked the FAO: Can we make proposals to make changes in this budget or is this information and that is how we will move forward?

FAO: Yes, you can make proposals for sure.

SG: Reminder that this is for discussion. Amendments can be discussed with the FAO after council today or in between now and next council. We are not voting on this document today, this is for information.

MSO: In May we will have to approve the budgets so it will be a very long meeting when people want to make changes.
FAO: That’s why we are discussing it now. If you have a proposal, you can send it to me.

MSO: I am proposing to increase the budget for Study Sunday, would like to hear from council if they agree.

Question was asked about how many people attend Study Sunday.

MSO: Used to be 30-40 parents showing up at Thomson House with their kids.

FAO: When was that?

MSO: Two years ago.

FAO: PGSS was not running it at that time.

MSO: It was the first year, in collaboration with another organization.

FAO: It was at Thomson House, but not run by PGSS.

Point of order: Not sure what we are discussing, clarify if formal proposals can be made (answer was no)

SG: Do you have an answer for this year’s Study Sundays?

MSO: Between 5 and 10, suffered because of budget cuts.

H. Lopez (MCGSS): Compared to last year, there are two major cuts, the FEUQ and the bursary. Also midnight kitchen, which we know did not pass, but can you explain why bursary was cut and if that was a referendum that we passed? What would happen if we decide to join a new student union, would that require another fee levy? How do you plan to fit that into the budget?

SG: We are not stopping offering the bursary, but due to the recently signed MOA, the way we account for that is different. Instead of McGill giving us that money and asking for it back, they are just keeping it. It is no longer dealt with under our accounting.

H. Lopez (MCGSS): How will we keep track of it and know how much money is being spent? Will that be included in any of the executives’ reports?

SG: It will be reported to us from the university, and we can include that in the annual report from the FAO. The FEUQ fee is in here as 0 right now because we are going to ask a referendum question to stop it. If we were to join another student federation, we would need to levy a new. That fee would not start to be collected until winter 2017. It would probably be an amendment to the budget in the fall of next year.

FAO: We are not currently administrating the bursary or the library fund. Technically, what was happening in previous years, McGill gave the money for us, asked for it back, and in these transactions, there were two 1% overhead charges. Now McGill is going to put the money directly into the funds. This way, the bursary is actually saving 2%.

H. Lopez (MCGSS): Point of information, can you clarify the surplus that’s been budgeted for in special projects ($18 000) and what that is covering?

FAO: We started this year with a $278 000 negative in the special projects fund, so we have to recuperate this money. If we can want to recuperate it in the next 5 years, we need to be put about $50 000 per year into that fund. Next year, there would be a transfer of $44 000 coming from society side, and $18 000 coming from the fee levy.

H. Lopez (MCGSS): Can we get a breakdown on the debt management? Part of the increases that are being proposed could come from prolonging our time in debt but increasing some of the other programs, and the fact is that it is not clear here how that is going to be handled as there is not debt payment line.
FAO: Amortization and transfers will be added at the bottom, and it will be clear in the next proposed budget how this money is going to be transferred.

Speaker reminded members that this is a proposal and they can talk to the FAO separately after the meeting. He also requested that the remaining questions be from people who have not spoken yet.

Point of information about how many bank accounts PGSS has and the amount in each of them.

FAO: We had 11 bank accounts at the beginning of this year, the main reason being trust funding accounting system and we are charging fee levies. When we get grants, we not allowed to touch that money for any other reason, so there is a bank account for that. In terms of accounts, we have ~250, but actual accounts in the Scotiabank is 11. We are going to close at least 2 (library and bursary), so it would be about 9, possibly less if we can cut more. The yellow line at the top is where we started, at June 1 of last year, this was the amount we had in each account, but this doesn’t say how much we owed at that moment. Another point to keep in mind for the top line is that some of these are not real money, for example the Capital Assets Fund is chairs and tables and whatever we can sell if we were to declare bankruptcy, and these fall ~30% at the end of each year as part of amortization.

MSO: Contingency fund and member legal support fund, at the beginning of last year, $130 000 in contingency fund, and $80 000 in member legal support fund. If I remember correctly, the special projects fund that shows up there with minus and the way we actually paid, was accessing those restricted funds. I am asking you if that is true, and I would like to have some research done by you for next council.

FAO: I have done my research and it is true that two of the restricted funds were used. One was member legal support, which was used in accordance with the mandate of that fund. The amount that was paid last year was $532 000, and that’s why you don’t see it in the negativity of the special projects fund. The number $277 799 is an actual negative in the special projects fund.

MSO: My point is we paid from our own funds for CSF.

FAO: Contingency fund was 0 last year as well, it was a mistake. We never had a contingency fund to cut it short.

EDC: To clarify, the board made a recommendation to the member support committee, and they followed the board recommendation after examining the files. It wasn’t just like a board decision.

F. Armstrong (PPSMUA): The agenda was really not clear. I had the impression we were discussing budget template and not making propositions on the budget.

FAO: Sorry if it was not clear. It is technically for clarification of how it works, but if you have any propositions, you can send them to me. I will still be working on this for at least the next 2-3 weeks.

Y. Bresler (MGAPS): Point of order regarding Brighita’s earlier request for a raise of hands to show council opinion on Study Sunday budget.

FAO: That would not have that much effect in terms of what I am going to consider because councillors don’t know how many people have been attending.

Discussion was ended by the Speaker.

8:11 PM 5.2 McGill Student Services FY17 budget update

I would like to update Council on the information we received from the Deputy Provost (Student Life&Learning) regarding the Student Service budget for financial year 2017 (FY17).
McGill Student Services FY17 budget update

B. Lunghu (MSO) provided an update on the student services budget, which is composed of 1.8 million from government grants, 8.7 million from student fees, and none from McGill. Further, McGill collects overhead costs which have been incrementally increasing, and there is no formula to stop them from increasing it. She mentioned that at the University of Toronto, they have a formula to regulate such costs, whereas here, the Quebec government would need to be lobbied to impose McGill to keep the fees down. She pointed out that contrary to Robin’s presentation earlier, investment is actually quite small, and student consultation is lacking.

C. Nzediegwu (MCGSS): Concerning the overhead fund, you mentioned U of T. Have other schools experienced the same hike in overhead costs and were they able to resolve it? If there are other schools that went through this, perhaps we can inquire from them and adopt similar methods.

MSO: Unfortunately, we are not that far into our research. The complete document should be published for anybody on campus to see, but it is very hard to get that kind of information. Even when we have presentation of the budget, it’s just information given to us, and very little time is allocated for discussion.

IAO: We are looking at large sums of money here, and you’re saying this money is being directed away from services. Why don’t we ask McGill to chip in to services that we are trying to provide to our members? For example, Study Sundays.

MSO: Study Sundays came on the student shoulders because they cut it, they are unlikely to take it back. It’s a great idea but not realistic, because they are transferring away money without telling us what it is, let alone giving anything back. We are seeing some investments being made this year, but not as much as we would like.

IAO: As PGSS executives or student leaders, is it our job to advocate for these kind of changes?

MSO: Yes, it is. We (myself and all CSS students) are doing that a lot at meetings.

C. Nzediegwu (MCGSS): Do you need the support of the students?

MSO: A push from students is very welcome, that is why we come to council and ask for your opinions, so we can say students want this. We are also using media a lot. The ways we can use the broader membership is limited. If you have any ideas, please come to me.

IAO: Could your committee draft a statement for council to vote on at the next assembly?

MSO: Yes. CSS has to respond very fast, they coming out with documents next week and making decision two weeks from now. We are also planning on going to the media outside of McGill; watch for when it comes out, share it online, talk with your professors.

IAO: There is a Daily article from a year ago on this topic that is really good if anyone is interested in learning more.

5.3 Report from GPS on Graduate Funding

Open discussion - What questions do you have for the Dean of GPS?

Report from GPS on Graduate Funding

D. Mills (AAO) stood for questions regarding the breakdown of graduate student funding. He mentioned that he is working to get a breakdown by faculty. Questions can also be emailed to him.
No questions were asked.

8:27 PM 5.4 Discussion of the Positions Book

S. Tabasi (AGSA) introduced herself and presented the positions that AGSA would like to be considered for the PGSS Positions Manual: 1) Divestment McGill movement, 2) Demilitarize McGill movement, 3) the McGill BDS Action Network, and 4) acknowledgement that PGSS and the university operate on unseeded First Nation’s territory and to support ongoing efforts for recognition and reconciliation. AGSA supports the development of a Positions Manual and would like these issues to be discussed and considered for inclusion in the manual.

F. Armstrong (PPSMUA): From my understanding, right now we have a Policy & Positions Manual, and the goal is to eventually have a Policy Manual and a Positions Manual. I agree that adding a Position Manual would be good. Would those specific positions be that PGSS would get on board with these movements, or would it be that PGSS adopts position that are in the same line? If the position is just that PGSS aligns itself with these groups, the group could do something and PGSS does not have power over that.

S. Tabasi (AGSA): From what I understand from the AGSA meeting, we just want to discuss what PGSS’ stance is on Divest McGill and the other issues. We can agree or disagree to whatever extent council sees fit.

Point of information: Don't we already have an issues policy on Divest, and doesn't that make PGSS’ stance on Divest already clear?

SG: We already have a Divest position, but not a Demilitarize or BDS position as of right now.

The EAO clarified the difference between operational policies and issues policies. Other student organizations have their issues policies in a positions book, so what we ought to do is create a Positions Manual, and it is something Danielle has been working on.

SG: We have already passed through all of the appropriate bodies except for GA for the separation of our current Policy and Positions Manual into separate manuals. The positions brought up in this discussion would be added into the Policy and Positions Manual, and once GM passes the separation, it would be split into the appropriate Positions Manual as opposed to the Policy Manual.

EDC: It’s great to take a stance on indigenous people, but I want to clarify on this issue and others pertaining to equity and diversity, we have a committee that looks at these kinds of issues and discusses them extensively. Usually when we want to show support towards a group, we never take a stance unilaterally, we have to go to that group and consult with them on how best we can be allies with them. I just want to warn everyone that before writing such a policy book, there needs to be a broad conversation that cannot only happen at council.

S. Tabasi (AGSA): Definitely, during the AGSA meeting we had addresses that we don’t want to do things unilaterally, but more so to bring the conversation forward, and include all voices.

EDC: If some of you are interested in these issues and want to prepare motions to include in the Policy Manual next year, please join the committee and get involved.

The EAO suggested creating an ad hoc committee focussed on building the positions book.

AAO: We cannot make an ad hoc committee with this because there is too much overlap with the Equity & Diversity Committee mandate.
Y. Bresler (MGAPS): Can we motion that EDC start looking into this and come back to council with a preliminary report as opposed to an ad hoc?

AAO: It is a very long process to do, perhaps that is a goal for next year’s EC.

F. Armstrong (PPSMUA): Point of information - from my experience, a positions book is a list of things that the organization stands for, e.g. tuition fees, environment, gender equality; it doesn’t necessarily have to be equity and diversity issues, it can be general policy.

SG: Yes.

F. Armstrong (PPSMUA): Is there a procedure to add policies?

SG: Yes, there is. It goes through two readings of council, and then to governance.

F. Armstrong (PPSMUA): Not AGM?

SG: No. We can propose amendments.

EDC: In response to Yony’s question, I can look at the propositions that were made with my committee and can liaise with the First Peoples House about them, but not sure how soon they will get back to me. It is possible I will have consulted with these groups by next council. However, a policy book before the end of my mandate would not be possible.

Y. Bresler (MGAPS): To clarify, I didn’t mean to establish a positions book in a month. What I would like is for the Equity Committee to come back to us with an idea of the process, which we can agree on.

EDC: I think so.

EAO: I still think an ad hoc committee would be appropriate, because some positions like environment and finance wouldn’t fall under the Equity portfolio. This is a big issue that is too much for one committee.

J. Singh (MCGSS): My understanding is that creation of the positions book isn’t going to be the creation of a blank book, there are already positions and policies that PGSS has. They’re just separating it, and at the same time, we are trying to add new positions, which don’t necessarily have to happen in the same discussion. It sounds like we are trying to do two things at once. Let’s split it apart, and from there go into a discussion about adding policies to the new positions book.

G. Dupuis (MGAPS): In support of Bradley’s idea, would it be possible to have either a joint or sub-committee? I think everything would be in favour of having a more dedicated committee, even if it is a subcommittee of Equity & Diversity.

Speaker: Does someone want to move for a specific committee?

A. Nosrat (EC): I’d like to form an ad hoc committee.

SG: You have to form a working group. We don’t have procedures for an ad hoc committee.

A. Nosrat (EC) moved for the creation of a working group.

Speaker: How many people in the working group?

A. Nosrat (EC): Eight.

Speaker: Who would lead it?

EAO: I would.

Motion seconded.
AAO: I would like to make an amendment that the composition of the committee would include members of existing standing committees. There needs to be a reporting structure.

A. Nosrat (EC): To complete my motivation, I would like 6 members and I disagree with Devin. People who want to be part of this should be able to. I don’t have anyone in my committee who would be interested in this work, so I think it is an unnecessary constraint.

H. Lopez (MCGSS) proposed to table so that motioner has more time to prepare.

Motion seconded.

Motion passes.

The SG requested that Sam and Bradley talk about what they want the working group to start with and come to next council with a draft proposal (include number of people, where they should come from) and look at the bylaws on how to create a working group.

6 New Business

6.1 Motion to Approve: FEUQ Fee Discontinuation Question

Whereas the FEUQ assembly adopted a motion to cease levying membership fees starting Autumn 2015 as part of its winding down process (legal liquidation);

Whereas this motion is part of irrevocable legal process that leads to the cession of the FEUQ as an association;

Whereas this motion cannot be revoked, and cannot lead to a later demand for fees as was the case with the CFS;

Whereas the Chief Returning Officer will be running a referendum in October for which he has arranged for additional questions to be added to the referendum;

BIRT the following question be put to referendum with options to vote “for”, vote "against", and to "abstain"

"As per the July 19th resolution of the University student federation of Quebec (FEUQ) to eliminate membership fees as part of its winding down process (liquidation), do you agree that PGSS cease to collect from members the FEUQ membership fee of 2.53 per semester (excluding summer) starting in September of 2016?"

"Do you agree that this fee will be held until the liquidation process has been completed and then applied to the PGSS Special Projects Fund deficit?"

The SG explained that the FEUQ does not really exist, it is in the process of dividing up assets. We don't want to disaffiliate from them so we still have a say on what happens with the research reports they have compiled. However, they have stopped collecting fees, so there needs to be official approval from student body to stop collecting this fee.

FAO: Can we include in the question that we use the money that we have there to move it to somewhere else? We have collected that amount already this year, and if we are passing this through referendum, the only body that can give us permission to use it for another purpose, such as the deficit, is the general membership. We can include it in the same question.

Speaker: I would be very surprised if the Deputy Provost allowed this. It would have to be two questions.
FAO: In 2013, they have asked two questions in one so it should be OK this time as well. If council is okay with this, then we can least start discussing with Deputy Provost.

Speaker: So you are making a formal amendment?

FAO: Yes. Can I ask the SG if she is ok with that?

SG: I would like to hold these fees until the FEUQ has been appropriately disbanded, so there’s no possible chance that they will come back and ask us for fees. Although we have good legal grounds to refuse paying those fees regardless, would like to have safety net.

FAO: We can include that we can keep this money until the FEUQ is officially gone, and then it would move to the deficits that PGSS has.

MSO: Point of information - can you tell us how much debt?

FAO: I think it was ~$29 000 this year, but would have to check.

EAO: Are we confirmed that if the FEUQ officially dies before such a question is passed, would we still have to ask this question?

SG: Yes. We want to be as transparent as possible, and McGill won’t stop charging the fee unless we tell them in some shape or form.

Amendment moved by FAO, seconded by J. Singh (MCGSS)

Motion to split into two questions moved by J. Singh (MCGSS), seconded by Y. Bresler (MGAPS).

Motion passes.

Motion to table the second question moved by Y. Bresler (MGAPS), seconded by H. Lopez (MCGSS).

Motion passes.

Vote on the original FEUQ motion, with no amendments.

Motion passes.

9:01 PM 6.2 Tabled - Motion to Approve: QSU Referendum Question

BIRT, the following question be put to referendum with options to vote “for”, vote “against”, and to “abstain” “Do you support the PGSS affiliating with the Quebec Student Union (QSU), understanding that the affiliation is associated with the creation of a non-opt-outable QSU fee of $4.50 per student per semester, payable on Minerva by all graduate students (downtown and Macdonald campus, excluding post doctoral fellows) who are members of the PGSS, starting in Winter 2017 and to be charged until Winter 2021 (inclusive), adjusted annually to inflation as indexed by the Bank of Canada CPI (Consumer Price Index), and understanding that a no vote will result in the PGSS remaining unaffiliated from QSU?”

Motion by EAO to move to committee as a whole to discuss 9.2 and 9.3 at the same time, seconded by J. Singh (MCGSS).

Motion passes.

EAO: Point of information - if we were to have both of these questions go forward and both of them passed, then we would have voted to affiliate to two separate student federations, but we can’t actually be affiliated with two.
Speaker: You cannot be members of two groups that are under Act 32 of the same level.

F. Armstrong (PPSMUA): I don't think that is correct, you can be a member of ASEQ and FERQ.

EAO: ASEQ and FERQ are not same level.

Speaker: It depends on the level of education being represented. CEGEP counts as one, undergrad counts as one, and grad counts as one.

F. Armstrong (PPSMUA): And there are no CEGEP in either AVEQ or QSU?

EAO: There are no CEGEPs involved in either of them at this point.

EAO: Both organizations are having their founding assemblies very soon. At that point, we'll be able to participate but can't actually vote unless we are an affiliated member. Now is a good time for PGSS to join a federation, and provides a unique opportunity for us to participate in the creation of something new. Both of these are new, however the QSU follows a similar format to FEUQ and has potential to have same problems, whereas AVEQ has consciously presented itself as an alternative. It has fewer student federations at this point and a one association one vote model, so PGSS representatives would have a lot of influence on creating it. They have also positioned themselves very out front to create space for Anglophone associations.

F. Armstrong (PPSMUA): Point of order - I don't think this is the time to discuss the value of each.

SG: If we only ask one or the other, the problem that SSMU had was they only ran a referendum question for one organization, and there was a strong voice for not affiliating to that organization because of the fact that the individuals advocating for not affiliating were very pro the other organization. By asking both questions, we restrict the "no" vote campaign to people who actually think we should associate with neither. In terms of asking a ranking question, I talked to the Deputy Provost and it's tricky to do since they are different fees. We can table and I talk to them further to figure out a way we can do this, or we can come up with an amendment to both referendum questions stating that the organization with the higher degree of yes votes will be the one that we actually affiliate to.

Question: So can we actually add the amendment that we would choose the higher one, because to me, that's just recreating a ranking question, which was initially what we can't do.

SG: The problem with the ranking question is that you'd put them all into the same question.

H. Lopez (MCGSS): Point of information - when would the referendum happen?

SG: Assuming that these passed, I was going to add a motion to approve special by-election dates. Have not gotten confirmed by CRO yet. Starting tomorrow, we'd have two weeks of affiliating to a yes/no committee for either question, then 2 weeks following that of campaigning, and one week of elections so the vote would be May 5.

S. Tabani (AGSA): Point of information - QSU was the smaller one?

SG: AVEQ is the smaller one, they have 2 student associations right now.

S. Tabani (AGSA): It's the Anglophone one?

SG: Concordia SU has affiliated to AVEQ. They are the only Anglophone association that has associated to either one of these organizations.

The MSO clarified for council the difference between the two associations.

Y. Bresler (MGAPS): This is a very important question, and the procedures of how we do it is important. Running two questions consecutively may be harder to either of them to get a yes. Also there are people
here who are unsure which is which. I move to table this again. Not just important that we join one, but if we vote no, it will be a while before PGSS can consciously come back to members to ask if we want to join again. We need to make sure that we are ready and that the dates match with people from the organizations to help us campaign and educate members.

Motion seconded by H. Lopez (MCGSS)

Motion by SG to leave the committee of the whole, has to be done before motion can be tabled.

Question to clarify problem with having a ranking question.

SG: It is much easier to do it this way. We hadn't formally decided if we wanted to do a ranking question or two separate questions, so that's why they came as separate questions. The problem is there's not really a good way to have all the lingo in there the right away in each of those individual questions in a way that's considered binding.

F. Armstrong (PPSMUA): Do the names and fees have to be in the question itself? They can't be in the whereas clauses?

Speaker: The dollar value has to be in the question.

SG: Whereas clauses are not put on the ballot. The question would have to include all of the information that you need to be able to answer the question.

The FAO asked for procedural way of how to table as a committee of the whole.

Speaker: Somebody can move to leave the committee of the whole and re-enter into a regular assembly, that needs to be seconded and voted. Then when we reach the actual questions, somebody can move to table each of them separately.

Motion to leave committee of the whole, seconded.

Motion passes.

Motion to table 9.2 moved by Y. Bresler (MGAPS), seconded by H. Lopez (MCGSS).

Motion passes.

6.3 Tabled - Motion to Approve: AVEQ Referendum Question

BIRT, the following question be put to referendum with options to vote "for", vote "against", and to "abstain" "Do you support the PGSS affiliating with the Association for the Voice of Education in Quebec (AVEQ), understanding that the affiliation is associated with the creation of a non-opt-outable AVEQ fee of $3.50 per student per semester, payable on Minerva by all graduate students (downtown and Macdonald campus, excluding post doctoral fellows) who are members of the PGSS, starting in Winter 2017 and to be charged until Winter 2021 (inclusive), adjusted annually to inflation as indexed by the Bank of Canada CPI (Consumer Price Index), and understanding that a no vote will result in the PGSS remaining unaffiliated from AVEQ?"

Motion to table 9.3 moved by Y. Bresler (MGAPS), seconded by H. Lopez (MCGSS).

Motion passes.
Adjourned