# Agenda

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2. **Approval of the minutes**
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   - 4.3 Peer Support Centre Presentation to PGSS Council
   - 4.4 Update on Innovation Projects Fund referendum
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6. **Reports**
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   - 6.2 Secretary General Report to April Council
   - 6.3 External Affairs Officer REPORT
   - 6.4 FAO report to council / budget report / proposed budget for 2017 - 2018
   - 6.5 Environment Commissioner May 2017 Council Report
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   - 6.9 Equity and Diversity Commissioner Report to May Council
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   - 6.12 Equity and Diversity Commissioner Report to March Council
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   - 6.14 Internal Affairs Officer Report to Council
   - 6.15 2017-05-03 MSO report to May Council
   - 6.16 Health Commissioner Report - May 2017
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   - 6.18 Health Commissioner Report to March Council
   - 6.19 Member Support Commissioner Report to May Council
   - 6.20 Member Support Commissioner Report to April Council
   - 6.21 Member Support Commissioner Report to March Council + GM
   - 6.22 Member Services Officer Report to April Council
   - 6.23 First reading: PGSS budget (2017 - 2018)
   - 6.24 Member Services Officer Report to March Council
   - 6.25 AAO - Report to March Council
   - 6.26 External Affairs Officer Report
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7. **Question Period**
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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 Gratitude to all

Sec Gen wants to take a moment to express eternal gratitude to the executives and commissioners who have worked relentlessly in service to PGSS and its members, students and the campus community. The secretary general also expresses gratitude to all members that have served on committees at PGSS and at the university and to PGSS council members who have served this year.

Finally, Secretary General welcomes the incoming executives and commissioners. Good luck!

4.2 PGSS Survey on Departmental Equity and Diversity

PGSS recently released the PGSS Survey on Departmental Equity and Diversity to better understand our members’ experiences and engagement with equity and diversity across departments at McGill. Participants will be drawn for $20 gift certificates to Thomson House!

Participate here: https://goo.gl/forms/y1uhL2gL0EpK7Z4l2

Could student association PLEASE complete the condensed version for PGSAs? I’ve received very few responses. Thank you!

PGSAs participate here: https://goo.gl/forms/RbdTH309ub6M97hC3

4.3 Peer Support Centre Presentation to PGSS Council

Peer Support Centre Presentation to PGSS Council

4.4 Update on Innovation Projects Fund referendum

PGSS Innovation Projects Fund was invalidated. Turn-out was strong (about 1,000 people voted) and the referendum passed with a strong majority (~600 / ~400). Due to the contestation filed by Yony Bressler and Ayokunle Olanrewaju, the referendum vote was invalidated and will be put back to vote next semester.
5 Business Arising

5.1 Updated Budget for 2nd reading

Whereas, the PGSS Budget for the 2017 - 2018 has passed first reading in the April 2017 Council,
Whereas, the PGSS Budget has been updated after consultations with the Board of Directors and the executive and commissioner caucus,
BIRT that PGSS council approves the budget for the 2017 - 2018 year.

Updated Budget for 2nd reading

6 Reports

6.1 Sec gen report May Council

SG report to May Council
I've taken a leave of absence following my PhD defense. Its been an honor and privilege to serve PGSS students, the society and the university in my capacity as secretary general of PGSS.

2017-04-28 Sec gen report May Council

6.2 Secretary General Report to April Council

2017-04-03 Secretary General Report to April Council()
2017-04-03 Secretary General Report to April Council()

6.3 External Affairs Officer REPORT

2017-03-08 External Affairs Officer REPORT
6.4 FAO report to council / budget report / proposed budget for 2017 - 2018

6.5 Environment Commissioner May 2017 Council Report


6.6 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

6.7 Environment Commissioner Report to Council

2017-03-29 Environment Commissioner Report to Council

6.8 Environment Commissioner GM/March Report

2017-03-08 Environment Commissioner GM/March Report

6.9 Equity and Diversity Commissioner Report to May Council

2017-04-26 Equity and Diversity Commissioner Report to May Council

6.10 Equity and Diversity Commissioner Report to April Council

2017-03-29 Equity and Diversity Commissioner Report to April 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

6.13 IAO Report to May Council
IAO Report to May Council. It has been a pleasure to work with you. Thank you so much for your support and enthusiasm!
2017-05-03 IAO Report to May Council

6.14 Internal Affairs Officer Report to Council
Internal Affairs Officer Report to Council
2017-03-13 Internal Affairs Officer Report to Council

6.15 2017-05-03 MSO report to May Council
2017-05-02 2017-05-03 MSO report to May Council

6.16 Health Commissioner Report - May 2017
It's been a pleasure to serve you this year as Health Commissioner. Attached are my final report and a brief report on reciprocal billing which has huge impacts on health care access for out of province McGill Grad students. As always, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, don't hesitate to contact me at health.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca
2017-04-26 Health Commissioner Report - May 2017 ()
2017-04-26 Health Commissioner Report - May 2017 ()
6.17 Health Commissioner Report - April Council

Any comments, questions or concerns? Come chat with me, or reach out to me at health.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca

2017-03-29 Health Commissioner Report - April Council

6.18 Health Commissioner Report to March Council

Health Commissioner Report to March Council is attached.

2017-03-12 Health Commissioner Report to March Council

6.19 Member Support Commissioner Report to May Council

See you at Mac campus!

2017-04-26 Member Support Commissioner Report to May Council

6.20 Member Support Commissioner Report to April Council

2017-03-29 Member Support Commissioner Report to April Council

6.21 Member Support Commissioner Report to March Council + GM

2017-03-08 Member Support Commissioner Report to March Council + GM

6.22 Member Services Officer Report to April Council

2017-03-30 Member Services Officer Report to April Council
6.23 First reading: PGSS budget (2017 - 2018)

First reading of budget, to be passed for a first reading before it is sent to governance committee, board of directors and ratification at next reading

First reading: PGSS budget (2017 - 2018)

6.24 Member Services Officer Report to March Council

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

6.25 AAO - Report to March Council

2017-03-02 AAO - Report to March Council

6.26 External Affairs Officer Report

Please see the attached report.

2017-04-28 External Affairs Officer Report ()
2017-04-28 External Affairs Officer Report ()
2017-04-28 External Affairs Officer Report ()
2017-04-28 External Affairs Officer Report ()

6.27 External Affairs Officer REPORT

2017-03-30 External Affairs Officer REPORT
7 Question Period

7.1 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?

8 Discussion

8.1 Discussion on better linking PGSS to MCGSS

PGSS secretary general invites MCGSS members and PGSS members to have an open discussion on how to improve services to PGSS members at Mac campus (MCGSS) and how to nurture a more collaborative and productive relationship among PGSS and MCGSS executives.

8.2 Discussion regarding Motion for PGSA Essential Skills Training

Given that PGSA execs, council reps and PGSS committee members are in a position of representative and decision-making power, particularly in their own departmental contexts, it’s essential that they’re equipped with the tools to provide their respective student bodies with up-to-date information about student services, university procedures/structure and support resources, as well as organize internal events/initiatives that are accessible and inclusive. While it is a difficult task to inform all members of PGSS about these essential features of the university, it is important that there are go-to people in each department that have this knowledge, and may disseminate and implement it amongst their graduate department.

It would be valuable to build upon PGSS’ existing orientation program to prepare student reps both at the level of PGSS and PGSA’s for their positions before the academic year gets underway. This will also enable contextualization of all roles within the broader university. Not only will this allow PGSA’s to better serve their constituents, it will also allow PGSS to better serve and communicate with PGSA’s from the beginning.

PGSS executives and commissioners are seeking comments on the following draft motion that will solidify the implementation of an orientation program for PGSA’s, council members and PGSS committee members. Please notify your PGSA’s of this initiative and get their feedback over the next couple of week!

Questions we’d like to address:

When is the best time of the year to hold a one- or two-day orientation? Summer or early fall?

What positions within your PGSA do you think should receive the training?

Are there specific topics you’d like to cover to better serve your peers?
Thanks for your input! If you have additional comments, please contact equity.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca or sec-gen.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca

DRAFT MOTION Regarding PGSA Essential Skills Training:
WHEREAS many graduate students spend the majority of their time at McGill within their department;
WHEREAS many graduate students identify and communicate most readily and frequently with their respective departments rather than PGSS;
WHEREAS Post-Graduate Student Associations (PGSAs) actively shape the culture and social environment of their respective departments;
WHEREAS Post-Graduate Student Associations (PGSAs) actively influence the sense of belonging and overall experience of graduate students of diverse cultural backgrounds and identities;
WHEREAS student executives and officers in PGSAs hold positions of representational and decision-making power at the university;
WHEREAS titled members of PGSAs also hold a proportionately greater responsibility to be knowledgeable of existing university services, resources, and protocols to best serve their student body;
WHEREAS no uniform training currently exists across PGSAs to prepare incoming executives and councilors for their role to serve students;
WHEREAS understanding of the university’s structure, student services and resources is essential to PGSAs’ successful support and representation of student needs;
WHEREAS critical awareness and application of concepts of equity and diversity are essential to the creation of departments that are inclusive to McGill’s diverse graduate student population;
BIRT PGSA executives and council representatives be required to participate in a two-day training event organized by PGSS to prepare for their roles on an annual basis;
BIFRT this training encompasses a basic introduction to McGill’s administrative structure, student services and resources on campus, principles of equity and diversity, consent and harassment and sexual violence protocols, and the role of PGSS.

Discussion regarding Motion for PGSA Essential Skills Training

8.3 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?
9 New Business

9.1 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>Equity Commissioner, 2017-2018</td>
<td>Emil Briones</td>
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<td>Senator, 2017-2018</td>
<td>Erik Larson</td>
<td>Approved</td>
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<tr>
<td>JBSCE Equity Subcommittee on Queer People, 2017-2018</td>
<td>Penny Beames</td>
<td>Approved</td>
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<tr>
<td>Board of Directors</td>
<td>Atefeh Ramezankhani</td>
<td>Approved</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health and Wellness Committee</td>
<td>Maria Tippler</td>
<td>Approved</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environment Commissioner, 2017-2018</td>
<td>Amir Nosrat</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of Directors</td>
<td>Andrew Dixon</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Wellness Committee</td>
<td>Jenny Jing</td>
<td>Approved</td>
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<tr>
<td>Council of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies</td>
<td>Jenny Jing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Commissioner, 2017-2018</td>
<td>Freddy Lee</td>
<td>Approved</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee, 2017-2018</td>
<td>Ashley Chin</td>
<td>Approved</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senator, 2017-2018</td>
<td>Nicholas Michael Dunn</td>
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<td>Board of Directors</td>
<td>Domenico Tullo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical Faculty Council</td>
<td>Rehka Whyshnavy Raveendrakumar</td>
<td>Approved</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health and Wellness Committee</td>
<td>Rehka Whyshnavy Raveendrakumar</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health Services Advisory Board</td>
<td>Gerald Jordan</td>
<td>Approved</td>
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9.2 Motion to Endorse Free Menstrual Hygiene Products for Thomson House Project Funding

Preamble: The aim of this motion is for council to provide support for this project proposal (appendix B) to the Board of Directors to secure funding for the Special Projects Fund for the 2017-2018 budget year. According to the Corporation Operations Manual, going through Board Approval with a project proposal is the procedure to access this fund. Given the CFS case is over this year, come next budget year this budget line will be accessible for project proposals.

Whereas, people who menstruate continue to face systemic inequality and discrimination in Canada, including the majority of gender-based violence and wage disparities;

Whereas, personal care products marketed towards women are often inflated in price, as well as labeled a Luxury, compared to those marketed towards men;

Whereas, sexual health products such as condoms are provided free or at subsidized rates at many locations on McGill campus while necessary personal health products, such as tampons, are not;
Whereas PGSS’s administrative coordinator has identified a need for providing menstrual hygiene products from PGSS members;

Whereas PGSS’ administrative coordinator has agreed to assist with this service;

Whereas SSMU is providing as similar service to students (Appendix A - Free Menstrual Hygiene Products Policy);

Whereas anticipated expenditure, project deliverables and project timeline are outlined in Appendix B;

Whereas Executive-Commissioner Caucus has approved and endorses this project;

Whereas The PGSS Health and Wellness Committee has approved this project;

BIRT Council endorses the motion that 2,000$ from the 2017-2018 Special Projects fund be allotted to the ‘Free Menstrual Hygiene Products for Thomson House Project’ as outlined in appendix B

BIRFT Council mandates the 2017-2018 Health Commissioner and 2017-2018 Membership Services Officer to oversee the administration and evaluation of this project.

BIRFT Council mandates the 2017-2018 Membership Services Officer to provide a report regarding the ‘Free Menstrual Hygiene Products for Thomson House Project’ to evaluate its performance and explore its expansion come December, 2017.

Motion to Endorse Free Menstrual Hygiene Products for Thomson House Project Funding ()

Motion to Endorse Free Menstrual Hygiene Products for Thomson House Project Funding ()

9.3 Motion for Initiation of Financial Policies Reform

Whereas the administration of finances at PGSS has been persistently confusing, subjective, and inaccessible for PGSS members,

Whereas PGSS members must have direct and easy access to the allocation of our funds so that we can reflect our values, needs and priorities,

Whereas our financial processes and policies are not sufficiently accessible to the PGSS membership,

Whereas budgets shouldn’t be dis-empowering,

BIRT that the Executive and Commissioner Caucus, under the leadership of the Financial Affairs Officer, recommend a financial policy reform package that proactively empowers PGSS members in designing budgets and accessing funds,

BIFRT that the proposed reforms incorporate, at the minimum, the following principles: 1- Clear and transparent membership consultation process on annual budget design; 2 - Clear and transparent procedures for membership on how to access all individual line items in the budget; 3- Full oversight by Council on all budgetary line items and funds;

BIFRT that the package be submitted to both Council and the Board of Directors before December 31, 2017 or the first reading of the 2018-2019 budget, whichever comes first,

BIFRT that the proposed reforms reflect the aforementioned principles, at the minimum, in financial policies written in the Bylaws, the Society Activities Manual, the Corporate Operations Manual, and any
governing documents that are relevant to the PGSS Executive Committee and the PGSS Executive and Commissioner Caucus.

9.4 Motion Regarding PGSA Essential Skills Training

WHEREAS many graduate students spend the majority of their time at McGill within their department;
WHEREAS many graduate students identify and communicate most readily and frequently with their respective departments rather than PGSS;
WHEREAS Post-Graduate Student Associations (PGSAs) actively shape the culture and social environment of their respective departments;
WHEREAS Post-Graduate Student Associations (PGSAs) actively influence the sense of belonging and overall experience of graduate students of diverse cultural backgrounds and identities;
WHEREAS student executives and officers in PGSAs hold positions of representational and decision-making power at the university;
WHEREAS titled members of PGSAs also hold a proportionately greater responsibility to be knowledgeable of existing university services, resources, and protocols to best serve their student body;
WHEREAS understanding of the university’s structure, student services and resources is essential to PGSAs’ effective support and representation of student needs;
BIRT PGSA executives and council representatives are provided with an orientation day organized by PGSS to prepare for their roles on an annual basis;
BIFRT comprehensive training be developed to prepare PGSA executives and councillors in their role to serve students;
BIFRT this training minimally encompasses a basic introduction to the university structure, student services and resources on campus, principles of equity and diversity, harassment and sexual violence, and the role of PGSS;
BIFRT PGSS executives and commissioners will hold primary responsibility for the organization of the PGSA orientation;
BIFRT training content will be presented by PGSS staff, executives and commissioners, and members of the university with relevant expertise

10 PGSA Announcements