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1 Approval of the agenda

1.1 Applications sent from the Appointments Board Committee for Approval

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2 Approval of the minutes

3 Speaker’s report

4 Announcements

4.1 CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS: Ambassadors for Departmental Orientations

Are you a graduate student looking to get involved in the McGill community? Would you like to be part of the exciting Welcoming Team for the 2016-2017 Graduate Orientation?

The McGill Graduate and Postdoctoral Orientation committee is looking for 12 graduate students to volunteer as Student Ambassadors. These student ambassadors will get to practice their teaching skills speaking at departmental orientation meetings, and socialize and network while helping graduate students integrate during different Orientation Week events.

We are looking for enthusiastic and responsible graduate students with demonstrated leadership abilities to apply. The time commitment for this position will be approximately 8-10 hours during the orientation period (August 25 to September 8). Volunteer Student Ambassadors who complete their assigned tasks will receive a letter from the Dean of GPS thanking them for their service, and recognition for their work through McGill’s co-curricular record system.

Interested applicants should send a 1 page cover letter demonstrating their interest in this opportunity and a copy of their CV to skillsets@mcgill.ca by noon on June 6th, 2016. Please use the subject heading: Application_Orientation_Lastname.
5 Business Arising

5.1 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

6 Reports

6.1 Report from the BoD/Member Support Commissioner intro

2016-05-25 Report from the BoD/Member Support Commissioner intro

6.2 External Affairs Officer Report to June Council

2016-05-25 External Affairs Officer Report to June Council

6.3 IAO Report to Council

2016-05-26 IAO Report to Council

6.4 Incoming Health Commissioner Intro and 2016-2017 Plans

Hi there! My name is Andrew and I’m excited to be your Health Commissioner for the 2016-2017 year. Enclosed is my plan for the year. If you have any suggestions, comments or health themed jokes - please send me an email at health.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca or come chat with me after council.

6.5 Sec Gen report to June Council

Final report! Thanks for a great year!

2016-05-26 Sec Gen report to June Council

6.6 Incoming Equity & Diversity Introduction/Report for June 1 Council

2016-05-25 Incoming Equity & Diversity Introduction/Report for June 1 Council

6.7 Equity and Diversity Commissioner Report to June 1st Council

My last report of the year! I am not certain of being able to attend the council, but please let me know if you have questions by email.

2016-05-23 Equity and Diversity Commissioner Report to June 1st Council

6.8 June 1, 2016 Report - 2016-2017 External Affairs Officer

2016-05-25 June 1, 2016 Report - 2016-2017 External Affairs Officer

6.9 Environment Commissioner Exit Report

It's only complete with the following Google Drive folder: https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0BwHTc16ck1kNUFFDZThlNjJ1N2Q5ZU

Amir and Victor, over and out (kinda).

2016-05-25 Environment Commissioner Exit Report
7 Question Period

8 Discussion

8.1 Discussion on Sexual Violence Policy - need for input

There is a request for input from students on McGill’s Sexual Violence Policy drafted by the office of the Associate Provost of Policies, Procedures and Equity by the end of June. Councilors are requested to consult with their GSA's on this important policy.

Discussion on Sexual Violence Policy - need for input

8.2 Discussion on Climate Change Policy at McGill

At a special meeting of the Board of Governors held last March, the board approved a report from CAMSR (the Committee to Advise on Matters of Social Responsibility) that responded to the expression of concern submitted by Divest McGill over fossil fuel investments in McGill’s $1.3 billion endowment. This report did not find that fossil fuel companies are responsible for social injury, but did make specific recommendations to advance climate change policy at McGill and advance socially responsible investment policies. Principal Fortier and Provost Manfredi have commissioned three public consultations for input on how to implement these policies, which include the following...

- Establishing a socially responsible investment fund option for donors interested in such an option - similar to the fund established for pension investments
- Looking at opportunities for, and supporting, sound investments in alternative (renewable) energy firms, alternative technology development and commercialization
- Developing ESG principles and guidelines for endowment investments
- Asking investment managers to report annually on ESG and UNPRI implementation and compliance, which will in turn be reported to the Board
- Supporting and initiating shareholder resolutions to encourage changes in company practices deemed inconsistent with ESG and UNPRI
- Sustainability research and education across all fields of study, efforts to advance understanding of climate change and promote innovative mitigation and adaptation solutions
- Ongoing implementation of Vision 2020 and the development of a further sustainability strategic plan and action plan for 2017-2020
- Projects to quantify and reduce McGill’s own carbon footprint that set measurable goals and contain indicators of performance and progress

Discussion on Climate Change Policy at McGill ()

Discussion on Climate Change Policy at McGill ()
9 New Business

9.1 Motion to establish a Working Group on Services for Off-Campus Commuters

Motion to establish a Working Group on Services for Off-Campus Commuters

Attachments:
- Inter-Campus Shuttle Schedule
- STM Bus Schedule
- Macdonald Campus Shuttle Bus Survey
- CL&E Draft Report on Idea Café Off-Campus Commuter Focus Groups
- McGill Institutional Report on 2011 NSSE
- IAO Report on CLE, MCGSS and PGSS Consultations regarding Services for Off-Campus Commuters

Motion Body:

WHEREAS, Campus Life and Engagement (CLE), a member of Student Services, will be publishing a report (attached) in June 2016 on Off-Campus Commuters, which states that 80% of McGill students, including graduate students, live off campus/commute to campus on a daily basis;

WHEREAS, the McGill Institutional Report (attached) on The 2011 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) states that 74% of first-year students and 49% of senior (non-first year) students utilize public transit (STM Buses and McGill Inter-Campus Shuttle Bus) for their commute to campus, spending between 1 hour to 15 hours in public transit per week;

WHEREAS, the 2016 Macdonald Campus Shuttle Survey (attached) completed by 700 participants who actively use the Inter-Campus Shuttle Bus, showed that the majority of students utilize this service to commute from home to class, to travel between classes on both campuses and to access services on the downtown campus (Health Services, Counselling etc.);

WHEREAS, in 2016 CLE organized two “Idea Café” focus groups to collect data on Off-Campus Commuter experiences, during which the majority of participants stated that the existing public transit options (STM Buses and McGill Inter-Campus Shuttle Bus; schedules attached) are insufficient to fulfill their commuting needs, in line with the findings of the Macdonald Campus Shuttle Survey;

WHEREAS, during the 2016 Idea Cafés a consensus was established on the need for a carpooling or a commute buddy system for McGill students, which would significantly improve the daily commute to and from campuses for Off-Campus Commuters;

WHEREAS, following consultations with representatives from CLE, MCGSS and PGSS (report attached), the IAO has initiated a collaboration among these parties to develop an Off-Campus Commuter App for McGill students, to address this need;
WHEREAS, the development of such an app requires careful review of existing services available to Off-Campus Commuters, as well as research on feasibility, timeline and costs associated with its development;

BIRT, PGSS establish the Working Group on Services for Off-Campus Commuters, to review existing services available for off-campus commuters, to research the feasibility, timeline and associated costs for the development of a commuter app, and to present this information in shape of a formal proposal to Council, for approval to request formal support from the McGill Administration;

BIFRT, the Working Group on Services for Off-Campus Commuters be co-chaired by the IAO and the MSO and consist of up to ten (10) regular members of PGSS appointed by the AB, including at least three (3) members representing the MCGSS.

Motion to establish a Working Group on Services for Off-Campus Commuters

9.2 Motion regarding approval of PGSS collaborations with Peer Support Centre

MOTION REGARDING APPROVAL OF PGSS COLLABORATIONS WITH PEER SUPPORT CENTRE

WHEREAS, mental health and access to mental health services are integral in maintaining a healthy lifestyle and success;

WHEREAS, students can wait up to several months before seeing a mental health professional;

WHEREAS, a working group struck by Student Services conducted a campus-wide survey to gauge mental health;

WHEREAS, results from this survey were made public in 2014 and peer support was identified as a service to address this growing need to provide, when possible, immediate support to students under stress;

WHEREAS, the Peer Support Centre (PSC) is a student-run service that works closely with McGill’s Mental Health Service and Counselling Service, as well as other Student Services,

WHEREAS, the PSC offers weekly, one-on-one, drop-in peer support sessions with a student trained in active listening and basic peer support;

WHEREAS, a graduate student’s availabilities and experiences can be quite different from those of an undergraduate student (i.e. academics, funding, families, housing, etc.);
BIRT, the PGSS Council approve of the continued collaboration between the PGSS and PSC, specifically through the Health Commissioner;

BIRT, the PSC sessions be approved as an official PGSS event and therefore allocated weekly hours in one of the Thomson House boardrooms, free of charge, to provide drop-in peer support sessions specifically to PGSS members;

BIRT, the PSC supporters at Thomson House be PGSS members (unless none are available);

BIFRT, these support sessions be offered for the 2016-2017 academic year with an end-of-year report presented by the Health Commissioner on the program’s success.

Motion regarding approval of PGSS collaborations with Peer Support Centre ()

Motion regarding approval of PGSS collaborations with Peer Support Centre ()

10 PGSA Announcements