Agenda

1 Approval of the agenda

1.1 Add Item: PSC Announcement

1.2 Motion to Move: First Aid - Healthcare Professionals Course (CPR level C+) with the Emergency First Aid

1.3 Motion to Move: Health Commissioner - September Report and Work plan

1.4 Add Item: Questions

1.5 Motion to Remove: Questions

1.6 Add Item: Questions

1.7 Add Item: Motion to Approve a Referendum Question on a Midnight Kitchen Student Levy

2 Speaker’s report

3 Announcements

3.1 A welcome from Principal Fortier

3.2 Sexual Violence Policy - Request for Input

3.3 Focus Groups on Sexual Violence Policy

3.4 First Aid - Healthcare Professionals Course (CPR level C+) with the Emergency First Aid

3.5 Consent Week at McGill (+ Symposium at Thomson House)

3.6 Open Forums on Sustainability

3.7 Fossil Free Week: September

3.8 Request for input: Review of federal funding for fundamental science

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5.6 EAO Report to Council

5.7 Academic Affairs - Report to September Council

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6.1 Questions

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Call to order

1 Approval of the agenda

Motion add items 4.12 PSC Announcement and 9.2 Motion to support student levy for Midnight Kitchen.
Motion passes.

Motion to approve agenda passes.

1.1 Add Item: PSC Announcement

1.2 Motion to Move: First Aid - Healthcare Professionals Course (CPR level C+) with the Emergency First Aid
1.3 Motion to Move: Health Commissioner - September Report and Work plan

7:29 PM

1.4 Add Item: Questions

7:45 PM

1.5 Motion to Remove: Questions

7:46 PM

1.6 Add Item: Questions

7:46 PM

1.7 Add Item: Motion to Approve a Referendum Question on a Midnight Kitchen Student Levy

7:49 PM

2 Speaker’s report

6:47 PM


3 Announcements

6:48 PM

3.1 A welcome from Principal Fortier

Principal Fortier has come to address Council and speak on a few issues of importance to PGSS, as well as to take a few questions afterwards.

Principal Fortier introduced herself and shared a question submitted to Senate by a graduate student society: "How has the PhD changed in the current job market and what has McGill done to better prepare for employment opportunities outside of academia?" She spoke about the area of innovation, and encouraged students to participate in initiatives by the government on technological and social innovation. She introduced the new Associate Vice Principal for Partnerships and Innovation, who will be working with graduate students and holding weekly office hours for students. Principal Fortier also spoke on experiential learning, and announced that a mobility fund for experiential learning opportunities outside of McGill and Canada has launched today. She ended by saying that one of the greatest things about this university is that students take things in their own hands in launching projects and initiatives, giving the examples of Homework Zone and Brain Reach, and that taking on such projects prepares students for
jobs outside of academia. Lastly, she announced that the University received $84 million over the summer for brain research, and that at least 50% of this money will be spent on people and talent, including graduate students, providing opportunities for students who do want to pursue academia. She also spoke about the success McGill has had with the NSERC program CREATE (Collaborative Research and Training Experience Program), which brings together a group of students with a group of supervisors to work together.

The Associate Vice Principal for Partnerships and Innovation added that they are dedicated to recruiting and supporting top students, and reiterated Principal Fortier’s message on how most of the ideas actually come from students, and the role of administration is to consider each project and support it if they can.

Y. Bresler (MGAPS): When you started your term, one of your points of emphasis was on improved communication with students, and you’ve done a lot in that regard. However, there have also been issues with a lot more friction, like Divest and the Sexual Assault Policy. Where do you see the process of improving communications going?

Principal Fortier: We are a large community. One of the good things about McGill is that when it comes to issues that are very close to our academic mission, we tend to be able to reach consensus as a community. For example, we are clear about wanting to have a community open to diversity, the importance of academic freedom, and academic of speech. However, on other topics, particularly those that are political, we tend to have a variety of views. I think it is a good thing, because the fact that we have a variety of views means we will all make progress in some way. The importance to me is that we continue to do that on campus, and at the same time maintain respect. If there is one thing we need to preserve as a community, it is respect. Arguing and debating is healthy, and with Divest, we are not all in consensus on that particular topic. On issues that are more political, I don’t think we can expect, in a community of very smart people who have their own views and opinions, to reach consensus. There are difficult issues but if we can maintain the dialogue and have the debates and always maintain respect, I am convinced we can make progress on these difficult issues that society faces.

E. Hudson (NGSA): Nursing is planning to move to a different location. There have been many conversations about student space, particularly for graduate students. It is critical to our level of education to have access to space. What, as a senior administrator, can you do to guarantee dedicated student space for graduate students?

Principal Fortier: I won’t guarantee anything but I think it is important to talk about the kind of space that you need. I cannot tell you I know the details of the spaces for nursing, I will need to discuss with my colleagues, but I understand your point about needing dedicated space for graduate students. We are squeezed for space at McGill, this is a reality. We are exploring opportunities for increasing our footprint, and have been assessed by province as not having enough space so they may be able to help us. We are looking at the RVH campus as a possibility. I can tell you that the kind of concerns you have, space for graduate students and space for post docs, is part of our campus planning. I recognize that nursing is not in a good space right now during this transition, and we are trying to attend that. I am not sure you are going to get into the ideal space yet with the move, but we certainly know you need that kind of space.

K. Dhaliwal (NGSA): To add to what Emilie has said, I think it is important for us to feel part of the campus community, as campus is often seen as a place for graduate students. It’s nice to have a place like Thomson House where we can network and build a community of peer support, but within departments themselves, I know that we are looking for space. Is the administration willing to make a commitment to graduate students and make it a priority in terms of having policies? I’ve done my research this week on what is there for us and it is quite sparse.

Principal Fortier: I have the discipline of a scientist; I’m going to look at the data, possible solutions, and
pros and cons. I cannot give an answer now, as we need to look at what space is available, how we can redesign space to be better use for our students, and look at our campus plan for possible solutions. That is what I can commit to, but I cannot commit to answer without seeing the data.

The SG thanked Principal Fortier for speaking.

3.2 Sexual Violence Policy - Request for Input

Provost Manfredi has recently circulated a draft Policy against Sexual Violence to all members of the University community for consultation. This Policy will be brought to Senate this fall initially for information, then for a vote hopefully before the end of the term. During this time of consultation and active listening, the administration is working to ensure that insights and perspectives from across the McGill community are heard to ensure that we will have a strong Policy that will be effectively implemented.

Please to review the draft Policy and take some time to provide feedback and encourage the membership at your PGSA’s to do the same.

The draft Policy can be found here: http://mcgill.ca/provost/files/provost/svp_draft_for_campus-wide_consultation.pdf

SSMU / PGSS response to the draft policy can be found here.


A list of related FAQs and their responses can be found here: http://mcgill.ca/provost/strategic-initiatives/sexual-violence-policy/faq

The online form for providing feedback (can be anonymous) on the draft Policy can found here: http://mcgill.ca/provost/strategic-initiatives/sexual-violence-policy/form

The SG introduced the new CRO, Manmeet Rai. The CRO gave a brief introduction of himself, and asked that members who were not on the attendance list tonight to please ask their student society to send an email to elections.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca.

The SG announced that members should have received the Sexual Violence Policy in an email from Professor Manfredi, and are welcome to provide confidential input through the online form.

3.3 Focus Groups on Sexual Violence Policy

SSMU and PGSS members will be able to sign up for focus group slots online, identifying if they wish to participate in a general group or a survivor-only group. Input will also be made available with an online form with prompt questions that will be used in the focus group sessions, to accommodate members who wish to provide more in-depth feedback but are not comfortable doing so in a small group setting. Furthermore, representatives of SSMU and PGSS can meet with McGill policy makers for one-on-one meetings if students wish to communicate their comments directly.

The SG encouraged members to become involved and provide input through participation in the focus groups. He clarified that this is the second draft of the policy, after an initial round of consultations that happened this summer, and that it will be going to the Senate in October for a final passing in November and adoption in December.
3.4 First Aid - Healthcare Professionals Course (CPR level C+) with the Emergency First Aid

7:20 PM

Registration is NOW OPEN!!!

Common emergency topics covered: Emergency scene management, Fainting/unconsciousness, Bleeding & Wound care, Diabetic emergencies, seizures, Bone & Joint injuries, Asthma & Allergies, & environmental emergencies. A certification card is provided by the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada.

Length: 8 hours (STUDENTS MUST ATTEND THE FULL 8 HOURS)

Dates: Sunday November 1st from 12:00-4:30pm and November 8th 12h00 - 4:30pm

Most importantly, students will acquire the confidence to react in an emergency situation.

More information, please see the courses tab on the PGSS website!

The SG spoke on behalf of the MSO about the new First Aid professional course.

3.5 Consent Week at McGill (+ Symposium at Thomson House)

7:20 PM

Consent McGill invites you to take part in our 3rd Consent Week Campaign taking place from September 26th-30th, 2016. Please join us in participating in a variety of interactive and educational events to learn more about consent, sexual violence prevention, and the importance of providing effective support.

We would also like to highlight the Symposium on Improving Survivor Care and Supporting Disclosures of Sexual Violence in a University to McGill faculty and staff members. The Symposium will take place on Tuesday September 27th from 6 p.m. -9 p.m (at Thomson House Ballroom) and will feature a list of speakers from the McGill community to discuss improving survivor care, information on how to respond to disclosures, the multiple barriers sexual assault survivors can face in regards to support and the disclosure process, what McGill does in terms of support and reporting options. To reserve a seat please register through myinvolvement.

Everyone plays a role in making McGill a safer space, and we hope that this symposium will help not only help to spread awareness of the importance of supporting disclosures, but to also educate members of the McGill community on how to effectively support someone disclosing sexual violence.

We invite you to get involved and learn more about how you can make a difference by attending one of our events

Sexual Assault Centre of McGill Students’ Society (SACOMSS) Open House
Candlelight Vigil for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women
Symposium - Improving Survivor Care: Supporting Disclosures of Sexual Violence in a University Setting.
How to Respond to and Support Disclosures of Sexual Violence Workshop
Panel - Addressing Sexual Violence and Power Dynamics
Know Your Rights Information Session
Closed Workshop for Survivors of Sexual Assault
Becoming an Active Bystander: A Sexual Violence Prevention Workshop
Self-Care Corner: Wellness Through Potting

#ConsentMcGill Booths (with prize wheels, consent colouring books and much more!)

We hope to see you during #ConsentMcGill week

Consent Week at McGill (+ Symposium at Thomson House)

The SG highlighted a symposium that PGSS is co-hosting at Thomson House during Consent Week about learning to become an active listener and presenting yourself as an ally to survivors of sexual violence.

7:20 PM 3.6 Open Forums on Sustainability

McGill’s administration is looking for input from students, faculty and staff as they prepare a climate action plan that aims to 1) reduce McGill’s carbon footprint 2) expand initiatives on sustainability research and teaching and 3) develop concrete measures to ensure that McGill’s investments comply with Environmental, Social and Governance principles. Please share your thoughts!

Friday, September 23rd (3pm-5pm) - Downtown Campus - Chancellor Day Hall Moot Court

Wednesday, September 28th (2pm-4pm) - Downtown Campus - Thomson House Ballroom

Friday, September 30th, 2016 (10:30am-12:30pm) - MacDonald Campus - MacDonald Stewart Building, Faculty Lounge

The SG announced that there are three forums on sustainability starting this Friday. He explained that McGill is trying to get campus community input on how to develop a sustainability strategy and make McGill carbon neutral. He mentioned that the Environment Commissioners have been very active in working on these issues, and encouraged students to raise their voices.

7:21 PM 3.7 Fossil Free Week: September

Divest McGill and McGill Faculty and Librarians for Divestment are organizing Fossil Free Week, a week for climate justice at McGill. Includes trainings for Open Forum on Sustainability *Located in Thomson House Ballroom (3650 McTavish), 2:00pm September 28th.

For more information, please visit

http://www.fossilfreeweek.com/fossil-free-week-schedule

https://www.facebook.com/DivestMcGill/

Fossil Free Week: September

The SG announced that Fossil Free Week is starting this week and directed members towards the schedule of activities.

7:22 PM 3.8 Request for input: Review of federal funding for fundamental science
Canada’s Minister of Science, Honourable Kirsty Duncan, launched an independent review of federal funding for fundamental science. The review will assess the program machinery that is currently in place to support science and scientists in Canada. Findings will help maintain and strengthen Canada’s international standing in fundamental science and ensure that scientists have the tools, training and support needed to excel globally.

PGSS members are encouraged to share their ideas, whether as an expert in their field or simply as a citizen who is interested in the role of science in society.

Click on the following link (before September 30th) to contribute!
http://www.sciencereview.ca/eic/site/059.nsf/eng/h_00021.html

And here for more information
http://www.sciencereview.ca/eic/site/059.nsf/eng/home

*The SG spoke about how massive cuts were made to basic science by the previous administration. There is a national consultation going on to provide written support for basic science.*

### 7:23 PM 3.9 Meditation @ Thomson House - Sponsored by StudentCare

GREAT NEWS!!! MSO has confirmed sponsorship from StudentCare!

This service is free for PGSS Members: grad students and postdocs. Any non-members are able to participate at a cost of $5 drop-in. Please check out the events’ section on the pgss website for the dates. First session is October 3rd!

Registration is encouraged to anticipate numbers.

Any questions email: membership.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca

Mondays from 12:30-1:30pm, Thomson House, Room 404

Join us for a break in your day to cultivate focus and inner peace. No previous meditation experience necessary; each session is designed to be accessible to anyone interested. Mats are provided, though you are welcome to bring your own if you prefer.

*The SG announced that the MSO has secured sponsorship for meditation at Thomson House on Mondays at 12:30pm in Thomson House.*

### 7:23 PM 3.10 PGSS seat on McGill Daily Board of Directors

The Daily Publications Society, the publisher of The McGill Daily and Le Délit, is looking for a PGSS member to fill a seat on its 2016-2017 Board of Directors. The Board of Directors meets monthly and exercises legal and financial oversight over the DPS, to which most graduate students contribute a fee. It is recommended that candidates be familiar with the DPS newspapers, but previous involvement is not required.

Please send an email to chair@dailypublications.org to obtain a candidate form. The application deadline is October 16.

*Alice, representing the Daily Publications Society, asked Council members to consider applying to sit on the McGill Daily Board of Directors.*
7:24 PM  **3.11 Self-Defense Course**

These workshops are accessible to all—each person trains at their own pace and capacity and can, at any time, take a break as they see fit. We hope you will join us and see what difference it will make in your everyday life!

This 2 part introduction course will focus on the following topics:

- Sunday, November 20, 2016 12 to 3pm: Preventive, Tactical, and Combative Measures
- Sunday, November 27, 2016 – 12 to 3pm: Escape from Holds

Check out the Courses tab on the PGSS website for more information and to register!

*The Speaker read the announcement.*

7:25 PM  **3.12 PSC Announcement**

*The MSO explained that the Peer Support Centre is a confidential, non-judgemental, one-on-one peer support service for students. Hours are Mondays from 5-7pm in Thomson House Rm 403. He also announced that on top of having drop-in hours, an appointment system will be implemented soon.*

4 **Floor Items**

7:14 PM  **4.1 August 31st Council Meeting**

*Minutes from previous meeting were not ready at the time the agenda was sent out. They will be approved at the next Council.*

5 **Reports**

7:26 PM  **5.1 Sec Gen Report and Work-plan to Council**

*The SG explained what his role entails, including representing students on the Board of Governors and academic Senate, facilitate the work of the Executives and Commissioners, and to ensure that the business does well. He then stood for questions regarding his report.*

*No questions were asked, the Speaker thanked the SG.*
5.2 FAO Report to Council

The FAO reported on her activities in the last three weeks, including finalising prices of the Leisure Courses and events. She also had meetings with the SG and Student Life Coordinator to try to reallocate funds for MCGSS, which will be discussed more in detail later. She reported that the report has been submitted by Auditor and approved by the BoD on Monday. Total revenue in 2015 and 2016 not very different. As far as excessive revenues - 2015 was negative balance, 2016 is positive. Was negative in 2015 due to special projects. She then stood for questions. Seeing no questions, the Speaker thanked the FAO.

5.3 Health Commissioner - September Report and Work plan

Focus for this year: 1) increasing knowledge about access to healthcare in Montreal and Quebec, particularly for out of province and international students, 2) insurance plan up for fee renewal, working with MSO to analyze plan and get feedback from members, 3) Work group to discuss student input on a Blue Cross plan, 4) fun events to keep grad students sane - Therapy Dogs, hikes, etc. Stood for questions - none. HC was thanked.

5.4 Executive and Commissioner Work Plans 2016 - 2017

Concatenated Work Plans are available.

5.5 IAO Report to Council

The IAO expresses their most sincere apologies for the brief report. The IAO was fulfilling her academic requirements in completing a grant application due today, September 21st, and was unable to submit her workplan on time for the September 21st council. A brief report is attached. The detailed IAO workplan will be included in the upcoming council agenda.

SG spoke on behalf of the IAO. Planned more than 120 events throughout the year. She wanted to bring to your attention the Housewarming Party this Friday. Brain Wave, featuring graduate student research.
7:32 PM 5.6 EAO Report to Council

Also in Quebec for the Forces AVENIR gala. SG explained what his role is. Elected to BoD of the FEUQ, which is in the process of dissolving - make sure that the dues PGSS has paid are returned and renumerated to PGSS, ensuring accountability, and that the data they have accumulated is accessible to paying members.

7:34 PM 5.7 Academic Affairs - Report to September Council

AAO showed a list of the activities he has done in the past month. Have gotten a lot of committees filled in the past several weeks, last push - Senate committees. Apply online and spread the word to people in your faculties/departments. Unit Reviews Enrolment Services important one. Advisory Committee for reappointment of Dean of Medicine, preferably someone from the Faculty of Medicine. If interested in being in a panel and sharing experience on supervisor issues, good or bad, get in touch with him. Will be scheduling a workshop at Mac campus. Academic Milestones program - progress tracking, time to completion.

SG: Member from Faculty of Science to sit on

AAO: 6 seats, the 1 that needs to be filed. Meet monthly, Dean is the Chair. Oversee academic policy for graduate students, which eventually go to Senate for approval.

No questions, thanked.

7:37 PM 5.8 Member Services Officer Report to September Council

Also at Forces AVENIR.

7:37 PM 5.9 Member Support Commissioner report to September Council

Hi everyone, hope your semesters have been off to a great start! Below is my report to council for September, along with a general workplan for the year.
Main things: figuring out what support graduate students need. Feel free to email him. Grad Connect Cafes - non-academic support, way for people to meet each other. Working closely with Student Advocacy and SSMU on making policies more relevant to grad students. No questions, thanked.

5.10 Equity and Diversity Commissioner Report for September Council

EDC: Mental health resources for marginalized communities. Working closely with students, Sexual Assault Policy working group, and administration on the Sexual Violence Policy. SSMU and PGSS have released a joint statement. Newsire on Monday. Please encourage people to look at it and give us their feedback. Can also submit feedback one on one to the AAO. There will also be an online form with more direct questions than what is currently provided by the Provost office. Collaboration with other student groups - SSMU, Consent Week, Visual Aids. Will be doing something for World AIDS Day

FMGSS? Conversation with other university groups?

EDC: a lot of work was done to see what our peer institutions are doing, not just in terms of what works but also what doesn’t work. Still pushing for broader consultation.

5.11 Environment Commissioner Report/Work Plan

A. Nosrat introduced himself as EC, along with Selena Liu. Focus on putting together fun events, reach out if you’d like to get involved. Landscape garden outside - more permanent infrastructure for Community Gardens. Open Forum about investing in fossil fuels sector, and Vision 2020.

6 Question Period

6.1 Questions

Eric (Desautels Doctoral Studies): question about access to minutes.

Aaron: Why are minutes only visible to Councillors?

SG: Not against our bylaws to put the meetings publicly. Does anybody else have issue accessing the minutes? Email Logan or studentlife.
7 New Business

7.1 Applications sent from the Appointments Board Committee for Approval

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<th>Committee</th>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tr>
<td>CKUT Board of Directors</td>
<td>Mina Naz Anadolu</td>
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<td>Internal Affairs Committee</td>
<td>Hajjera Batool Azam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health and Wellness Committee</td>
<td>Ryan Nicholas Rys</td>
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<td>Science Faculty Council</td>
<td>Siba Khaled Moussa</td>
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<td>Meaghan Elizabeth Pachay</td>
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<td>Environment Committee</td>
<td>Tianna Peller</td>
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<td>Humanities &amp; Social Sciences Library Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Catherine Henderson</td>
<td>Approved</td>
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<tr>
<td>Appeal Committee for Student Discipline and Grievances</td>
<td>Rebecca Jennifer Katz</td>
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<td>Marianne Falardeau-Cote</td>
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<td>Health and Wellness Committee</td>
<td>Ghina Zand Alhadid</td>
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<td>Schulich Library Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Catherine Henderson</td>
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<td>Science Faculty Council</td>
<td>Sara Kheireddine</td>
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<tr>
<td>University Health and Safety Committee</td>
<td>Sean Borthwick</td>
<td>Approved</td>
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<td>Athletics and Recreation Advisory Board</td>
<td>Jason Lowry Blakeburn</td>
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<td>Health and Wellness Committee</td>
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<td>Aleksandra Kasprzyk</td>
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<td>Equity and Diversity Committee</td>
<td>Tyler Yank</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts Faculty Council</td>
<td>Isavella Vouza</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
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Motion passes, one abstained.

7.2 Motion to Approve a Referendum Question on a Midnight Kitchen Student Levy

Whereas the Midnight Kitchen (MK) is a non-profit, volunteer and worker-run organization that since 2002 provides a free, balanced and complete vegan lunch to around 300 students every Monday through Thursday at 12:30 (Shatner building, 3480 McTavish);

Whereas the Midnight Kitchen is open to everybody, and is regularly attended by graduate students;

Whereas SSMU-members (undergraduate students) currently support MK on the basis of a $3.35/semester fully opt-outable levy on their student bills;

Whereas additional funds would enable the Midnight Kitchen to add more paid staff positions, thereby providing student jobs, consolidating and diversifying its operations, and expanding its services to reach more people, including hungry graduate students;

Whereas Midnight Kitchen is collaborating with PGSS and SSMU to cater a study program for student parents in the coming year;
BIRT the following question be placed on the annual, upcoming PGSS referendum:

“Do you support a student levy of $0.75/semester to support the Midnight Kitchen, payable and fully opt-outable on Minerva by members of PGSS? The levy would run from the winter semester of 2017 until the fall semester of 2018 (inclusive), at which point it would be brought back to the membership for renewal” (yes/no)."

The Speaker read out the Clarified voting on whether or not question can be sent to student community, not about agreeing or disagreeing to levy. Debate

SG spoke in support - everyone benefits from it, by students and for students.

E. Larson (GSAN): Wording to specify fall referendum. Amendment proposed.

Motion to make amendment passes.

Motion passes unanimously.

7:52 PM    7.3 Motion to create a Committee for Member Services

Whereas every PGSS Executive has a committee, except for the Member Services Officer;
Whereas some internal committees are structured to allow for the committee to choose who the PGSS representatives to external committees would be, in order to streamline the process of filling external committees;
Whereas the creation of a Committee for Member Services would ensure better PGSS representation on student services advisory boards, and could also help to revive both the Family Care Caucus and the International Students Caucus;
BIRT Council conditionally approve the changes included in the attached document, thereby recommending a review by the Governance Committee.

Motion to create a Committee for Member Services

Speaker: not in period to make amendments to the SSAM. Must vote 2/3 majority for changes to be entertained. Motion passes.

Questions regarding meaning of motion - none

Debate period.

AAO: All of the Execs have committees except the MSO, not sure why this is the case, plenty in the portfolio to require a committee. Those who were on Council last year may remember Devin restructured the HaWC. Still a handful of Student Services Committees that it would be natural. Ensure better PGSS representation.

HC: This structure works extremely well for HaWC. Good way to hold grad students accountable and ensure information comes back to Council.

Motion passes.

7:55 PM    7.4 Amendment to Budget for MCGSS funding
Whereas the Macdonald Graduate Students’ Society (MCGSS) acts as a campus wide organization for representation, advocacy and student life for graduate students of the Macdonald Campus acting as a Post-Graduate Students’ Society (PGSS) equivalent for the Macdonald campus,

Whereas restructuring of the budget beginning in 2016 - 2017 will allow for future funding for MCGSS to be reinstated at $5 per student per semester,

BIRT that PGSS take the equivalent of 5$ per Graduate Student at Mac Campus (approximately $2,500) from the PGSS Grants budget line for winter 2017 to allocate to MCGSS.

BIRT that PGSS includes in their annual budget the equivalent of 5$ per Graduate Student per semester at Mac Campus to allocate to MCGSS each semester.

MCGSS

Point of order - we need to do another special resolution, to amend the budget outside of Oct 1. Speaker agreed. Motion passes.

SG: Absolutely right that this is outside the period; reason why this is happening now is it needs to have first and second reading before approval by General Assembly in Oct. $5 per member very reasonable to allow them to fund their events.

Questions regarding wording 0 none.

Debate:

E. Larson (GSAN): $2 per student for grants budget line. No problem with giving MCGSS money, but should come from different budget line.

J. Singh (MCGSS): Normally we pay $32 towards PGSS as membership fee. In the past, $16 of that was returned to MCGSS to allow us to run our activities. Recently, our budget was reduced to $0. Give $11 to MCSS (undergraduate society). If this motion passes, allows us to run out most basic events. Crucial to our student life. Over 100 students at bagel breakfast yesterday, huge for campus of 400-500 grad students. Continue to exist on our campus and make ourselves present to our campus. Without this funding, we are at $0.

SG: Neither for or against, but think it is the most fiscally responsible thing to do. Alternative is to ask MCGSS members to write a separate grant proposal for each event they run, which is possible, but this allows them more flexibility to receive one lump sum. Respect E. Larson’s point, valid, but up to Council to decide.

E. Larson (GSAN): Would like to propose to send this to the committee on Monetary Affairs to find a more appropriate budget line to use.

Motion seconded. Enter debate for this motion.

J. Singh (MCGSS): If we do this, will it be ready in time for us to have the money come in for Winter 2017? At that point, our savings will be completely depleted.

Speaker: Yes, if GA is in November, it can be passed by Council in Oct.

E. Larson (GSAN): GA doesn’t have to approve budget changes, they only have to approve SAM or bylaw changes.

Motion passes by majority.
Dear fellow PGSS Councillors,

We at MCGSS, the recognised PGSA for graduate students at the Macdonald campus, have a difficult year ahead of us. Our revenue stream has been reduced to $0. We host regular events for graduate students that we will be unable to host this year. We are bringing a motion to PGSS, and hopefully the General Assembly, to be able to access a new source of funding. We will use the funding to continue to build a social atmosphere at MAC and provide avenues for graduate students to communicate with their students’ society. We have attached our previous budgets and financial reports for the past 2 years so you can know what we spend our funds on. We have also attached our proposed budget for this year if we were to acquire our new sources of funding. We hope you consider our appeal and let us explain to you the need for this funding.

Our motion is as follows, the full motion can be found in the attached documents.

Whereas the Macdonald Graduate Students’ Society (hereafter referred to as MCGSS) acts as a campus wide organisation for representation, advocacy and student life for graduate students of the Macdonald Campus.

Whereas MCGSS acts as a Post-Graduate Students’ Society (hereafter referred to as PGSS) equivalent for the Macdonald campus

Whereas MCGSS hosts monthly events to provide a more social campus environment for graduate students

Whereas providing food, at events discussing issues facing graduate students, increases turnout

Whereas MCGSS is unable to acquire its own membership fees

Whereas PGSS has historically returned $16 per MCGSS member from the PGSS Membership fee to aid MCGSS in its activities, programming and advocacy

Whereas PGSS in the 2016 Winter Budget reduced its payments to MCGSS to $0 as a result of paying the Macdonald Campus Students’ Society (undergraduate society) $11 per MCGSS member

Whereas without any source of revenue, MCGSS will be unable to reach out and speak to its membership, unable to learn what its membership wants of MCGSS, unable to build a campus community and cease to be of any use or importance to the Macdonald campus.

BIRT MCGSS be allowed to collect 30% of the Post-Graduate Student Life Fund it administers from the graduate student departments located at the Macdonald Campus.

BIFRT article “3.4.4 For graduate student departments located at the Macdonald Campus, MCGSS will collect 30% of the graduate student departments’ allocated PGSLF amount for partial funding of MCGSS activities and programs” be added to the PGSS Society Activities Manual under Section 2: Post-Graduate Student Life Fund

BIFRT phrases in the PGSS Society Activities Manual that departments located at the Macdonald campus be prefixed with “graduate student” to not allow non-PGSS members (such as professors, administration staff) to access the PGSLF

Motion to amend SAM to allow MCGSS to access PGSLF ()

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J. Singh (MCGSS) - Reason for having two motions is to split among various sources to lighten the burden. Utilizing some of the PGSLF fund for campus-wide events was discussed at MCGSS Council, members agreed 30% appropriate amount. It’s also about how much is left at the end of the year. The two sources of funding will allow us to run all of our events throughout the school year. If only one passes, we won’t be able to offer all of our events. Importance of these events to garner student involvement.

E. Larson (GSAN): Question about the vote at Mac Council, was it unanimous or was there a lot of tension?

J. Singh (MCGSS): Yes, minutes were available online. Can also speak to our Councillors.

Enter into debate.

Marcus (MCGSS): it can be difficult to organize our own departmental events. If we collaborate among Reps and have these universal things like bagel breakfasts, it makes things easier. It was definitely unanimous.

Motion passes (1 opposed, 1 abstain).

8:14 PM Adjourned