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10 PGSA Announcements

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1 Approval of the agenda

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3 Speaker’s report

4 Announcements

4.1 CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS: Fall 2016 Post-Graduate Orientation (August 28-September 11)

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS: Fall 2016 Post-Graduate Orientation (August 28-September 11)

We are looking for volunteers for the Fall 2016 Post-Graduate Orientation for the following unofficial committees:

1. Planning Committee in charge of organizing Logistics of orientation events. Need individuals with good organizational skills.

2. Sponsorship Committee in charge of contacting sponsors and negotiating contracts. Need individuals with good communication and/or negotiation skills.

3. Media and Outreach Committee in charge of outgoing media, including design of printed media and social media advertising of orientation events. Need individuals with good design and/or social media skills.

4. Promotion and Engagement Committee in charge of running the events, on-site during orientation. Includes Discover McGill "Ask me" staff and Food Crawl, Pub Crawl and tour leaders. Need outgoing, sociable, enthusiastic individuals to welcome newcomers and break the ice and energize the crowd. Similar to Frosh leaders.

No experience required. Anyone can volunteer.

Please email internal.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca if interested.

Please indicate if you are currently involved with a PGSS committee, PGSS council or a Post Graduate Student Association.

4.2 Changes to the Graduate Student Annual Tracker

Please see the attached document.

Changes to the Graduate Student Annual Tracker
4.3 Appointments Board Lottery

There will be an appointments board lottery this council! If you are interested in entering your name, please see Danielle before the start of the motions section.

4.4 Thomson House Gardens and Dandelion Collective

Hi everyone -

Gardening season has begun. So far, we have 18 PGSS members who have signed up for a bin.

We have another 8 or 9 spots left, so if interested, please make sure you sign up ASAP to not miss out on the gardening season. You can sign up here for $5 a bin: https://pgss.mcgill.ca/en/event/452

Also - there is a community beehive next to the gardens. It’s currently managed by the Dandelion Beekeeping Collective. They do maintenance on the TH hive once about every 10 days, so if you want to learn more about how to deal with honeybees, send e-mail to environment.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca to be put in touch or reach out at https://www.facebook.com/collectifdandelioncollective/?fref=ts

5 Business Arising

5.1 Changes to SAM - Second Reading by Council

Whereas, Changes to the SAM were necessary to make the Standing Committees of PGSS more functional

BIRT, Council conditionally approve the changes included in the attached document, therefore, recommending a review by the Policy and Structure Committee.

Changes to SAM - First View by Council

5.2 Second reading: Motion to Adopt a Policy on Procedures for Affiliation With or Disaffiliation From a Student Federation

Second reading: Motion to Adopt a Policy on Procedures for Affiliation With or Disaffiliation From a Student Federation

5.3 Second Reading: Environment Policy

Whereas the PGSS Environment Policy has not been updated since 2007,

Whereas the PGSS Environment Policy could benefit from more recent language and specific directives,
Whereas, this document has been approved in first reading by council and passed through the Governance committee.
Whereas, the Governance Committee proposed minor wording changes.
Second Reading: Environment Policy

5.4 Second reading: PGSS Issues Policy on University/Industry Partnerships

Document re-uploaded here for march meeting due to Ubriety issues
2016-03-16 Amendment to PGSS Issues Policy on University/Industry Partnerships

5.5 Second Reading: Mental Health Policy

WHEREAS the PGSS does not currently have a policy on Mental Health and Wellness.
WHEREAS the Mental Health Policy Working group has collaborated over the past several months of develop this policy (see attachment).
WHEREAS mental health has become an important topic of discussion at universities across Canada, including McGill University. Mental health needs of PGSS members play a vital role in both academic and personal lives and strives to support the PGSS community in this respect.
WHEREAS this policy has been approved at a first reading in council and submitted to the Governance Committee.
BIRT PGSS council approves and recommends the attached PGSS Mental Health Policy be implemented into the PGSS Society Policy Manual.
Second Reading: Mental Health Policy

5.6 First Reading: Proposed Changes to the Society Activities Manual

Whereas, Changes to the Society Activities Manual were necessary to make the Standing Committees of PGSS more functional
BIRT, Council conditionally approve the changes included in the attached document, therefore, recommending
5.7 First Reading: Motion to Amend the PGSS Issues Policy: On Tuition Fees

Motion to Amend the PGSS Issues Policy: On Tuition Fees

WHEREAS the current PGSS issues policy on tuition fees was adopted in March 2011 and has not been amended;

WHEREAS the financial accessibility of post-secondary education is a key priority for the PGSS in representing its members’ interests;

WHEREAS differential fees place significantly higher financial burdens on out of province Canadian and international students than Quebec resident students and many PGSS members are out of province Canadian and international students;

WHEREAS the Quebec government in February 2015 announced plans to allow universities to increase tuition fees for international students by up 25% of their current rate;

WHEREAS tax credits and work permits are means for out of province Canadian and international students to decrease their financial vulnerability;

WHEREAS the PGSS Council recommended the creation of a policy on ancillary fees in March 2011 and no such policy has yet to be adopted;

BIRT the following amendments be made to the PGSS Issues Policy: On Tuition Fees to better represent the interests of PGSS members, in particular those of out of province Canadian and international students;

BIRT a committee be struck to look into creating a PGSS policy on ancillary fees.

Motion to Amend the PGSS Issues Policy: On Tuition Fees

6 Reports

6.1 Report from the Board of Directors

I apologize for the lateness of this report!

2016-04-28 Report from the Board of Directors
6.2 Internal Affairs Officer Report to Council - May 2016

2016-04-27 Internal Affairs Officer Report to Council - May 2016

6.3 2016-05-02 Member Services Officer Report to May Council

Includes:
Farewell and thank you!
MSO report for May Council
Detailed notes taken by MSO for Student Services Budget FY17 presented at Committee on Student Services.
Official document released by McGill showing Financials starting 2012. This was only possible given the PGSS - SSMU partnership in advocating for transparency for the past 2 years. Document does not include all information that we wanted (i.e., FY2010, FY2011 where it shows overhead being 0, and transfers coming from McGill Central to Student Services, and not the other way around). Moreover, it does not include a breakdown of the Student Services budget itself (i.e., programming, improvements, etc) having Council to rely on MSO meeting notes.

2016-05-02 2016-05-02 Member Services Officer Report to May Council

6.4 Secretary General report to May Council

Last council report! Thanks for a great year!

6.5 External Affairs Officer Report to May Council

2016-04-27 External Affairs Officer Report to May Council

6.6 May Council Report from AAO

2016-04-27 May Council Report from AAO
6.7 Environment Commissioner Report for May 2016 Council

2016-05-03 Environment Commissioner Report for May 2016 Council

6.8 Health Commissioner Report - May 2016

I have uploaded the summary also submitted for the General Meeting - please scroll to bottom for update on my meetings since my last report. Please contact me if you have any questions and/or are interested in getting involved in HaWC in the coming year (health.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca)!


6.9 Monthly Report of the Equity and Diversity Commissioner

2016-04-27 Monthly Report of the Equity and Diversity Commissioner

6.10 Yearly Report of the Equity and Diversity Commissioner

2016-04-27 Yearly Report of the Equity and Diversity Commissioner

6.11 Member Support Commissioner Report - May 2016

2016-04-27 Member Support Commissioner Report - May 2016

7 Question Period

8 Discussion

8.1 Upcoming Discussion - Athletics and Recreation Fee

I will be requesting to Council have a discussion regarding the Athletics and Recreation Fee (currently about $120 per term) during the June Council. Please collect information from your constituents in terms of what they would like to see changed in this fee.
9 New Business

9.1 Motion to approve the 2016-2017 Budget

Whereas the budget suggestion was discussed in the April council meeting.
Whereas the comments by the councilors, directors and committee members are considered and implemented.
Whereas the board of directors has approved the budgets that are under its purview.
BIRT the PGSS council approves the attached budget as the working budget of 2016-2017

Motion to approve the 2016-2017 Budget

9.2 Lottery for Appointments Board

9.3 Applications sent from the Appointments Board Committee for Approval

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<th>Committee</th>
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<tr>
<td>Athletics and Recreation Advisory Board</td>
<td>Devin J Mills</td>
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<td>2016-2017 Internal Affairs Committee</td>
<td>Marie-Pier Girouard</td>
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<td>Elise Malek-Adamian</td>
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<td>Cindy Jeewon Kim</td>
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<tr>
<td>Council of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies</td>
<td>Natheer Alatawneh</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2016-2017 Health and Wellness Committee</td>
<td>Cynthia Tang</td>
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<td>William Weiqian Liu</td>
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<td>Pauley Tedoff</td>
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<td>Athletics Roundtable</td>
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<td>2016-2017 Environment Commissioner</td>
<td>Amir H Nosrat</td>
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<td>2016-2017 Environment Commissioner</td>
<td>Peng (Selina) Liu</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016-2017 Committee of Member Support</td>
<td>Elise Malek-Adamian</td>
<td>Approved</td>
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9.4 Approval of Referendum Dates

Whereas we have three potential questions to ask the membership via referenda.
BIRT council approves the following timeline:

May 5th to 11th - Nominations
May 12th - 13th - Post Campaign Period and AC meeting (the 13th)
May 14th to 29th - Campaign Period
May 30th to June 5th - Voting

9.5 Access McGill Referendum Question

Whereas, The Access McGill fee is a critical part of funding necessary to provide services, support and access to our campus for students with disabilities at the undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate levels.

Whereas, The removal of this fee, and subsequent funding to OSD, would have a significant, negative and immediate impact on students with disabilities, particularly given the exponential growth of students who require alternate access to the physical and learning environments at McGill.

Whereas, this fee is up for renewal this year.

BIRT, the following question be put to referendum:

"Do you agree to renew the non-opt-outable Access McGill Fee of $2.00 per student per semester, payable by all PGSS members, excluding members on Macdonald Campus and Post-Doctoral fellows, starting in Fall 2016 and ending Winter 2021 (inclusive), at which time it will be brought back to the membership for renewal?"

9.6 Harmonization of Terms in SAM and Environmental Sustainability Policy

Whereas the SAM utilizes terminology and ideas incompatible with the most recent Environmental Sustainability Policy,

Whereas the proposed edits to the SAM by AAO Devin Mills does not address the aforementioned issue,

Whereas the attached document incorporates changes intended to harmonize SAM with the most recent Environmental Sustainability in addition to changes proposed by AAO Devin Mills,

BIRT that Council conditionally approve the changes included in the attached document, therefore, recommending a review by the Policy and Structure Committee.

Harmonization of Terms in SAM and Environmental Sustainability Policy

9.7 Motion for PGSS Collaboration with Mental Health Service

WHEREAS mental health education can help people learn coping strategies and ways of managing stressors.

WHEREAS the Wellness Recovery Action Planning (WRAP) program is an evidence-based psychoeducation program that can support mental wellness.
WHEREAS McGill Mental Health Service has limited office space to offer the WRAP program at the Brown Building. Collaboration between PGSS and Mental Health Service would increase access of this program to PGSS members.

WHEREAS McGill Mental Health Service will cover the cost of providing trained WRAP leaders to facilitate the program.

BIRT the WRAP program be approved as an official PGSS event, and that boardrooms at Thomson House be allotted, free of charge, for this psychoeducation program to be carried out during the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 academic years.

BIFRT that the PGSS Health Commissioner continue to communicate closely with Mental Health Service during this time and provide a yearly report to council on the success of this program.

9.8 Quebec Student Federation Affiliation Question

Whereas, council expressed desire to see an affiliation question with options for each federation.

BIRT, the following question be put to referendum:

[option1] "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?"

[option2] 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?

[option3] I do not support the PGSS affiliating with a Quebec student federation

[option4] I abstain from voting on the matter of PGSS affiliating with a Quebec Student Federation."

9.9 Motion Regarding Sexual Assault at McGill University

WHEREAS, sexual assault occurs disproportionately to certain groups, including women, trans and gender nonconforming people, queer people, racialized and ethnic persons, indigenous people, people with lower socioeconomic status, and people with disabilities;

WHEREAS, sexual assault occurs disproportionately on university campuses;

WHEREAS, sexual assault is under-reported and inadequately supported;

WHEREAS, adequate response to sexual assault requires the institutionalization of proactive and reactive measures;

WHEREAS, stand-alone policies on sexual assault help reduce under-reporting on campus;
WHEREAS, a comprehensive policy on sexual assault does not exist at McGill University;
WHEREAS, the McGill Administration recently rejected the sexual assault policy written by the Sexual Assault Working Group after two years of student-led research, extensive consultation with the community, and negotiation with the university;
BIRT PGSS endorses the Sexual Assault Working Group’s open letter to the McGill administration;
BIFRT PGSS recognizes that sexual assault is an urgent issue that must be addressed on campus;
BIFRT PGSS endorses and promotes the adoption of a sexual assault policy and the implementation of protocol and resources at McGill University that are accessible, proactive, pro-survivor and intersectional, as outlined in the demands of the open letter.


4 “McGill Administration Continues to Fail Survivors of Sexual Assault: An Open Letter to the Administration of McGill University.” 7 April 2016.

5 https://docs.google.com/document/d/1pNNUPLwtIMTk_wNhWnXoYlsk2_n5jr-dWCQxITekwv0/edit

Motion Regarding Sexual Assault at McGill University ()
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10 PGSA Announcements