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1 Approval of the agenda

2 Approval of the minutes

3 Speaker’s report

4 Announcements

4.1 SG to council: PGSS support in troubled times, CFS settlement, input for principal reappointment,

Dear PGSS community,

We find ourselves in a difficult time on many fronts, and we need to stand together.

In light of the recent tragic killings in Quebec City and the travel ban imposed by the Trump administration, we express our solidarity with marginalized communities, at McGill, in Canada and around the world.

PGSS executives have been working closely with the office of the Provost, the Dean of Post-Graduate studies and other members of the McGill administration to develop a plan on how to respond as an academic institution to the restrictions on travel for members of our community and to help to broaden the doors to our university to people affected by bigotry and ignorance projected from the highest levels of governance in the United States. While our university has acted quickly and has shown sincere commitment to our shared principles of diversity and inclusivity, we will continue to work with the McGill administration to enhance the support services we provide to members of our community in these difficult and uncertain times.

At PGSS, we are also working to increase our support for wellness programs for graduate and post-doctoral students at McGill. I will take this opportunity to invite PGSS to engage with one or more of our support programs:

Peer Support Centre, a group of students that have received training in active listening. They’re open Monday-Friday, 11am-7pm in SSMU room 411 for drop-ins or by appointment.

WRAP, a peer-facilitated group wellness session (can anyone just attend WRAP or do they need a referral?)

Nightline, a phone-based active listening support service with trained volunteers. They can be reached everyday from 6pm-3am at 514-398-6246.

In addition, our Equity and Diversity Commissioner can provide valuable resources for people in marginalized communities as well as guidance for people in positions of privilege to be allies to marginalized communities. We also have a guided mindfulness meditation at noon at Thomson House every Wednesday.

This is an opportunity for us to stand together and unite against intolerance, racism and hate. No action is enough, and all actions of support, compassion and kindness are needed. We invite you to join us in this process.

With warmest regards,
Need student comments for committee to reappointment principal

The following is a message to the McGill community from Mr. Stuart ('Kip') Cobbett, Chair of the Board of Governors on the Advisory Committee for the Reappointment of the Principal and Vice-Chancellor:

Professor Suzanne Fortier will complete her first term as Principal and Vice-Chancellor on June 30, 2018 and will be eligible for reappointment. Professor Suzanne Fortier was appointed Principal and Vice-Chancellor on September 5, 2013. Pursuant to the Statutes, an Advisory Committee for the Reappointment of the Principal and Vice-Chancellor has been established.

The Advisory Committee would welcome any written comments by members of the McGill community with respect to the renewal of Professor Fortier’s appointment. All comments will be treated in the strictest confidence by the Committee. Please submit your comments in writing by February 15, 2017. Comments should be addressed to Mr. Stuart (Kip) Cobbett, Chair of the Advisory Committee for the Reappointment of the Principal and Vice-Chancellor, c/o the Secretary-General, University Secretariat, James Administration Building, 845 Sherbrooke Street West, Room 313, Montreal, QC H3A 0G4, or by e-mail to: advisories@mcgill.ca


Following up on January discussion on more clarity on booking frees, we have put this up on the website so people can see what they are billed for and what our policy is for each of the spaces.

http://thomsonhouse.ca/event

Public meeting with board of governors… please let me know If you would like to present, or attend the meeting (March 8th)

4.2 Peer Support Centre recruitment and updates

Join the 2017-2018 Peer Support Centre Executive Team!

Want to be a part of McGill’s Peer Support Centre for the 2017-2018 school year? Our student-run group is recruiting for our Executive Team! Both undergraduate and graduate students across all faculties at McGill are welcome to apply! Applications are open from February 2nd until February 16th at 5 p.m. You can learn more about the open positions and how to apply in our application guide: http://bit.ly/2kXBmzS.

4.3 Associate Vice Principal (Research and Innovation) Angelique Manella

Announcement to council regarding development of Graduate Innovation Fund
4.4 Creating a new type of membership (Post-Graduate Campus Organisation)

MAC campus student life has dropped this past year since the budget cuts removed our normal $16 return per MCGSS member from PGSS. In the fall semester, we approved a motion to allow us to access up to 30% of the PGSLF from the student associations under MCGSS. This allowed us to host one event a month but it takes away from the departmental activities. It also doesn’t allow us to provide the breadth of services we use to and fill in the gaps on campus. We’ve had student groups and individual students come to us with fundable ideas or requests for support we were unable to meet. We can help students in non-financial ways as we were able to improve student services support on campus, we are working with the Peer Helper Program to improve their offerings, we direct students to where they can find help and inform the admin of where students need help. We have been very busy volunteering our time to help build and promote services.

Yet, we currently pay PGSS to do what we do. We pay PGSS for full representation by PGSS and full access to their services. Being geographically separate makes it more difficult to access these services. Being physically separated has also resulted in weaker connection between MAC and PGSS. This separation makes it very difficult for PGSS to represent MAC and has been an issue since the 1980’s when MCGSS joined PGSS. The current system does not work. The current system has Mac grads paying for full service while receiving partial service and leaving a financially depleted MCGSS to do the work PGSS is unable to do being distant from campus.

MCGSS does all the mac grad representation at a campus level. MCGSS has its own council consisting of student associations just like how PGSS is designed. MCGSS has grown in becoming a real student union to protect and support its members.

Our solution is to create a new membership that reflects this 30 year old reality. A membership that has a Post-Graduate Campus Organisation pay some fees to PGSS and also establish its own fees. A membership that has rules such as mandatory meetings between the PGCO and the PGSS Executive and requiring the PGCO do a certain minimum of representation and activity to maintain its membership.

This Post-Graduate Campus Organisation is what we, MCGSS, are working on in other to stay within the PGSS umbrella which we feel we don’t currently fit. This is announcement of what we are currently doing.

4.5 Election Timeline

Election Timeline
5 Business Arising

5.1 Applications sent from the Appointments Board Committee for Approval

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Council of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies</td>
<td>Saba Roozbahani</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee on Monetary Affairs</td>
<td>Saba Roozbahani</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy and Structure Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Saba Roozbahani</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee on Physical Development</td>
<td>Conrad Hall</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy and Structure Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Forough Noohi</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McGill Writing Centre - Program Committee</td>
<td>Ravinder Kumar</td>
<td>Approved</td>
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<tr>
<td>Committee for Member Support</td>
<td>Ayo Olanrewaju</td>
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<tr>
<td>Committee for Member Support</td>
<td>Cameron Bauer</td>
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5.2 Appointments Board - Round 2

Appointments Board - Round 2

6 Reports

6.1 Secretary General Report to council February 15th

SG report to council is attached. Open for question

2017-02-12 Secretary General Report to council February 15th

6.2 AAO - Report to February Council

2017-02-13 AAO - Report to February Council

6.3 Member Services Report to February Council

Next Study Saturdays Parents and Kid Program is February 25th! If you are interested in volunteering please come see me!

2017-02-08 Member Services Report to February Council
6.4 Health Commissioner Report - February 2017

Questions? Health.pgss@Mail.mcgill.ca
2017-02-08 Health Commissioner Report - February 2017

6.5 Member Support Commissioner Report to February Council

2017-02-08 Member Support Commissioner Report to February Council

6.6 Equity and Diversity Commissioner Report to February Council

2017-02-08 Equity and Diversity Commissioner Report to February Council

6.7 FAO Report Feb 2017

FAO Report Feb 2017
2017-02-15 FAO Report Feb 2017

6.8 Feb 2016 Environment Commissioner Report

2017-02-08 Feb 2016 Environment Commissioner Report

7 Question Period

7.1 Question to council

How should PGSS respond to crises? What can we do better to provide PGSS students the support that they need in troubled times?
7.2 Question to council

Question for Council: Guidance on forming policy governing honorary memberships to PGSS. Request that Council provides input on the type of people that should get honorary lifetime memberships and yearly memberships.

8 Discussion

9 New Business

9.1 2nd reading. Motion to approve the creation of the Innovation Commissioner position and innovation committee

Whereas McGill University is currently creating an innovation strategy, and several programs, activities and resources related to innovation and entrepreneurship;
Whereas the PGSS does not have a mechanism through which concerted representation on committees related to innovation and entrepreneurship can be ensured over the long-term;
Whereas the PGSS does not have policies and/or positions related to the future of innovation and entrepreneurship at McGill University
Whereas the PGSS has received requests for endorsement from start-ups initiated by students
Whereas the PGSS membership has expressed interest in improving the process of identifying the appropriate resources on campus related to innovation and entrepreneurship
BIRT that the PGSS Council approve the creation of the Innovation Commissioner position and Innovation Committee, as described in the attached document.

2nd reading. Motion to approve the creation of the Innovation Commissioner position and innovation committee

9.2 First Reading of Health and Dental Insurance Plan Cost Renewal

HEALTH

Do you agree that the PGSS Health and Dental fee be renewed for 5 years beginning September 2017 and ending August 2022, at an annually adjusted rate not exceeding the cap amount of $265.00 for the health insurance component of the plan considering there are increases to the benefits and not exceeding the cap amount of $210.00 for the dental insurance component of the plan? **

**Whereas clauses form part of the question:
1. WHEREAS in order to provide the lowest price for PGSS members, the PGSS Health and Dental Insurance Plan (HDIP) is compulsory for ALL Canadian residents who are full-time and additional session PGSS members, and the dental insurance of the plan is compulsory for all full-time PGSS members. Any PGSS member may withdraw (opt-out) and be refunded the applicable fee with proof of equivalent coverage.

2. WHEREAS the following increases in benefits would apply: (a) Increase physiotherapy coverage from $30.00 to $50.00 per visit up to a maximum of $400.00 per policy year. (b) Increase psychology coverage to include Registered Clinical Counsellors and Masters of Social Work.

3. WHEREAS the PGSS Health and Dental Plan premiums will be negotiated on a yearly basis, without exceeding the cap amount approved in this question.

YES or NO

DENTAL

If you are in support of the HDIP renewal for 2017-2018, do you agree to an additional charge of $8.66 included into the existing PGSS Dental cap amount in order to provide an increase in Dental Preventative Services to 70% resulting in a 100% coverage when a dental clinic is chosen from the Dental Network list?**

**The maximum cap that cannot be exceeded will change from $210.00 to $219.00 for the annual adjusted rate of the dental insurance component.

YES or NO

First Reading of Health and Dental Insurance Plan Cost Renewal ()

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First Reading of Health and Dental Insurance Plan Cost Renewal ()
9.3 Referendum Question: Thomson House Upkeep Fee (PGSP) Description Change

Proposer - Amir Hossein Nosrat

Question -

Given that the current description of the PGSS Thompson House Upkeep Fee prevents the PGSS from accessing the funds for maintaining Thompson House building, furniture, and grounds do you agree to modify the description of the PGSS Thompson House Upkeep Fee (PGSP), without changing the fee amount to the following:

“This fee is for the purpose off financing the maintenance by the PGSS of the David Thompson House Graduate Student Centre which is the home of the PGSS. This fee is to be used for physical maintenance and improvements of Thompson House building, furniture, and grounds that enhance member's experience. This fee is levied equally from every PGSS regular member on a per semester (fall & winter) basis. The fee has no end date and is not opt-able. Any changes to the fee can only be made following a referendum of PGSS members conducted by the Post-Graduate Student’s Society.

9.4 McGill Athletics and Recreation Advisory Board - Athletics Ancillary Fee Increase Referendum

Proposed Referendum Question for PGSS

Given that student labor, maintenance and facility repair costs have increased significantly and that Athletics & Recreation wishes to continue offering quality and affordable programs and services to McGill University students, including several innovative facility and program improvements, do you agree to a 3% increase to the Athletics Ancillary Fee, which translates to an additional $3.63 per term for full-time graduate students and $2.20 per term for part-time graduate students?

McGill Athletics and Recreation Advisory Board - Athletics Ancillary Fee Increase Referendum ()

9.5 Question for referendum: Graduate Innovation Fund

Given that McGill University has launched a new program, Innovation@McGill that aims to 1) catalyze a community of innovators and entrepreneurs within the graduate and post-doctoral student population at McGill and 2) provide capital for high impact/high risk projects/startups, do you agree to pay $3.75 per student per term, to support a Graduate Innovation Fund that 1) provides capital for high impact student projects and 2) supports initiatives that foster innovation and entrepreneurship through intensive interdisciplinary collaboration (ie hackthons / startup weekends) at McGill, with contributions by PGSS members matched 3:1 by McGill University?

Question for referendum: Graduate Innovation Fund
9.6 All questions for referendum

All questions for ballot (compiled)

All questions for referendum

9.7 Motion for Referendum on Student Housing

Whereas PGSS wishes to document its members’ needs related to housing and explore the feasibility of affordable, not-for-profit solutions to meet these needs;

Whereas this implies, participation in the province-wide student-run PHARE survey on students’ living conditions, already being submitted to 12 campuses throughout Quebec (including to McGill undergraduates);

Whereas such a survey would provide unique and historic information on PGSS members’ housing conditions and needs;

Whereas, in partnership with the nonprofit organizing the survey, UTILE, the second step would be to carry out a feasibility study to document different housing solutions to the identified needs.

Whereas the solutions explored would include both building transformation, such as the Royal Victoria hospital, and new construction.

Do you agree to the levée of a fee of 0.70$ per PGSS member to cover the costs of a survey on McGill graduate students’ housing needs and a feasibility study of potential ways to address those needs?

10 PGSA Announcements