## Agenda

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   4.2 March for Science April 22nd Montreal / Ottawa / Washington DC  
5. **Business Arising**  
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10. **PGSA Announcements**
1 Approval of the agenda

2 Approval of the minutes

3 Speaker’s report

4 Announcements

4.1 Improving council engagement

PGSS executives and commissioners welcome ideas on how to better engage council and its members to improve the experience, make matters of governance both at PGSS and at McGill more palatable and transparent, and increase the level of collaboration and information sharing among PGSA’s.

Ideas are welcomed, but we propose

1 assigning / inviting PGSA’s (perhaps 3 each month) to present at council (~5 minutes each).

What do you think?

4.2 March for Science April 22nd Montreal / Ottowa / Washington DC

Who is coming with us?!?!?! Need to consider interest in booking buses to Ottowa and/or Washington DC.

5 Business Arising

5.1 Referendum question : Innovation@McGill - Graduate Innovation Culture Fund

Given that McGill University has launched a new program, Innovation@McGill (funded by the Office of the Provost, Office of Research and Innovation, Faculty of Science, Graduate and Post-Doctoral Studies, Student Life and Learning) that aims to 1) catalyze a community of innovators and entrepreneurs within the graduate and postgraduate 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 Culture Fund that supports initiatives that foster innovation and entrepreneurship specifically for graduate and postgraduate students through intensive interdisciplinary collaboration (ie hackthons / startup weekends) at McGill?

Referendum question : Innovation@McGill - Graduate Innovation Culture Fund
6 Reports

6.1 Secretary General Report to Council / AGM

Please see reports attached.

2017-03-14 Secretary General Report to Council / AGM ()

6.2 FAO report to council / budget report / proposed budget for 2017 - 2018

6.3 Health Commissioner March Council/GM Report

Please see my enclosed report. Questions, comments, concerns? Send me an e-mail at health.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca

2017-03-08 Health Commissioner March Council/GM Report

6.4 Health Commissioner Report to March Council

Health Commissioner Report to March Council is attached.

2017-03-12 Health Commissioner Report to March Council

6.5 Environment Commissioner GM/March Report

2017-03-08 Environment Commissioner GM/March Report

6.6 Member Support Commissioner Report to March Council + GM

2017-03-08 Member Support Commissioner Report to March Council + GM
6.7 External Affairs Officer REPORT

2017-03-08 External Affairs Officer REPORT

6.8 AAO - Report to March Council

2017-03-02 AAO - Report to March Council

6.9 Member Services Officer Report to March Council

2017-03-09 Member Services Officer Report to March Council

6.10 Internal Affairs Officer Report to Council

Internal Affairs Officer Report to Council

2017-03-13 Internal Affairs Officer Report to Council

6.11 Equity and Diversity Commissioner Report to March General Assembly

2017-03-08 Equity and Diversity Commissioner Report to March General Assembly

6.12 Equity and Diversity Commissioner Report to March Council

2017-03-08 Equity and Diversity Commissioner Report to March Council
7 Question Period

8 Discussion

8.1 Discussion about Information regarding resources at McGill

I am seeking council's input regarding the information we disseminate about resources at McGill. Attached is a current document that is distributed at orientation.

A few questions:
- What is our role in disseminating information about resources?
- Where should we provide information about resources?
- Are there any important, star resources not listed in the attached document?

Resource List

8.2 Applications sent from the Appointments Board Committee for Approval

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elections Committee</td>
<td>Giacomo Marchisio</td>
<td>Approved</td>
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</tbody>
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8.3 First Reading - PGSS Health and Dental Insurance Plan Renewal

Referendum questions

First Reading of Health and Dental Insurance Plan Cost Renewal

WHEREAS, the PGSS Health and Dental Insurance Plan (further referred to as HDIP) is up for renewal for 2017-2018 academic year, the Member Services Officer and Health Commissioner were tasked to develop a referendum question to determine the continuation of the PGSS HDIP;

WHEREAS the PGSS HDIP is the most utilized services currently provided by PGSS;

WHEREAS the PGSS HDIP has remained stable and has not seen an increase in the last 5 academic/policy years;

WHEREAS the review of 5 months’ worth of claims (September-January, inclusive) has resulted in a projected annual premium of the current HDIP for 2017-2018 equaling an increase of 1.8% for Health and 11.8% for Dental;

WHEREAS the PGSS Insurance Sub-Committee of the Health and Wellness Committee (further referred to as the “Committee”) has recently conducted a survey of PGSS members regarding their views on the HDIP offered by the PGSS and has thoroughly investigated increases in benefit options for next year (See attached Benefit change quotes document);
WHEREAS the Committee unanimously decided to bring forth to council the following changes to the plan:

Increase physiotherapy coverage from $30.00 to $50.00 per visit up to a maximum of $400 per policy year (Premium change of an additional $2.10)

Increase psychology coverage to include Registered Clinical Counsellors and Masters of Social Work (Premium change of an additional $2.10)

WHEREAS in the attached PDF document “Insurance Surveys Summary PGSS 2016 Coded Responses” a consistent request is to increase the Dental component of the plan is seen, the committee recommends a stand-alone question to address the PGSS members’ interest in including the following change as a separate question for the Winter Referendum

Increase Dental Preventative Services from 65% to 70% resulting in a 100% coverage when a dental clinic is chosen from the list of Dental Network

WHEREAS the Committee provided a preliminary recommendation for changes to the existing HDIP based on the surveys conducted by both the insurance broker (StudentCare) from March 2016 and the Committee from December 2016 to increase specific benefits;

WHEREAS McGill University requires the PGSS HDIP be renewed every 5 years.

BIRT the PGSS projected annual premium of the HDIP for 2017-2018 is $246.49 for Health, and $197.82 for Dental;

BIFRT the PGSS Increase physiotherapy coverage from $30.00 to $50.00 per visit up to a maximum of $400 per policy year (Premium change of an additional $2.10);

BIFRT the PGSS Increase psychology coverage to include Registered Clinical Counsellors and Masters of Social Work (Premium change of an additional $2.10);

BIFRT PGSS include a stand-alone question to increase Dental Preventative Services from 65% to 70% resulting in a 100% coverage when a dental clinic is chosen from the list of Dental Network;

BIFRT the PGSS brings the following questions to its membership:

**Question footnotes:
1. The health insurance component of the PGSS Health and Dental Insurance Plan (HDIP) is compulsory for ALL Canadian residents who are PGSS members. The dental insurance of the plan is compulsory for all PGSS members. Any PGSS member may withdraw (opt-out) and be refunded the applicable fee with proof of equivalent coverage.

2. 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. The PGSS Health and Dental Plan premiums will be negotiated on a yearly basis, without exceeding the cap amount approved in this question, and with the objective being to receive the lowest price while maintaining the current level of coverage.

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 - PGSS Health and Dental Insurance Plan Renewal Referendum questions ()

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9 New Business

9.1 Appointments Board lottery

Per the regulations in chapter 12 of the Society Activities Manual. Nominations may be submitted to the Council Speaker prior to the meeting or at the meeting.

See chapter 11 for the description of the Appointments Board’s function and responsibilities.

Those selected will begin serving April 1, for a one year term.
9.2 Tabled - All questions for referendum

All questions for ballot (compiled)

All questions for referendum

9.3 Tabled - 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 levee 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?

9.4 All referendum questions

As to appear on the ballot

All referendum questions

9.5 All referendum questions (as to appear on the ballot)

All referendum questions, as will appear on the ballot, are attached.

All referendum questions (as to appear on the ballot)

9.6 Guidelines for External Referenda

Guidelines for External Referenda
Guidelines for External Referenda

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

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.

BIFRT graduate student departments located at the Macdonald Campus can change how much MCGSS can collect from their respective Post-Graduate Student Life Fund by speaking with the MCGSS Treasurer or the MCGSS Students’ Council

BIFRT 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

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

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10 PGSA Announcements