Agenda

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   5.2 Tabled - Motion on creation of member services committee - 2nd reading
   5.3 Tabled - Amendment of Budget for MCGSS Funding (Second Reading)
   5.4 Motion to amend SAM to allow MCGSS to access PGSLF (Second reading)
   5.5 Applications sent from the Appointments Board Committee for Approval
Attending

Yony Bresler, Timothy Grant Mack, Thomas John Dean Colbourne, Tareq Yahya Hardan, Sierra Nicole Clark, Selya Amrani, Secretary-General (Victor Frankel), Sarah Colby, Sabeena Shaikh, Roya Jamarani, Rohit Rajendra Rathi, Renata Helena Bahous, Recording Secretary (Connie Luu), Pulkit Khandelwal, PGSS Council Speaker (Logan Smith), Paul Gomes, Orhun Kose, Nickoo Merati, Natalie Susan Richards, Natalia Jaworska, Nanqing Zhu, Member Services Officer (Jenny Ann Pura), Melissa Alesandra Manganaro, Matthew Lucas Satterthwaite, Marion Daniel, Marcus D Kaji, Laurence Benoit Dube, Konstantina Chalastara, Kathleen Elyse MacMillan, Katarina Sonia Pessina, John Allan Morris, Jenna Giubilaro, Jaaved Singh, Internal Affairs Officer (Mina Anadolu), Health Commissioner (J. Andrew Dixon), Gabriel Lambert-Rivest, Flavie Madison Arseneau, Financial Affairs Officer (Mina Moradi), Faegheh Ghanbari Divshali, External Affairs Officer (Jacob Lavigne), Erin Sheedy, Erik Larson, Equity Commissioner (Angela Yu), Environment Commissioner (Amir Nosrat and Selina Liu ), Emily Catherine Moore, Emilie Jacqueline Michalovic, Elizabeth Chaya Lorie, Elisabeth Li, David Anthony James O'Connor, Danni Cai, Dana Pear, Corina DeKraker, Charles Brunette, Cassandra Bernadette Poirier, Callan Jordan Ross-Sheppard, Brian Hsu, Brenda Janice Sanchez Sanchez, Bradley Alexander Por, Basem Adel Danish, Angelica Avisha Gopal, Angela Tam, Amir H Nosrat, Alison Patricia Anne Kutcher, Alexei Kazarine, Alex Enescu, Aiden Bruce Hallihan, Ahmed Khorshid, Adrien François Habermacher, Academic Affairs Officer (Nicholas Dunn), Aakash Nandi

Guests

Behrang Sharif, Hsien-Wei Chen, Stephen Kutcher, Emma Clark, Kirsten Gerrie, Marie-Eve Assunçao-Denis

5:29 PM Call to order

5:29 PM 1 Approval of the agenda

Speaker called for motion to approve amendments to agenda.

Motion passed

Speaker used speaker’s discretion to put the reports at the end of agenda, due to time constraints. He explained that a special resolution with 2/3 majority is required for this motion.

Special resolution passed (32 approve/32 voters).

Speaker called for motion to approve the agenda.

Motion passed.
2 Floor Items

5:31 PM 2.1 September 21st Council Meeting

Motion passed unanimously.

3 Speaker’s report

5:31 PM

4 Announcements

5:32 PM 4.1 Deputy Provost Student Life and Learning

Proposed Agenda:

PGSS Council Meets and Greets the SLL E-Team

Prof. Dyens will talk about the Wellness Strategy (which is still work in progress)

Prof. Dyens will be presenting the same budget as last spring, as we have not yet developed the budget for Fiscal year 18.

SLL E-Team:

Prof. Dyens
Dr. Laura Winer
Janice Johnson
Marc Gelinas
Marisa Albanese
Richard Courtois
Robyn Wiltshire
Glen Zabowski

The Deputy Provost Student Life and Learning introduced himself and his team. He presented what SLL is, their vision (unifying life and learning to nurture, inspire and guide our community throughout the 21st century journey) and their mission. He explained each of their principles: 1) the student-centred, research-intensive university, 2) support the academic mission, 3) create bridges between life and learning, and 4) advocate for student rights and responsibilities. He also discussed their objectives, recent initiatives, and some challenges.

He introduced the other members of the SLL E-Team in attendance: Cara Piperni (Interim Senior Director of Student Services), Dr. Laura Winer (Director of Teaching & Learning Services), Robyn Wiltshire (Senior Director for Partnership with Students) and Glen Zabowski (Associate Dean of Students).
G. Zabowski spoke about the function of the Dean of Students office: 1) coordinate advising across campus, 2) house the Charter of Student Rights and discipline process, and 3) crisis intervention. If students aren't sure where to go, the Dean of Students office is a good place to start, as they know the landscape of the university and can reach out on your behalf to make sure your rights are upheld.

C. Piperni spoke about the integration of front-line services for counselling & mental health. In the new model, students will have a caseworker called a client care clinician, be seen by a professional to assess needs, and a spectrum of stepped care that ensures students receive the right intensity of support at the time it is needed.

R. Wiltshire spoke briefly about the new health & wellness strategy, and will be speaking further on this topic in November.

L. Winer spoke about SKILLSETS (the professional development program for graduate students), collaboration with the TA union to offer TA training, and providing support to teaching in general. They also deal with issues of physical space (classrooms, labs), and each faculty has a rep, which is listed on their website. She also mentioned that similar to the Dean of Students office, TLS (tls@mcgill.ca) is also a place to start if you're not sure where to go.

M. Gelinas (Director of Athletics & Recreation) talked about involvement in starting up the academic year (services through students-at-large and varsity programming), and looking at ways to improve services going forward. One possibility is a student kitchen or nutrition lab, in partnership with different faculties and partners, to help students learn about nutrition and prepare meals.

Questions:

M. Satterthwaite (GSAN): Would it be possible to get an update on the reservoir field project. When will the field be ready and what access will McGill students have to that?

O. Dyens: Last I heard it was scheduled for the spring, we are still negotiating with the city. The reservoir would be shared with the city of Montreal, but we would have privileged access in the fall, especially during the day and at night. I've spoken with people from facilities, construction on McTavish is pretty much on schedule (a few weeks behind), and should be ready by February. There is not much we can do. The rest of McTavish should be ready by latest mid May.

J. Singh (MCGSS): For the nutrition program and clinic you are planning, will you be partnering with the School of Dietetics and Human Nutrition at Mac? Second question is how excited are you for the Mac paddleboat project?

M. Gelinas: I have already reached out to Mac campus, and will be going out to present there. There are also other partners that could help us activate this, the satellite location in Curie Gym will help. Regarding second question, we doing a business analysis on how to realise the project - looking at cost, government constraints, if the partnership will be profitable to Mac campus students and the community, does it make business sense. It is going to take a few more weeks or months. We are looking at acquiring equipment to activate the program. If the plan makes business sense and there are no obstacles, we are looking to activate it in April.

E. Larson (GSAN): Given that there is going to be construction, what steps have the city or the administration taken regarding the winter safety of students travelling up and down McTavish?

O. Dyens: We have been having regular meetings with security on that topic. We are aware of the issues, but don’t have specific measures right now. If you have specific issues, please tell any of us or security right away, and we’ll take care of it. If you have ideas to make this more secure, we would be more than happy to hear them.
The Deputy Provost ended by making an announcement about the Centraide campaign, which for the first time, has all four major student associations as co-chairs. He encouraged students to raise awareness and/or donate to the cause.

5  New Business

5.1  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 explained that the motion was passed last time, but wasn’t able to go through because a special resolution with 2/3 majority is needed. He reminded Council members of the BIRT clause.

Motion passed (54 approve/54 voters).

5.2  Tabled - Motion on creation of member services committee - 2nd reading

Motion on creation of member services committee - 2nd reading

5.3  Tabled - Amendment of Budget for MCGSS Funding (Second Reading)

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.

The Speaker read aloud the BIRT clause.

E. Larson (GSAN): Point of information, this would be the first reading of it.

Speaker: That is correct, amendments to the budget don’t need a second reading. It’s the second time it’s come through committee, but it wasn’t approved the first time.

Motion by J. Singh (MCGSS) to amend BIRT clause such that for Winter 2017, only $2 rather than $5 per Mac grad student is requested. For following year, MCGSS budget line of $5.

Motion seconded.

No debate was raised regarding the amendment.

Motion passed.

Speaker opened debate on motion:

T. Colbourne (PPSMUA): Why was the budget such that they weren’t allocated any money initially?

SG: It was part of last year’s budget. I wasn’t part of the decision-making process, but I think that’s the most fair thing to do. It’s good and service that we cannot rapidly provide to Mac students, so this gives them access to a budget line that allows them to run their events.

Motion to extend speaking rights to B. Sharif, last year’s FAO. Motion passes.

B. Sharif: We came to an agreement with MCGSS and MCSS. It’s not that we are not giving any money, there is money paid in other budgets. This was the money that was under another name. The agreement was that this money is going to go to MCSS, because they are going to give the MCGSS money. Now they are asking for extra money on top of what we agreed.

E. Larson (GSAN): I spoke against this for the same reason I am going to speak against this time. The PGSS Grants Budget is funded by a referendum question. This would be the equivalent of taking money out of the Needs-based Bursary Fund and Library Improvement Fund, all of which PGSS collects and remits to the intended recipients. I don’t think that Council can and should take money from that budget line and give it to another organization. Taking money from the PGSS fee that all students collect would be an appropriate fund to take this money from, but the grants is definitely not an appropriate place.

F. Ghanbari (ESGSS): Why is PGSS giving money direct to the undergrad society instead of giving directly to the graduate society at Mac campus?

SG: The agreement that was signed between PGSS and MCSS does allow for MCGSS members to have access to the buildings that are for wellness and activities, and also provides them inclusion into all clubs that are being handled and funded by MCSS. There is money going to MCSS for the benefit of MCGSS members.

J. Singh (MCGSS): PGSS sends MCSS $11 per grad student, and this is to allow us to access their services but MCSS hosts events for the entire campus, they cannot host events strictly for grad students because it goes against their own internal policies. The $2 for winter semester/$5 from there on out would
allow us to host our own events like bagel breakfasts, corn roast, and summer events. MCSS being an undergrad society do not host summer events. Further history going back, we pay $32 for our membership fee to PGSS, and they used to send us back $16. The agreement with MCSS was for $11, so that’s why we figured we could ask for the $5 remainder back to fund our events.

Y. Bresler (MGAPS): Would like to make a motion to table this. Some interesting information came up today, and I think it would be helpful for us to see a full picture, hard when there are numbers in the air. We should support students at Mac, but should figure out what this support is, what is appropriate, and where it should come from.

Motion to table seconded.

Motion to table passed.

5.4 Motion to amend SAM to allow MCGSS to access PGSLF (Second reading)

Latest version for the October 19th council meeting

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 up to 30% of the Post-Graduate Student Life Fund it administers from the graduate student departments located at the Macdonald Campus.

BIFT article “3.4.4 For graduate student departments located at the Macdonald Campus, MCGSS will collect up to 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

BIFT that article 3.4.4.1 “Graduate student departments located at the Macdonald Campus can change how much MCGSS can collect from their respective Post-Graduate Student Life Fund between 0% and 30% by speaking with the MCGSS Treasurer, the MCGSS Students’ Council or the MCGSS General Assembly” 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 (Second reading) ()

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SG: The most significant change was to allow "up to 30%" rather than 30% in the second last BIFRT clause.

Speaker called for motion to approve amendments that came from the committee.

Motion passed.

Questions/debate:

M. Kaji (MCGSS): How many student events does PGSS or SSMU run at Mac campus? I’m fairly certain it’s close to 0.

IAO: We have a significantly low number of events that were organized at Mac campus last year. This year we have the canoe race, cross-country skiing, snow-shoeing, winter orientation at Mac campus. We are working closely with MCGSS to bring the two campuses closer together so that Mac campus students can benefit more from events happening downtown, but also we go there to Mac.

Speaker: Are you asking a question or debating? Can you clarify what you are trying to accomplish?

M. Kaji (MCGSS): Just asking a question.

Speaker: Are there any other questions specifically about the amendment at hand?

J. Singh (MCGSS): Point of information. Can I give an info session on it, or are we just asking questions?

Speaker: No, because we’ve already gone through the motion once at Council so we don’t need to have a motivation for it.

Speaker called for motion to approve second reading of amendments to the SAM.

Y. Bresler (MGAPS) Point of information, is it two-thirds by special resolution or half?

Speaker: Thank you for the point of information, you are right, it is special resolution.

Motion passed (37 approve/14 abstain/51 voters).

Point of information: For future reference, when there is a second reading and there are changes, would it be possible to get a version of tracked changes so we can see what has been changed?

Speaker: Yes, that would be great for people.
Point of information: A special resolution needs to have 2/3 of the group in present, not 2/3 voting. Abstentions count as no, and that still passes?

Speaker: Yes it was 14 abstentions out of 51.

6:12 PM 5.5 Applications sent from the Appointments Board Committee for Approval

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<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<td>Anoop Saxena</td>
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Motion passed.

6:13 PM Adjourned