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   8.2 Motion regarding approval of PGSS collaborations with Peer Support Centre
Attending

Alexei Kazarine, Alexandre Magdzinski, Anastasia Berwald, Angela Yu, Angelica Avisha Gopal, Basem Adel Danish, Brenda Janice Sanchez Sanchez, Camille Delouche, Charles Brunette, Connie Luu, Danielle Claire Toccalino, Danni Cai, Emily Catherine Moore, Environment Commissioner (Amir Nosrat and Selina Liu), External Affairs Officer (Bradley Por), Frédrick Armstrong, Financial Affairs Officer (Behrang Sharif), Hamed Rafezi, Health Commissioner (J. Andrew Dixon), Ian Michael Lorenz, Internal Affairs Officer (Mina Anadolu), Jaaved Singh, Jaclyn Adriana Hearnden, Jacob Leo Lavigne, John Allan Morris, Jos? Hctor G?mez L?pez, Kedar Kamalakar Mate, Mariana Umpierrez Failache, Member Services Officer (Jenny Ann Pura), Member Support Commissioner (Billy Liu), Mina Moradi, Morgan Kenzie Foret, Natalia Jaworska, Nicolas Chatel-Launay, Olivier Sulpis, PGSS Council Speaker (Logan Smith), Qiushi Cui, Radu Gabriel Avramescu, Rehab Salem ALhasani, Roya Jamarani, Rui Li, Sarah Colby, Secretary-General (Victor Frankel), Selya Amrani, Simon Bertrand, Sophie Le Blanc, Tetyana Krupiy, Thomas Robert Beattie, Vertika Vertika, Vincent Dalp?, Yaxi Zhao, Yony Bresler, Academic Affairs Officer (Nicholas Dunn)

Guests

Hsien-Wei Chen, Stephanie Mok, Dancy Mason, Pessina Katarina, Faegheh Ghanbari, Karine Choquet, Victoria Wang, Ahmed Khorshid, Kristin Franseen, Maria Villar, Kiesha Dhallwal, Yasmine Nadifi, Shabnam Taherian, Colby Briggs

6:30 PM Call to order

1 Approval of the agenda

Motion passes.

6:32 PM 1.1 Applications sent from the Appointments Board Committee for Approval

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David Thomson Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching & Supervision

Jaaved Singh

Approved

PGSS Board of Directors

Devin J Mills

Approved

PGSS Board of Directors

Domenico Tullo

Approved
Motion passes unanimously.

7:03 PM 1.2 Add Item: Introduction from incoming executive

2 Floor Items

6:31 PM 2.1 May 4th Council Meeting

Motion passes.

3 Speaker’s report

6:31 PM

The Speaker welcomed everyone, and noted that it is the first day for new executives as well as the first day of the 2016-17 year.

4 Announcements

6:33 PM 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.

The IAO announced that she is recruiting volunteers for Departmental Orientation. Something new this year is that ambassadors will function university-wide, even after orientation. Ambassadors will be giving 10 minute talks at departmental orientations, and will be a part of Discover McGill. There are 12 positions available, and applications are due by June 6.
J. Singh (MCGSS): For Mac, do you want students from the actual departments, or do just want MCGSS to have their members apply?

IAO: Skill Sets is organizing these departmental orientations, anyone can apply to give an orientation speech to any departmental organization. One person would be doing 2 or 3 talks.

## 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

The Speaker explained that this document was approved a while ago but could not be uploaded for viewing, and is now back to Council for a second reading. He then asked for questions.

Y. Bresler (MGAPS): Since we haven’t been able to read it, can you leave it on the screen for 2 mins?

The Speaker read out the policy aloud.

F. Armstrong (PPSMUA): Don’t know if the mover is here, but what agency would enforce those policies? Item 9 says something about enforcement.

Speaker: The mover is not here. This is just what the PGSS would support, this itself isn’t going to be a binding policy.

Motion to extend D. Toccalino’s speaking rights passes.

D. Toccalino: Our policies outline how we would interact with the university and what values we would put forward. We can’t make the university do anything, but this outlines what graduate students stand for.

Motion passes.

## 6 Reports

### 6.1 Report from the BoD/Member Support Commissioner intro

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

W. Liu introduced himself as the outgoing Council Director and incoming Member Support Commissioner. He thanked everyone for making him feel welcome on the board, and mentioned that anyone interested in taking this position in the upcoming year can speak to him if there are questions. He highlighted some of the events from the last board meeting, including the appointment of new directors, changes to the employee policy manual, updates from pending legal cases, and discussion about the survey regarding student life and Thomson House.

He then spoke about the role of the MSC and his transition with the previous MSC. He also discussed some of his plans for the upcoming year, including working on Grad Connect Cafes, finding ways to make...
the Committee of Member Support more active, and overseeing allocation of the Legal Member Support Fund.

V. Vertika (MGAPSS): What is purpose of the Grad Connect Cafes?

MSC: Initial idea was for students to get together to talk about things outside of academics, such as socialization and interacting with other students, and to work through any issues together. Hoping to promote it more next year.

V. Vertika (MGAPSS): Incidence of an international student being told they only got in because of the international quota at a Grad Connect Cafe, which should be a basis for support. Would like this to be addressed in the future.

The Speaker welcomed and thanked the MSC.

6:46 PM 6.2 June 1, 2016 Report - 2016-2017 External Affairs Officer

J. Lavigne introduced himself as the incoming EAO. He is currently in Experimental Surgery doing a PhD. He discussed some of his projects for the next year, the main one being lobbying to the government for an increase in graduate funding and environmental responsibility. He also hopes to increase the number of opportunities for professional development on campus, and will be organizing a seminar series to showcase cool work being done in the community. He is also interested in equity campaigns (promoting opportunities for women in engineering, fighting for compensation during internship, and a consentment campaign).

N. Chateau-Launay (MCGSS): May I suggest another project? There are currently plans for an electric train that links downtown campus and Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue where Mac campus is located, but the train station doesn’t seem like it’s going to be that close to campus, and there doesn’t seem to be a plan for commute from the campus to the train station. It would really benefit all the students of Mac campus if PGSS could lobby the municipal government for changes.

EAO: Absolutely, thank you for the idea. There are other projects that I am interested in lobbying the municipal government on in addition to that, such as the Royal Victoria Hospital.

The Speaker thanked the incoming EAO.

6:50 PM 6.3 IAO Report to Council

M. Andolou introduced herself as the incoming and outgoing IAO. Her focus right now is on orientation and getting everything ready for September. She showed the orientation calendar, and highlighted that there are a number of events that all PGSS members are invited to, as incoming students have expressed that they would like to meet existing students to ask questions. She also talked about the redesign of the PGSS agenda, and that ad space is still available; if anyone is interested, please let her know before July. She talked briefly about BrainWaves, a student research podcast project, and how to get involved. She showed a list of the 100 events scheduled for the upcoming year, and mentioned that something new
they have done is categorize events to ensure there are inclusive events that cater to the larger PGSS community. Lastly, she welcomed questions/emails from Council members in person or by email.

No questions were asked. The Speaker thanked the IAO.

6:54 PM 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.


A. Dixon introduced himself as the incoming Health Commissioner, and a Master’s student going into his 2nd year of Neuroscience. He announced that there are lots of exciting initiatives planned for the upcoming year, including collaborating with the Internal Affairs Committee on events, advocacy campaigns, and providing resources regarding keeping active and how to access health care both on/off campus. He welcomed members to contact him after the meeting or by email with any ideas or suggestions for health initiatives.

K. Dhaliwal (NGSA): Do you have a partnership with the Office of Student Disabilities?

HC: Currently what’s happening with the OSD is they are going between OSD and MyAccess, still trying to figure out what the new structure will be. Student services is going through a huge shuffle right now. This is definitely not an exhaustive list and will change, but we will definitely be collaborating with the OSD or MyAccess.

J. Singh (MCGSS): Not sure if you read Mina’s report, but there is a lot of lack of health services at Mac, would you be collaborating with us to help improve the situation?

A. Dixon (HC): Absolutely, one of my goals is to improve access to care both on and off campus, which involves working with Mac campus, to get better access to services downtown as well as to bring services to Mac.

Thanked HC.

6:57 PM 6.5 Sec Gen report to June Council

Final report! Thanks for a great year!

2016-05-26 Sec Gen report to June Council

V. Frankel introduced himself as the incoming SG. He is doing his PhD in the Department of Biology, and was the Environment Co-Commissioner last year. He talked about how there is a lot of momentum on campus about the role of McGill as an institution in addressing the climate crisis. He discussed the need for a bigger culture of innovation and collaboration at PGSS, Thomson House, and campus in general, to fix our university and society.

No questions were asked. The Speaker thanked the SG.
6:59 PM 6.6 Incoming Equity & Diversity Introduction/Report for June 1 Council

Neither the incoming EDC or outgoing EDC were available to speak, please refer to report.

7:00 PM 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.

Refer to report.

7:00 PM 6.8 Environment Commissioner Exit Report

It’s only complete with the following Google Drive folder: https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0BwHTc16ck1kNUFFDZThvNKFY

Amir and Victor, over and out (kinda).

S. Liu introduced herself as a Master’s student in Chemical Engineering, and announced that she will be Environment Co-Commissioner with A. Nosrat next year. She talked about how they are planning to build on the success of workshops from last year and collaborate with different bodies on campus. If anyone has ideas related to sustainability, please email them.

Seeing no questions, the Speaker thanked the EC.

7:01 PM 6.9 External Affairs Officer Report to June Council

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

7:03 PM 6.10 Introduction from incoming executive

M. Moradi introduced herself as the new FAO. She is doing her 2nd year of a Master’s in Human Nutrition and Dietetics. She said that Behrang has done a great job last year, and she hopes to continue and build on his work.

N. Dunn introduced himself as the new AAO, and mentioned that if anyone is interested in sitting on committees to please come talk to him. In particular, there are 5 PGSS representatives on Senate, 1 of which is a post-doc, and they are currently recruiting for a post-doc to fill that position. Two main things that he wants to continue are the new supervisor workshops (more frequent and some held on Mac campus) and advocacy for multiyear funding packages. He also hopes to make progress with the
Milestones Project, secure more work and study space for grad students on campus, and work with the Equity Commission on the implementation of a sexual assault policy by the end of the year. He welcomed questions by email.

J. A. Pura introduced herself as the new MSO. She is finishing her 2nd year of a Doctorate in Experimental Surgery. She will be attending the CACUSS conference from June 19-22, where she hopes to network with other universities on common issues. If there is anything members would like her to advocate for at CACUSS, please email and let her know. She will also be working on Study Sundays logistics for next year and reviewing what did/didn’t work.

7 Discussion

7.1 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

The SG spoke about how recent incidents have shown we are inadequately prepared as an institution to address sexual violence on campus, leading to this policy. He encouraged members to look at news on the McGill Daily and Tribune. Students have until the end of this month to provide input to Angela Campbell’s office. He mentioned that the incoming EDC has been part of the student group to draft the working policy, but the university has essentially ignored all recommendations and brought out this policy instead. He encouraged members to go back to their GSAs and ask them for input, which can be sent to him, Angela Yu, or directly to Angela Campbell’s office. He also pointed out that the language emphasizes protection, but in doing so, stresses education and promotional programs which are important and much needed, but is not a proactive approach for risk reduction and actually providing support and resources. A lot of the suggestions for an inter-sectional approach have been ignored, and nowhere in the report does it state what resources the university is going to provide for all of the programs they are proposing; there is currently only one person on a yearly contract to provide educational and outreach services.

AAO: Just to be clear, this is the latest draft out of Angela’s office?

SG: Yes.

AAO: I’m looking at the meeting minutes from March 22 which is when they decided to call it quits for the time being. Angela suggested 2 options - an aspirational document, or to strike an adhoc committee of Senate. I’m wondering if that is still on the table or now just going to happen in Angela’s office? Reason I am asking this is that if there is a committee on Senate, there is a potential for student representation.

SG: So on your first point, this isn’t the document from the working group. Students have been providing a lot of input, but they essentially ignored all of the work by the students on this working group. Regarding your second point, I don’t see why not we shouldn’t have an adhoc committee but they want to pass a policy by the end of the year, so the committee would have to be working very quickly.

IAO: I am also very frustrated with this draft and want to make suggestions, as I’m sure many other people in this room are. Do we go to you or directly to Angela Campbell? How can we have our voices heard?
Post Graduate Students Society of McGill University
3650 McTavish Street, Montreal, Quebec
2016-06-01 - Minutes - June 1st Council Meeting - Approved
Published: August 31, 2016

SG: I'm happy to take any suggestions, verbal or written. I think the first step is to have these discussions with GSAs. I also recommend people to open up conversation with Angela Yu, who has been on the working group and is very familiar with the process. Please send an email to me and I will compile all comments in one document and cc Angela.

J. Singh (MCGSS): I'm wondering if we can get the student-led initiative on sexual assault policy sent to us before we go to our GSA so we can compare to what the university proposed. Also, can we showcase this document to all our members or just our Council?

SG: They gave us the document as PGSS execs to ask for consultation. I say bring it to as many people as possible, as it affects everybody. We will also make sure you have access to the student document.

7.2 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 ()

The SG spoke about recent events regarding climate change policy at McGill. There are three consultations happening in the fall, which will lead right into the joint board of governors and academic senate meeting where the theme is sustainability. The mandate of these consultations is 1) to get input from
campus community on McGill’s climate action plan, and 2) asking for public input on ethical and social governance principles. He mentioned that Selina is on the steering committee for the process of consultations, and we also want your input on what you want to see happen at these consultations.

8 New Business

8.1 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 ()

The IAO discussed the importance of issues regarding student transportation. In one of the reports attached, it states that 80% of McGill students, including graduate students, live off campus and commute everyday. In addition, a lot of people are commuting between different institutes (Mac, Montreal General, Douglas). She added that there are a number of members on the Internal Affairs Committee who are primarily located at Mac campus that want to get involved but are unable to attend events and meetings due to the difficulty of the commute. She highlighted some of the results and statistics from the attached reports, and presented each of the Whereas clauses and the BIRT clause to establish a working group.

Y. Bresler (MGAPS): Great idea, two points to add: 1) amend motion to encourage collaboration with whomever makes sense, and 2) timeline for when you think you can have the proposal for council.

IAO: Thank you for your question suggestions. This working group would definitely be collaborating with others parties, like walk safe and drive safe, but don't know in terms of a formal text if we should include specific groups as I want to leave it open to the working group to determine their mission and timeline themselves. In terms of a working group definition, that has been approved in the past council meeting, working groups can only exist for a duration of one year, so by the end of one year, they are to put forth a proposal. If the working group has to continue, the motion would have to go through Council again to extend the timeline. However, it is likely they will come up with a proposal before then and present to Council.

T. Krupiy (APF): Do you know the approximate # of students at McGill who have cars?

IAO: If you look at the McGill Institutional Report, the numbers being stated in the second Whereas is the # of people utilizing public transport. We know that about 50% of students located close to MacDonald campus own and use cars. However, I don't have the stats for downtown but can reach out to the Deputy Provost office; send me an email and I will share this information with you.

J. Singh (MCGSS): Wanted to state my obvious support for this. Mina did a great job talking about the
various issues. As a PGSA, one of the things we try to do is create space and activity for our members to participate in, and the commute makes our job a lot more difficult. There are lots of beneficial things for our students in these proposals.

A. Magdzinski (NGSA): The app sounds like great idea, but have you thought about a FB group or something like that?

IAO: There is a Mac Campus Carpooling Facebook group that exists, but is not very user friendly. Have to post your rides beforehand, and there is no way of interacting in real time with the people providing/receiving service. Also, not everybody has Facebook. As an aside, in the McGill app, there is a chat option for ride sharing, which is significantly under-utilized; most of the posts are for traveling to Toronto/Ottawa and are from 14 weeks ago. We want to provide a real time interactive experience for finding rides easily. This could perhaps be improving upon an existing app or coming up with a new one, it is up to the working group to decide.

Alex (NGSA): This is my first time hearing about the McGill app, does it come down to building on their app?

IAO: There are clickable links on the McGill app, which gives you email and phone number. There is a chat option, but it is not really based on ride sharing. Nick mentioned McGill IT, which has been placing blocks on all projects sent their way. Now they seem to have removed that block and are more open to collaborating. Could be an addition to existing platform or a stand alone thing.

F. Armstrong (PPSMUA): Proper decorum to read the whole thing and then motivate it, for the purpose of keeping debate clear. Not sure if it is an information point, or up for discussion. Are we in debate or voting procedure?

Speaker: I meant for it to be just questions, but then debate began. It would be best to just hear from people who have questions first.

S. Liu (EC): Could you elaborate on how the working group will be made - how many people, how will they be selected?

The speaker read out from the document: 10 regular members, at least 3 representing MCGSS, selected in same way as other positions.

The IAO reiterated that she has one person on her committee who is very dedicated and wants to get involved, but has experienced a lot of difficulty with transportation and finding a place to stay.

The Speaker announced that we will now move into the debate period.

MSO: Definitely for this. It was brought to my attention during May transition period, and I feel that it is a great initiative that we should vote yes for.

HC: Also would like to speak in support of this initiative. It would allows students to access peer support networks and other services downtown.

A. Magdzinski (NGSA): Many grad students are above the age of 25, so commuting to different sites is a huge issue, particularly with transit costs. Anything that can be done to address this, we are for.

Motion passes unanimously, working group will be created.

8.2 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 ()

The MSC explained what the Peer Support Centre is and why it was created. They had hours in Thomson House last year, and want to make sure this is supported by Council for the upcoming year. He said that the goal is to have a PGSS member be one of the supporters, but if this is not possible, they will send undergraduate students.

The Speaker read out the BIRT clauses aloud. He asked for clarifying questions on the motion. No question were asked.

The Speaker moved the discussion into debate period.

N. Chatel-Launay (MCGSS): I would like to propose friendly amendment. At MacDonald, we have the Peer Helper Program, which is based on the same model. Would it be possible to include the Peer Helper Program in the motion, wherever the Peer Support Centre is mentioned?

The MCS asked him to clarify his request.

N. Chatel-Launary (MCGSS): Just the first BIRT.

HC: During the current Student Services shuffle, one of the things they are emphasizing is use of PSC. Speaks to the importance of this motion.
K. Franseen (MGSS): Not sure if this is necessarily in the mandate, but would like to encourage the PSC to better advertise the graduate student portion. In music, the undergraduate PSC groups that were taking place in the music building were very well advertised, to the point that professors encouraged graduate students to attend those, not realizing it was also offered in Thomson House.

IAO: Strongly support this motion. We established PSC hours in Thomson House at the end of last year. There are group sessions available in WRAP program but no one-on-one sessions available; this initiative fills in that gap. I think it is necessary to make this service available for those who need it.

Y. Bresler (MGAPS): I realize this is out of order, but have a question about 3rd BIRT. Just to clarify, the people participating would be PGSS members?

MSC: Yes.

Motion passes unanimously.

7:49 PM  Adjourned