EXECUTIVES
VP External  Ryan Hughes

COUNCILORS
Air and Space Law  M. Dodge, Art History & Communication Studies  C. Sorochan,
Biology  M. Noujaim, J. Whiteley, E. Pedersen, Chemical Engineering  D. Aebi, S.
Bastien, Chemistry  J. Mooney, M. Krause, Communication Sciences and Disorders  S.
Shona, Dentistry  B. Hoac, Electrical Engineering  A. Ngoly, J. Tong, J. Grabowski,
English  E. Essert, S. Chimuk, Epidemiology and Biostatistics  L. Maclagan, Y. Jafari, S.
Law, Experimental Medicine  K. Choucair, J. Nichol, K. Soye, Geography  A. Alfonso,
Mechanical Engineering  T. Centea, K. Fayazbakhsh, B. Akih Kumgeh, Mining,
Metals, Materials Engineering  M. Fadaei Kermani, Music  F. Upham, C. Wingate,
Neurology and Neuroscience  P. McCamphill, Parasitology  N. Cyr, R. Strasser, Physics
Y. Hezavehe, Political Science  S. Aigbinode, Psychiatry  E. Cawley

COMMISSIONERS & NON-VOTING MEMBERS
Council Commissioner  D. Simeone, Health Commissioner  J. Mooney, Environment
Commissioner  C. Nei, Family Care Commissioner  H. Myers, Senate and Library
Commissioner  J. Grabowski, Equity Commissioner  E. Sirett, Secretary  M. Boudreau

REGRETS
President  Alexandra Bishop, VP Academic  Dahlia El Shafie, VP Internal  Magnus Bein,
VP Finance  Natalie Lee, Elections Commissioner  T. Hamade, Student Support
Commissioner  U. Trojahn, Biochemistry  L. Van der Kraak, French Language and
Literature  M-N Huet

GALLERY AND GUESTS
PGSS Environment Committee  C. Wrobel, Civil Engineering  H. Nikopour, Physics
M. El Ouali, Psychiatry  N. D’Souza, E. Monson PGSS Business Manager  A. Pierzchala

CALL TO ORDER
18h31

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved.
2. Speaker’s Report

This Speaker's report is included in the reports section of the Council package.

3. Announcements

3.1 Laurent Viau – CNCS-FEUQ Candidate for Chair
L. Viau gave his presentation about the FEUQ and the Quebec Council for Graduate Studies (CNCS). The CNCS is an internal body within FEUQ dedicated entirely to issues relating to graduate studies and university research. He outlined their initiatives and strategies for the upcoming year. A question and answer period followed. For more information visit: http://www.feuq.qc.ca/en/graduate-studies.

3.2 Sustainability Fund Update
C. Wrobel gave an update on the Sustainability Fund. The fund will provide over $800,000 per year for different projects. The projects will contribute to building a culture of sustainability on McGill campus. There have been many project applications for the Sustainability Projects Fund Working Group to consider. However there have been only 3 applications from graduate students, so please consider submitting an application. Some of the projects which have been approved are the McGill feeding McGill project. This project enables the horticulture group to increase their output of food, and strengthen the ecological garden project. The PGSS Environment Committee is hosting 2 awareness events to promote the Sustainability Fund. One is Green Night on September 7th at 5:00pm and the second is a discussion group on September 21st at 5:00pm. For more information on the Sustainability Projects Fund visit: http://www.mcgill.ca/sustainability/projectfund/.

4. Approval of the Minutes

4.1 C10-05-#11 (J. Mooney/ J. Tong)
Minutes approved.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders

5.1 Motion R11-06-#1 · Society Budget (J. Mooney/ M. Dodge)
BIRT the Society Budget for 2010/2011 be adopted.

F. Upham asked if the revenue columns in the budget can be explained because they are not clear.

A. Pierzchala answered that the Thomson House management is changing the budget template so that the cost of goods and revenues will be more clearly displayed.

J. Mooney further clarified that under the revenues there is a sales and rent and also expenses such as cost of goods; they balance pretty well.
B. Akih Kumgeh asked about the projection of fees for FEUQ and why the amount in the 09-10 Projection is less than the amount in the 10-11 Budget.

The VP External answered that PGSS joined FEUQ mid year and next year they will pay the full amount; that is why the amount for the 09-10 projection is less than the amount for the 10-11 projection.

Motion passed (B. Akih Kumgeh abstained).

5.2 Motion R11-06-#2 · To Elect Candidates to the Nominating Committee (N. Cyr/ R. Strasser)

BIRT Council hold an election to fill the following positions on the nominating committee:
- one member from the Faculty of Arts
- one member from the Faculty of Dentistry
- one member from the Faculty of Education
- one member from the Faculty of Law
- one member from the Faculty of Management
- one member from the Faculty of Music
- one member from the Faculty of Science
- one member-at-large

[Note: the Arts, Music, and Science seats are open as of June 10, 2010.]

R. Strasser nominated E. Dodd.
F. Upham nominated herself.

Motion passed.

5.3 Motion R11-06-#3 · To accept Nominating Committee recommendations (J. Mooney/ VP External)

WHEREAS the Nominating Committee has met to review nominees applying for external and internal committee positions, and presented recommendations to Council with respect to committee appointments;

BIRT Council approve the recommendation of Nominating Committee as presented in the Nominating Committee Report included in the present package.

Amendment (VP External)
BIRT council appoint Harry Saitis to the Advisory Committee on The Selection of the Dean of Music
BIFRT council appoint Sina Gallo to the University Affairs Committee (pending reconstitution).

Amendment failed.

Amendment (E. Crawley/ J. Mooney)
BIRT Naa Anyele Perbi be appointed to the Family Care Committee; BIFRT Elias Epp be appointed to the Committee for Graduate Student Support as an international student representative.

Amendment passed.

Main motion passed.

5.4 Motion R11-06-#4 · Grant Approvals (J. Mooney/ E. Essert)
WHEREAS the Grants Review Committee (GRC) has reviewed seven (7) grant applications;
WHEREAS the GRC recommends funding the following projects:
1) Seicento Express: $200
2) Composite Research Club: $800
3) Philosophy Department Students: $800
4) Palliative Care Congress Student Section: $800
BIRT Council approve, from the PGSS/GPS grants program, the disbursement of up to:
1) $200 to Rona Nadler for Seicento Express [Grant ID 10-11-02]
2) $800 to Nacid Shizad for the project “Composite Research” [Grant ID 10-11-03]
3) $800 to William Afflect for the project “Palliative Care Congress” [Grant ID 10-11-06]
4) $800 to Anna Ezekiel for “Philosophy Dept Grad Student Retreat” [Grant ID 10-11-05]

Amendment (VP External/ P. McCamphill)
BIFRT the following recipients be compensated for the following amounts:
1) $728 to Jozina Vander Klok for the project “TOM 3 Semantics Workshop” [Grant ID 09-10--37]
2) $800 to Philomena Kamya for the project “Mini-MBA Series” [Grant ID 08-09--29]
3) $700 to Jason Hickey for the project “Cultural Competence Workshop Series” [Grant ID 09-10--02]
4) $800 to Claudine Jacques for the project “Performing Feminism(s) - Gender and Sexuality on Display Symposium” [Grant ID 09-10--52]
5) $800 to Alireza Žareie for the project “Tour to HotDocs Canadian International Documentary Festival” [Grant ID 09-10--64]
6) $800 to Janet Janzen for the project “Going Green Conference” [Grant ID 09-10--25]
7) $800 to Mario Calderon for the project “PGSA Annual Retreat” [Grant ID 09-10--63]
8) $1,200 to Nadia Houri for the project “Neuroscience Day” [Grant ID 09-10--61]

The VP External, on motivation, explained that these grants were already approved at Council but must be re-approved in order to be pushed into his grant year.

Amendment passed.

Main motion passed.
6. Executive Reports

6.1 VP External
R. Hughes gave an update on the CFS situation. He stated that Daniel Simeone was our PGSS representative for the CFS/PGSS examination which happened 2 1/2 weeks ago. It is a four and a half hour examination by François Viau, the lawyer for the CFS. During that deposition a great many documents were required from the PGSS by the CFS lawyer, and we are responsible for undertaking that endeavor to provide them with the necessary documents (within a week of receipt of the deposition, which PGSS received yesterday). There is one verification required from the CFS lawyer which R. Hughes asked Council; CFS would like to verify (read verbatim):

"If the PGSS was made aware by the CFS that the National Executive Committee's first meeting following the petition was in January 2010."

R. Hughes reiterated that what they want to know is if members of the Council have received any official correspondence from the CFS (letters, phone calls, emails) that the National Executive Committee's first meeting following the petition was in January 2010. Daniel told the lawyer that he will attempt to verify this (he explained that Council was composed of well over 100 Councilors and it may be a bit difficult). However, we are required to attempt to answer this question.

By a show of hands zero (0) members of Council was made aware by the CFS that the National Executive Committee's first meeting following the petition was in January 2010.

6.2 VP Academic
Absent.

6.3 VP Finance
Absent.

6.4 VP Internal
Absent.

6.5 President
Absent.

7. Commissioner Reports

7.1 Elections Commissioner
Absent.

7.2 Equity Commissioner
Nothing to report.
7.3 Senate Commissioner  
Nothing to report.

7.4 Environment Commissioner  
Nothing to report.

7.5 Health Commissioner  
Nothing to report.

7.6 Social Commissioner  
Absent.

7.7 Student Support Commissioner  
Absent.

7.8 Family Care Commissioner  
Nothing to report.

8. Other Reports  

No other reports.

9. Question Period (15 minutes)

T. Centea asked the VP External what we can expect in the CFS PGSS fight over the next 6 months.

The VP External answered that legal proceedings are happening now. The CFS's tactic is to delay as much as possible in order to tap out the resources of the graduate student associations. He will keep Council updated about the situation as it unfolds.

J. Grabowski asked the VP External if the CFS has decided to declare the outcome of our referendum invalid.

The VP External answered that PGSS members are not paying fees to the CFS anymore. However, the CFS does not recognize our referendum as being valid.

B. Akih Kumgeh asked what happens if the court decides that the referendum is invalid. How will PGSS pay all of the back payments?

The VP External answered that he feels PGSS has a strong case in court. Nothing is certain but we are on solid ground. If the court decides that the referendum is not valid PGSS will have options for making payment.

E. Cawley asked the Speaker about his report and if there are any consequences to not submitting a certain number of written reports.
The Speaker answered that the motion in his report is effective immediately. There is no consequence for not submitting a certain number of reports.

F. Upham asked who gets to decide if a report is urgent.

The Speaker answered that a report is urgent if it concerns an important issue that happened in the week preceding Council after the written reports were submitted.

C. Sorochan asked about access to the U-file tax software.

The Speaker answered that U-file is free if you make under $25,000 per year.

J. Mooney called quorum. Quorum is maintained.

10. New Business

10.5 Motion R11-06-#9 · Recognition of MAPS (E. Cawley/ E. Essert)
WHEREAS the McGill Association of Psychiatry Students (MAPS) has requested recognition by the PGSS; and WHEREAS MAPS has submitted the appropriate documentation as per Bylaw 11 of the PGSS Constitution; therefore
BIRT the PGSS recognize the McGill Association of Psychiatry Students (MAPS) as per Bylaw 11.

Amendment (E. Cawley/ E. Essert)
To change the name from McGill Association of Psychiatry Students (MAPS) to Psychiatry Graduate Student Association (PGSA).

Amendment passed.

Motion passed.

10.1 Motion R11-06-#5 · Temporary Committee and Commissioner Reconstitution (VP-External/VP-Academic)
BIRT the Family Care Committee, University Affairs Committee, and the Committee on Executive Evaluations be reconstituted, with their membership as of May 31, 2010 for 2010-2011, unless superseded by Bylaw.
BIFRT the Family Care Commissioner elected at May 2010 Council, Hadley Myers, continue on in that position under the terms passed at June 2009 Council, and that at such time as new Bylaw 5.13 come into force those terms shall expire, and that Hadley Myers will continue to be the Family Care Commissioner after the coming into force of 5.13 until such time as prescribed by Bylaw.
BIFRT an election be held immediately to fill vacant positions on the University Affairs Committee.

Amendment (VP External)
BIRT an election be held immediately to fill positions on the Committee on Executive Evaluations.

Amendment passed.

Amendment (J. Mooney/ E. Cawley)
To strike the last BIFRT clause.

Amendment passed.

Main motion passed.

F. Upham nominated herself to the Committee on Executive Evaluations.

No objections.

10.2 Motion R11-06-#6 - Permanent Family Care Commissioner and Committee (Family Care Commissioner/ E. Essert)
BIRT Bylaw 5.1.2 be amended by the addition, in first reading, of:
i. Family Care

BIFRT Bylaw 5.13 be created, in first reading, as follows:
5.13 Duties of the Family Care Commissioner
5.13.1 The Family Care Commissioner shall:
a. in conjunction with the Family Care Committee, oversee the administration and management of the Family Care Programme;
b. respond to inquiries from Society members who require information regarding issues pertaining to families; and

c. engage in long-term planning with respect to the Society's position on family issues.

BIFRT new Bylaw 6.6.18 be created, in first reading, as follows:
6.6.18 Family Care Committee (FCC)
6.6.18.1 Purpose:
The Family Care Committee shall:
6.6.18.1.1: survey, assess, monitor and work towards improving the quality of family care available to the PGSS community;
6.6.18.1.2: consider all family care-related aspects of actions and policies taken within the University the Society that have an effect on the Society and its members;
6.6.18.1.3: coordinate all family care and maternity/paternity-related actions and policies taken within the Society;
6.6.18.1.4: collaborate with other groups in regards to family care issues involving the Society;
6.6.18.1.5: decide how funds allocated for the support for graduate and post-doctoral student parents are distributed, within the scope of the Family Care Programme;
6.6.18.1.6: provide informational support to members of the Society with regards to family care and maternity/paternity-related issues;
6.6.18.1.7: meet monthly to discuss family care-related issues involving the Society and the University;
6.6.18.1.8: make recommendations to the Council in regards to family-care related issues;
6.6.18.1.9: ensure and maintain confidentiality.

6.6.18.2 Membership:
6.6.18.2.1 The Family Care Commissioner (Chair)
6.6.18.2.2 Seven (7) regular members of the Society.

6.6.18.3 Duties of the Chairperson:
The chairperson shall:
6.6.18.3.1: coordinate all meetings of the FCC;
6.6.18.3.2: promote an awareness of the FCC;
6.6.18.3.3: serve as a liaison between the FCC and any external groups, committees or individuals.

The Family Care Commissioner, on motivation, stated that he thinks family care is an important issue for graduate students and he would like to have it added to the constitution.

**Adjournment**

Quorum lost at 19h51.
Executives
President Alexandra Bishop, VP Internal Magnus Bein, VP Finance Natalie Lee, VP External Ryan Hughes

Councilors

Commissioners & Non-voting Members

 regrets
VP Academic D. ElShafie, Family Care Commissioner H. Myers, Mining, Metals, Materials Engineering M. Fadaei Kermani

Gallery and Guests
Call to Order
18h33

1. Approval of the Agenda

Motion (M. Dodge)
BIRT speaking rights be extended to the gallery.

No objections, motion passed.

The agenda was approved.

2. Speaker’s Report

The Speaker gave a brief report.

3. Announcements

3.1 Resignation of the VP Academic
The President announced the VP Academic's resignation.

4. Approval of the Minutes

4.1 C11-06-#01 (M. Dodge/ J. Wallace)
The minutes were approved.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders

5.1. Motion R11-09-#11 · To accept Nominating Committee recommendations (E. Cawley/ R. Strasser)
WHEREAS the Nominating Committee has met to review nominees applying for external and internal committee positions, and presented recommendations to Council with respect to committee appointments;
BIRT Council approve the recommendation of Nominating Committee as presented in the Nominating Committee Report included in the present package.

Motion passed.

5.2. Motion R11-09-#12 · To elect candidates to the Nominating Committee (R. Strasser/ M. Isabel)
BIRT Council hold elections for the following vacancies on the Nominating Committee:
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Dentistry
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Education
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Law
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Management
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Religious Studies
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Arts
- two (2) members-at-large

Motion passed. No one was elected.

5.3. Motion R11-09-#13: Grant Approvals (VP Finance/ J. Mooney)
Whereas the GRC recommends funding the following projects:
10-11-08 Architecture History and Theory Group
- Mons Island Trip
- $700.00
10-11-09 Nature and Environment Lovers Graduate Students
- Field Trip to Safari Park
- $720
10-11-10 Composite Research Group
- Corrosion Lab Demonstration
- $800
10-11-11 Biology Graduate Student Association
- Ann Eriksson Book Launch and Reading
- $75
10-11-12 Engineering Graduate Student Group
- visiting industrial facilities around Montréal
- $800.00
10-11-13 Structural Sustainability Research Group
- Tour to a recent bridge construction project and research lab
- $800.00
10-11-15 Human Genetics Student Society (HGSS)
- HGSS 5th Annual Research Conference
- $800.00
10-11-16 - Biology Graduate Student Association
- 2010 Orientation Camping Retreat
- $700.00
10-11-17 - Association des Etudiantes en langue et litterature francaises
- 3e Colloque Estudiantin de Langue et Litterature Francaises
- $800.00
10-11-18 - Canadian Society for Life Science Research
- 5th Annual Meeting of the Cdn Society for Life Science Research
- $800.00
10-11-19 - Graduate Students of Linguistics
- Research Day with an invited Expert
- $800.00
9-10 - Indonesia: Read, Learn, and be Critical
- $800.00
BIRT Council Approve, from the PGSS/GPS Grants program, the disbursement of up to:

10-11-08 Architecture History and Theory Group
Mons Island Trip
$700.00

10-11-09 Nature and Environment Lovers Graduate Students
- Field Trip to Safari Park
  - $ 720

10-11-10 Composite Research Group
- Corrosion Lab Demonstration
  - $800

10-11-11 Biology Graduate Student Association
- Ann Eriksson Book Launch and Reading
  - $75

10-11-12 Engineering Graduate Student Group
- visiting industrial facilities around Montréal
  - $800.00

10-11-13 Structural Sustainability Research Group
- Tour to a recent bridge construction project and research lab
  - $800.00

10-11-15 Human Genetics Student Society (HGSS)
- HGSS 5th Annual Research Conference
  - $800.00

10-11-16 - Biology Graduate Student Association
- 2010 Orientation Camping Retreat
  - $700.00

10-11-17 - Association des Etudiantes en langue et literature francais
- 3e Colloque Estudiantin de Langue et Literature Francaises
  - $800.00

10-11-18 - Canadian Society for Life Science Research
- 5th Annual Meeting of the Cdn Society for Life Science Research
  - $800.00

10-11-19 - Graduate Students of Linguistics
- Research Day with an invited Expert
  - $800.00

9-10- - Indonesia: Read, Learn, and be Critical
  - $800

Motion passed.

5.4. Motion R11-09-#14: Resignation of the VP-Academic (President/ M. Krause)
WHEREAS the VP-Academic Dahlia ElShafie has submitted her resignation effective September 30th 2010,

BIRT the Council ratify the decision of the Executive, as per Bylaw 4.3.5, to accept the resignation of Ms. ElShafie from the position of VP-Academic.
Amendment (M. Isabel/ J. Mooney)
BIRT Council extend their thanks to Dahlia ElShafie for her hard work over the past year and a half.

Main motion passed, as amended.

5.5. Motion R11-09-#15: Election of the VP-Academic (President/ M-N. Huet)
Whereas the position of VP academic is vacant as of September 30th, 2010
BIRT the PGSS hold a council election on October 6th.

Motion passed.

5.6. Motion R11-09-#16: Resignation of the Senate Commissioner (President/ D. Steacy)
WHEREAS the Senate and Library Commissioner, Mr. James Grabowski has submitted his resignation effective August 31st 2010,
BIRT the Council ratify the decision of the Executive, as per Bylaw 5.2.1, to accept the resignation of Mr. Grabowski from the position of Senate and Library Commissioner,
BIRT Council immediately go to election for the position of Senate and Library Commissioner.

Motion passed.

An in-Council election was held for the position of Senate and Library Commissioner.

5.7. Motion R11-06-#6 · Permanent Family Care Commissioner and Committee (Family Care Commissioner/ E. Essert)
BIRT Bylaw 5.1.2 be amended by the addition, in first reading, of:
i. Family Care
BIFRT Bylaw 5.13 be created, in first reading, as follows:
5.13 Duties of the Family Care Commissioner
5.13.1 The Family Care Commissioner shall:
a. in conjunction with the Family Care Committee, oversee the administration and management of the Family Care Programme;
b. respond to inquiries from Society members who require information regarding issues pertaining to families; and
c. engage in long-term planning with respect to the Society's position on family issues.
BIFRT new Bylaw 6.6.18 be created, in first reading, as follows:
6.6.18 Family Care Committee (FCC)
6.6.18.1 Purpose:
The Family Care Committee shall:
6.6.18.1.1: survey, assess, monitor and work towards improving the quality of family care available to the PGSS community;
6.6.18.1.2: consider all family care-related aspects of actions and policies taken within the University the Society that have an effect on the Society and its members;
6.6.18.1.3: coordinate all family care and maternity/paternity related actions and policies taken within the Society;
6.6.18.1.4: collaborate with other groups in regards to family care issues involving the Society;
6.6.18.1.5: decide how funds allocated for the support for graduate and post-doctoral student parents are distributed, within the scope of the Family Care Programme;
6.6.18.1.6: provide informational support to members of the Society with regards to family care and maternity/paternity related issues;
6.6.18.1.7: meet monthly to discuss family care related issues involving the Society and the University;
6.6.18.1.8: make recommendations to the Council in regards to family-care related issues;
6.6.18.1.9: ensure and maintain confidentiality.
6.6.18.2 Membership:
6.6.18.2.1 The Family Care Commissioner (Chair)
6.6.18.2.2 Seven (7) regular members of the Society.
6.6.18.3 Duties of the Chairperson:
The chairperson shall:
6.6.18.3.1: coordinate all meetings of the FCC;
6.6.18.3.2: promote an awareness of the FCC;
6.6.18.3.3: serve as a liaison between the FCC and any external groups, committees or individuals.

Motion passed.

5.8. Motion R11-06-#8 ·Regulation Respecting Ancillary Fees (President/ E. Cawley)
WHEREAS Regulation 5.1 has been superseded by Bylaw as of January 2010, 
BIRT that Regulation 5.1 be removed, and that the rest of Regulation 5 be appropriately renumbered.

Motion passed.

5.9. Motion R11-06-#10 · Committee of the Whole on Proposed Amendments (VP-External/ M-N. Huet)
BIRT Council hold a Committee-of-the-whole for up to 10 minutes to discuss the following motion:
Whereas the PGSS council is unwieldy and unnecessarily large.
BIRT Society bylaw 2.4.4.2.1 be struck.
BIRT Society bylaw 2.4.4.2.2 be amended to read, "2.4.4.2.1 Units with less than one hundred (100) regular members shall be eligible to elect one (1) representative.
BIRT Society bylaw 2.4.4.2.3 be amended to read, "2.4.4.2.2 Units with one hundred (100) or more regular members shall be eligible to elect two (2) representatives.
BIRT this becomes effective January 1, 2010.

Motion passed.

Council entered into a Committee-of-the-whole.
Council left the Committee-of-the-whole.

Motion (VP External/ M. Dodge)

BIRT an ad-hoc committee on Council restructuring be formed, with up to 7 members, which will operate according to its own rules (within the purview of the PGSS Constitution and Robert's Rules).

Motion passed (J. Mooney opposed).

6. Executive Reports

6.1. VP External
A brief report was given.

6.2. VP Academic
Absent. The President read out the VP Academic's resignation letter.

6.3. VP Finance
A brief report was given.

6.4. VP Internal
A brief report was given.

6.5. President
A brief report was given.

7. Commissioner Reports

7.1. Elections Commissioner
Report online.

7.2. Equity Commissioner
Report online.

7.3. Senate Commissioner
Absent.

7.4. Environment Commissioner
C. Wrobel gave a PowerPoint presentation.

7.5. Health Commissioner
A brief report was given.

7.6. Social Commissioner
Report online.
7.7. Student Support Commissioner
Report online.

7.8. Family Care Commissioner
Absent.

8. Other Reports
No other reports.

9. Question Period (15 minutes)
A question period took place.

10. New Business

10.1. Motion R11-09-#17 · Family Care Regulation (T. Centea/ H. Nikopour Deilami)
BIRT the Family Care Programme Regulation in Appendix 2 be adopted.

Motion passed.

10.2. Motion R11-09-#18 · Sustainable Projects Fund Rep. To Environment Committee (A. Goulet-Hanssens/ L. Maclagan)
WHEREAS the PGSS passed a referendum last semester which institutes a fee starting in the Winter Semester 2010 and ending in Winter semester 2013 of $15 per term, which goes into a Sustainability Fund to disburse funds for student initiated projects,
WHEREAS the PGSS has a representative on the panel that decides on projects submitted to the Fund administrator for consideration.
WHEREAS the PGSS representative is not currently a member of any internal PGSS committee or caucus
WHEREAS the PGSS environment committee represents the Society’s interests in all environmental issues on campus
BIRT Bylaw 6.6.14.2.7 be created, in first reading, to read as follows:
The Society representative for the Sustainability Projects Fund.
BIFRT current Bylaw 6.6.14.2.7 be re-numbered to be Bylaw 6.6.14.2.8.

Motion passed.

10.3 Motion R11-09-#19 · Executive Evaluation Committee (VP-External/ J. Mooney)
Whereas the Executive Evaluation Committee (EEC) has reviewed mechanisms for executive evaluations as described in the constitution;
Whereas the EEC has made a series of recommendations (see September VP External report appendix 2);
BIRT a Regulation 12 be created as follows:
12 Executive Reports
12.1 All executive reports shall be standardized, accounting for the different roles of each executive and their unique personalities.
12.1.1 All executive reports shall include: 12.1.2 Title of the executive;
12.1.3 Name;
12.1.4 Date;
12.1.5 Sections describing all work performed under individual Constitutional roles, plus inherited or created duties in order priority, from first to last.
12.1.5.1 These sections shall include: 12.1.5.2 Committee meetings;
12.1.5.3 Events attended;
12.1.5.4 Activities;
12.1.5.5 Corresponding dates;
12.1.5.6 Upcoming events, if applicable;
12.1.5.7 Further information and/or recommendations if applicable.
12.2 Work plan
12.2.1 The work plan shall be the structure whereby each executive will filter their activities.
12.2.2 This work plan shall:
12.2.2.1 Outline the goals of the executive team as a whole and indicate how each executive will participate in achieving those goals;
12.2.2.2 Be produced during June, July and August;
12.2.2.3 Be delivered to a Executive-Commissioner caucus meeting for review prior to September Council;
12.2.2.4 Be presented to council in September for approval by majority vote.

BIFRT a committee for executive evaluations be formed and filled immediately.
BIFRT this committee be composed of 5 members: 2 members at large, a manager of Thomson House, and 2 councillors.
BIFRT no members of this committee concurrently sit on the Judicial Advisory Board, the Nominating Committee, nor shall they be Commissioners.
BIFRT this committee evaluate the executives twice per year, once in November and once in March. BIFRT this committee evaluate the executives using the work plan and the progress outlined in executive reports to determine strengths or weaknesses.
BIFRT each evaluation be summarized into a report which will be reviewed at the council meeting following said evaluations.
BIFRT all committee decisions be consensual.

Quorum lost.

Adjournment
Quorum lost at 20h55.
Executive
President: Alexandra Bishop
VP Internal: Magnus Bein
VP Finance: Natalie Lee
VP External: Ryan Hughes

Councilors

Commissioners & Non-voting Members

Regrets
Call to Order
18h32

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Speaker’s Report

2.1 Trial Period of Altered Council Agenda Order
The Speaker explained the new trial Council agenda order which would place New Business directly after Business Arising.

Majority approved (1 objection: E. Cawley).

3. Announcements

3.1 Equity and Diversity Workshop for PGSS (Equity Commissioner)
The Equity Commissioner announced the Equity and Diversity Workshop on October 27th 2010 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm.

3.2 Aboriginal Affairs Workgroup (Linda Starkey)
L. Starkey and P. Isaac gave a presentation about aboriginal outreach initiatives at McGill. The Aboriginal Affairs Workgroup was created in 2005 to improved aboriginal outreach. The Workgroup, along with the Dean of Students and the Associate Dean of Students, is requesting public recognition from McGill for aboriginal students who have graduated. They are asking for support to allow aboriginal students to be able to wear the scarves of recognition when they graduate. P. Isaac explained the different symbols on the scarves and how they relate to aboriginal heritage.

4. Approval of the Minutes

4.1 C11-09-#02 (J. Mooney/ E. Cawley)
Minutes approved as amended.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders
5.1. Motion R11--10--#22 - To accept Nominating Committee Recommendations (J. Mooney/ E. Cawley)
WHEREAS the Nominating Committee has met to review nominees applying for external and internal committee positions, and presented recommendations to Council with respect to committee appointments;
**BIRT Council approve the recommendation of Nominating Committee, as listed below:**
External Committees:
Committee on Student Discipline -- Ferryl Alley
Committee on Student Grievances -- Justine Garner
Appeals Committee on Student Discipline and Grievances -- Nathaniel Robichaud
Intellectual Property Appeals Committee -- Roland Nassim
Committee on the Principal's Prize for Support Staff --Mehdi Sanjari
Committee on Student Services -- Elizabeth Cawley

Internal Committees:
CGSS (Management seat) - Julien Goyette--Demers
CGSS (at large) -- Katy Orchowski
Environment Committee -- Luis Enrique Orbina Rivas and Yasmine Ghoyareb
Internal Affairs Committee --Yasmine Ghoyareb
Family Care Committee -- Katja Urdic and Bruck Rutter

Amendment (E. Sirett/ J. Mooney)
To add the addition of My Cyd to the Equity Committee.

Amendment passed.

Motion passed.

5.2. Motion R11--10--#23-- To elect candidates to the Nominating Committee (E. Cawley/ M. Dodge)
**BIRT Council hold elections for the following vacancies on the Nominating Committee:**
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Dentistry
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Education
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Law
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Management
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Religious Studies
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Arts
- two (2) members at-large

Yasmine Ghoyareb was nominated as a member at large.

Motion passed. (A. Abdulhadi opposed).

5.3. Motion R11--10--#24 PGSS--GPS Grants Programme (VP Finance/ T. Centea)
Where as the following grant applications have been submitted
Where as the grant committee voted on the following applications,
10-11-20  Pakistan Flood Relief
10-11-21  Ethnoculture 2010
10-11-22  Science & Policy Exchange
10-11-23  BioConnect 2010
10-11-24  Geography Graduate Society

**BIRT The grant be disbursed to the following:**
10-11-23  BioConnect 2010  pay to Aurelie Bouzelmat for $800.00
10-11-24  Ethienne Fluet Chainard (GGS)  pay to Ethienne Fluet-Chainard for $500.00
10-11-25  Quebec Network for Slavic Studies  pay to Baktyful Aliev for $130.00

The VP Finance, on motivation, stated that the grant budget is $32,000 for the whole year; $15,000 has already been spent. Therefore the GRC will have to be more restrictive with which projects they fund going forward.

**Motion to amend (J. Mooney/ E. Cawley)**
To include funding for Grant 10-11-22 -- Science & Policy Exchange for $800.

J. Mooney, on motivation, stated that the budget for the event will be much more than expected, therefore they are asking for help from PGSS to make this event a success. The organizers have tried to raise money from other sources, but they are still lacking in funds. They would greatly appreciate the support. He briefly outlined the event and guest speakers.

A brief question period took place.

Amendment failed.

Main motion passed. (H. Safadi opposed).

5.4. **Motion R11--10--#25 - To elect a Vice--President Academic (E. Cawley/ J. Mooney)**

WHEREAS the position of Vice-President Academic is open,

**BIRT Council immediately proceed to a council election for the Vice-President Academic.**

Motion passed.

The Elections Commissioner explained the election process and called for candidates.

Monika Rak from Chemistry nominated herself.

Penny Toliopoulos from Experimental Medicine nominated herself.

Amani Batarseh from Postdoctoral Medicine nominated herself.

Roland Nassim from Surgical Research nominated himself.
Each candidate gave a brief description of themselves.

A brief question period took place.

**Motion (President)**
To give speaking rights to L. Wyatt in order for her to have a Sustainability Projects Fund Presentation.

Motion passed.

**Sustainability Projects Fund Presentation (Lilith Wyatt)**
L. Wyatt gave a PowerPoint presentation about the Sustainability Projects Fund.

5.5. **Motion R11--09--#19 Executive Evaluation Committee (VP-External/ J. Mooney)**
Whereas the Executive Evaluation Committee (EEC) has reviewed mechanisms for executive evaluations as described in the constitution;
Whereas the EEC has made a series of recommendations (see September VP-External report Appendix 2);
**BIRT Council approve the following new Regulation 12:**
Society Regulation 12 Executive Reports and Work Plan
12.1 Executive Reports
12.1.1 All executive reports shall be standardized, accounting for the different roles of each executive and their unique personalities.
12.1.2 All executive reports shall include:
  12.1.2.1 Title of the executive;
  12.1.2.2 Name;
  12.1.2.3 Date;
12.1.3 Sections describing all work performed under individual Constitutional roles, plus inherited or created duties in order priority, from first to last.
  12.1.3.1 Committee meetings;
  12.1.3.2 Events attended;
  12.1.3.3 Activities;
  12.1.3.4 Corresponding dates;
  12.1.3.5 Upcoming events, if applicable;
  12.1.3.6 Further information and/or recommendations if applicable.
12. 2. Work plan
12.2.1 The work plan shall be the structure whereby each executive will filter their activities.
12.2.2 This work plan shall:
  12.2.2.1 Outline the goals of the executive team as a whole and indicate how each executive will participate in achieving those goals;
  12.2.2.2 Be produced during June, July and August;
  12.2.2.3 Be delivered to a Executive-Commissioner caucus meeting for review prior to September Council;
12.2.3.4 Be presented to council in September for approval by majority vote.
BIFRT a committee for executive evaluations be formed via nomination.
BIFRT this committee be composed of 5 members: 2 members at large, a manager
of the Thomson House, and 2 councillors.
BIFRT no members of this committee concurrently sit on the Judicial Advisory
Board, the Nominating Committee, nor shall they be commissioners.
BIFRT this committee evaluate the executives twice per year, once in November and
once in March.
BIFRT this committee evaluate the executives using the work plan and the progress
outlined in executive reports to determine strengths or weaknesses.
BIFRT each evaluation be summarized into a report which will be reviewed at the
council meeting following said evaluations.
BIFRT all committee decisions be consensual.

The VP External, on motivation, stated that the idea behind this motion is to develop a
mechanism for regulating and monitoring Executive evaluations.

E. Sirett asked if this is just for Executives or for Commissioners also.

The VP External answered that this is just for the Executives, but every paid officer
should be evaluated to some extent.

Motion passed.

Motion (VP Finance)
To move the VP Finance report immediately onto the agenda and to overrule the Steering
Committee decision regarding reports.

Motion failed.

5.6 Motion R11--09--#20 -- Policy on the Conduct of Research (T. Centea/ K.
Fayazbakhsh)
BIRT the Policy on the Conduct of Research, in Appendix 1, be adopted in first
reading.

T. Centea, on motivation, stated that the committee worked very hard to write the policy
and they would like to get it passed at Council.

Amendment (J. Mooney)
To change "no anonymous" funding to "discourage anonymous" funding.

Amendment failed. (T. Centea abstained).

A. Deguise commended the committee for all of their hard work.

Motion passed (J. Mooney and M. Dodge abstained).
5.7. Motion R11--09--#21 ·· Motion of Censure (VP-External/ N. Cyr)
Whereas the VP Finance is obligated to ensure that PGSS business and finances are managed adequately;
Whereas the Executive Committee believes that the VP Finance has not fulfilled her duties according to the constitution, nor has her level of activity been adequate with regard to her executive responsibilities;
**BIRT Council censure the VP Finance.**

The Speaker explained what is meant by a motion of censure.

**Motion (E. Cawley/ J. Mooney)**
To go into closed session.

Motion passed.

Main motion passed.

Council is now out of closed session.

6. New Business

6.1. Motion R11--10--#26-- Budget Amendment (VP External/ E. Cawley)
**BIRT $9,000 be removed from the budget reserved for the "Researcher/Archivist" and placed into the "Executive Special Projects" pool.**

The VP External, on motivation, stated that $20,000 was allocated for a writer/researcher, but not all of it was spent (due to the researcher starting her contract later than expected). Therefore, they want to move the unspent money into the special projects pool.

Motion passed.

6.2 Motion R11--10--#27-- Corporate Sponsorship (VP Finance/ J. Carr)
Whereas PGSS does not have systematic corporate sponsorship to support its services and initiatives;
**BIRT raise funds to support services by finding sponsors who would like to name the Thompson House rooms after their companies.**

The VP Finance, on motivation, stated that there are a lot of projects that PGSS would like to implement, such as a daycare. She thinks these projects can be accomplished through fundraising. It is something which can be accomplished as a group. She hopes that Council will support this idea.

E. Cawley asked if this is out of order because it is an issue for the PGSS Board of Directors.
The Speaker answered that since this has a political nature it is in order.

No objection to fixing the spelling of Thomson House to its correct spelling.

Amendment (E. Cawley/ T. Centea)
To recommend this motion to the PGSS Board of Directors.

Amendment failed.

Motion (F. Upham)
To commit to an ad hoc committee:
The committee shall be composed of PGSS Council members (3), Board members (3), and one (1) member of the PGSS management team. The committee shall select its own chair and report back to Council by January.

Motion passed (T. Hamade opposed).

6.3 Motion R11--10--#28-- Committee--of--the--Whole on the Health Insurance Survey
(Health Commissioner/ E. Cawley)
BIRT Council enter Committee-of-the-Whole for 10 minutes to discuss the proposed survey regarding the PGSS health insurance plan.

Motion passed.

Motion to extend Council (T. Centea / E. Cawley)
Motion passed.

Motion to amend the agenda to go directly to item 6.5 (President)
Motion passed; no objections.

6.5 Motion R11--10--#30-- Aboriginal Affairs Workgroup (President/ B. Noga)
Whereas The Aboriginal Affairs Workgroup was created in 2005 to look at programs and services related to Aboriginal students and to determine required improvements; Whereas The Aboriginal Affairs Workgroup request that convocation week be considered as a possible opportunity to publicly profile and acknowledge our respect for Aboriginal culture at McGill; Whereas Ceremonial Scarves are already given as a recognition item to McGill Aboriginal Graduates; Whereas the Dean of Students, the Associate Dean of Student on behalf of the Aboriginal Affairs working group are seeking student consultation regarding a ceremonial request; BIRT The PGSS support the initiatives of the Dean of Students, the Associate Dean of Student on behalf of the Aboriginal Affairs working group to have Ceremonial Scarves worn during Convocation.

Motion passed (F. Upham and M. Dodge opposed).
BIRT the following question to put to graduate students as part of a fall referendum:

Preamble:
Currently, graduate students have access to fewer doctors at McGill Mental Health Services than undergraduates. This service differential is the result of a student service fee increase that was accepted by undergraduate students but rejected by graduate students in 2008. The current situation, in which graduate students, who generally make greater use of mental health services than undergraduates, have access to fewer doctors, will remain in place unless the fees paid to provide this service are made equal between graduate and undergraduate students. A fee increase would not only result in access to an equal number of doctors for graduate students and undergraduates, but it would also allow for the hiring of additional doctors to address students' mental health needs.

Therefore:
"Do you agree that, beginning January 2011, the Student Services Fee be increased according to the following fee schedule, thereby permitting a total increase in all ancillary fees in excess of the $15 per year allowable by law?
Part-time (1-11.5 credits) - $3.75
Full-time (12+ credits) - $7.50
Additional Session - $7.50"

The Health Commissioner, on motivation, explained that 2 years ago the undergraduates and the graduates were both faced with a referendum question asking them to raise their student service fees. McGill wanted to be able to hire more doctors in mental health services (which falls under student services in general). The fee increase was passed by the undergraduates; it did not pass for the graduate students. As a result, mental health services received more resources for undergraduates than they did for graduates; because of that, graduate students have access to fewer doctors at health services. Many people have expressed that this is a problem. He believes that Council should pass this referendum question so that we can get equal mental health services for graduates and undergraduates and have our membership decide on this issue.

Amendment (Health Commissioner)
To correct the fee for part time students:
-$4.50/part time students (not $3.75)
And add:
- The post doctoral fee, being optional, is already set at the correct level:
$133.00 plus 17.12 in GST/QST for a total of $150.12 per term.

Amendment passed.

A brief question period took place.
Amendment (A. Poisson / J. Mooney)
To add: "for the purposes of increasing mental health service," after "'"Do you agree that, beginning January 2011" (as long as this wording is approved by the University).

Amendment passed.

Motion to call the question
Motion passed.

Main motion passed.

6.6 Motion R11--10--#31-- Suspension of Privileges (J. Mooney/ E. Cawley)
WHEREAS the Board of Directors has been restructured and is no longer equivalent with the Executive
AND WHEREAS suspension of the privileges of membership would likely only result from unacceptable behavior at Thomson House
BIRT Society Article 2.5.1 be amended, in first reading, from:
“Any or all of the privileges of membership may be revoked or suspended by the Executive, as prescribed in the Bylaws and Regulations”
to
“Any or all of the privileges of membership may be revoked or suspended by the Board of Directors, as prescribed in the Bylaws and Regulations”

Motion passed.

6.7 Motion R11--10--#32-- Commissioner Attendance (J. Mooney/ N. Cyr)
BIRT Society Bylaw 5.4.3 be amended, in first reading, from:
[New text is indicated in italics.]
“Commissioners shall be responsible to the Council. Commissioners shall report to each meeting of the Council and shall be required to attend all Council meetings, from beginning to end. Three (3) missed meetings will result in automatic resignation unless the Council approves a motion for the commissioner to retain his or her position”
to
“Commissioners shall be responsible to the Council. Commissioners shall report to each meeting of the Council and shall be required to attend all Council meetings, from beginning to end. Three (3) missed meetings without valid reason will result in automatic resignation unless the Council approves a motion for the commissioner to retain his or her position. Valid reasons shall include Society business, illness or bereavement.”

Motion passed.

Adjournment
Quorum lost at 21h58.
PGSS

POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS’ SOCIETY OF McGill University

Minutes for the Council Meeting of
Wednesday, November 3, 2010, 18h30

Executives
VP External Ryan Hughes, VP Academic Roland Nassim

Councilors

Commissioners & Non-voting Members
Council Commissioner D. Simeone, Health Commissioner J. Mooney, Elections Commissioner T. Hamade, Family Care Commissioner H. Myers, Secretary M. Boudreau

Regrets
1. Approval of the Agenda

- The agenda was amended to remove current motion 10.11 and replace with new version of 10.11.
- Motion 10.1 moved to the beginning of Business Arising. No objections.

The amended agenda was approved.

2. Speaker’s Report

No report.

3. Announcements

3.1 MCGSS President (Karen Geukers)
K. Geukers introduced herself and welcomed Council to the MacDonald campus.

3.2 Upcoming events (VP External)
The VP External announced the upcoming PGSS events.

4. Approval of the Minutes

4.1 C11-10-#03
Minutes approved (F. Upham/ M. Dodge).

5. Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders

10.1. Motion R11-10-#42 Student Services Fee Referendum (E. Cawley/ J. Mooney)
WHEREAS a referendum question was approved by Council at its October 2010 meeting,
WHEREAS the motion did not specify the exact date of the referendum during which the question would be asked,
WHEREAS insufficient notice was provided to enable PGSS members to be properly informed of the surrounding issues,
BIRT Motion R11---10---#29 (Student Services Fee Levy Referendum) adopted by council at its October 2010 meeting be amended as follows:
Replace "as part of a fall referendum" with “as part of the PGSS annual referendum”;
BIFRT the campaign period for the referendum last for a minimum of two weeks, consistent with Bylaw 8.4.7 of the PGSS constitution.

J. Jensen asked what the dates are for a fall PGSS referendum.

E. Cawley answered that there are no set dates for a fall referendum, the set PGSS referendum dates are in the spring.

J. Mooney added that the administration think this would be better addressed at the spring referendum. He also stated that mental health services will not be able to equalize until September.

Motion passed.

5.1. Motion R11-10-#39 - To accept Nominating Committee Recommendations (N. Cyr/M. Isabel)
WHEREAS the Nominating Committee has met to review nominees applying for external and internal committee positions, and presented recommendations to Council with respect to committee appointments;
BIRT Council approve the recommendation of Nominating Committee, as listed below:
External Affairs Committee – Penny Toliopoulous
Family Care Committee – Lerona Lewis
Life Sciences Library Advisory Committee – Jingyu
Carrie Derrick Award Committee – Maryann Joseph
Research Advisory Council – Amari Bataraseh
PGSS Environment Committee – Sarah Wilson
QPIRG Board Representative – Nakita Sunar
Ad-hoc Committee on Room Sponsorship – Lindsay Wiginton

Motion passed.

5.2. Motion R11-10-#40 - To elect candidates to the Nominating Committee (F. Upham/E. Cawley)
BIRT Council hold elections for the following vacancies on the Nominating Committee:
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Dentistry
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Education
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Law
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Management
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Religious Studies
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Arts
- one (1) members at-large

Motion passed.
E. Cawley was nominated from the Faculty of Medicine.

5.3. Motion R11-10-#41 – PGSS-GPS Grants Programme (VP-Finance/ J. Mooney)
WHEREAS the following grant applications have been reviewed:
GrantID-10-11—26
GrantID_10-11—27
GrantID_10-11—28
GrantID_10-11—29
GrantID_10-11—30
BIRT the following applications be approved:
Grant ID 10-11—27 - 2010-2011 Film Series - McGill Anthropology and Sociology Film Initiative, Sophie Llewelyn $ 400
Grant ID 10-11-28 - Annual McGill Biomedical Graduate Conference, Experimental Medicine Graduate Student Society, Kaitlin Soye $800.00
Grant ID 10-11-29 - Canadian Society for Epidemiology and Biostatistics National Student Conference, $800
Grant ID 10-11-30 - AnthroGrad Conference 2011, Anthropology Graduate Student Association (AGSA), Ian Kalman and Brodie Noga $400

J. Mooney asked if the Grants Review Committee can please tell us why GrantID-10-11—26 was rejected.

Motion passed.

5.4. Motion R11-10-#33 – Petition Percentages (Article) (J. Mooney/ E. Cawley)
BIRT Society Article 12.1.1 d be amended from
“Through petition, whereby notice of the proposed enactment, amendment, or repeal of an Article, signed by at least ten percent (10%) of Society Members, shall be given to the President”
to
“Through petition, whereby notice of the proposed enactment, amendment, or repeal of an Article, signed by at least five percent (5%) of Society Members, shall be given to the President.”

J. Mooney, on motivation, stated that only 5% of our members are required to make quorum to do a change in a referendum. When this original motion was put forward and it became part of our constitution 10% of our membership was a lot less than it is now. Therefore at this point it requires almost double the amount of signatures to get this done. We should not make it so difficult to bring this forward.

The VP External asked if J. Mooney can give Council an idea of how those numbers have changed and if that is an accurate reflection of the percentage points.

J. Mooney asked if the Speaker can answer that question.
The Speaker answered that in the early 1990s the membership of the PGSS sat around 5,500 people and now it is about 7,500.

**Motion (VP External/ A. Kaats)**
That these discussions go into a committee of the whole for 5 minutes.

Motion passed.

Council left committee of the whole.

**Motion to commit to committee (J. Mooney/ F. Upham)**
BIRT Motion R11-10-#33 and Motion R11-10-#34 be referred to the PGSS Policy and Structure Advisory committee (PSAC).

Motion passed.

5.5. **Motion R11-10-#34 Petition Percentages (Bylaw) (J. Mooney/…)**

**BIRT Society Bylaw 8.11.3 be amended, in first reading, from**

“Questions may be placed on the annual referendum by resolution of February Council or by the presentation to the Elections Commissioner of a petition bearing the signatures of at least ten percent (10%) of the regular members of the Society with a maximum of twenty five per cent (25%) of the names on the petition being registered in a single unit which is represented or eligible for representation on Council. A call for annual referenda questions shall be published by the Elections Commissioner no later than December 1 of each year.”

to

“Questions may be placed on the annual referendum by resolution of February Council or by the presentation to the Elections Commissioner of a petition bearing the signatures of at least five percent (5%) of the regular members of the Society with a maximum of twenty five per cent (25%) of the names on the petition being registered in a single unit which is represented or eligible for representation on Council. A call for annual referenda questions shall be published by the Elections Commissioner no later than December 1 of each year.”

5.6. **Motion R11-10-#35 Executive Attendance at Council (J. Mooney / J. Jensen)**

**BIRT that a new Society Article 8.6, be created, as follows:**

8.6 Each Executive member shall be required to attend all Council meetings, from beginning to end. Three (3) missed meetings without valid reason will result in automatic resignation unless the Board of Directors approves a motion recommended by Council for the Executive member to retain his or her position. Valid reasons shall include Society business, illness or bereavement, or being on an approved leave-of-absence.

J. Mooney, on motivation, stated that right now our constitution requires all Commissioners to attend Council meetings and 3 missed meetings without a specific motion approving them will result in automatic resignation of Commissioners, it does not require this for Executives, he thinks it should be the same.
Amendment (J. Mooney)
To strike the last sentence “Valid reasons shall include Society business, illness or bereavement, or being on an approved leave-of-absence.”

Motion to commit to committee (T. Hamade/ F. Upham)
BIRT Motion R11-10-#35 is referred to the PGSS Policy and Structure Advisory committee (PSAC).

Motion passed (J. Mooney abstained).

5.7. Motion R11-10-#36 Removal from Office (J. Mooney/ J. Sannicandro)
WHEREAS corporate law does not give a body that is not directly representative of the entire membership authority to remove directors,
AND WHEREAS Bylaws may be changed without direct input from the membership, but Articles require a General Meeting, and thus meet the corporate requirement,

BIRT that Society Bylaw 8.10, be repealed, in first reading, and later sections renumbered effective the coming into force of a new Society Article 17 Removal from Office.

BIFRT new Society Article 17 Removal from Office be created, as follows.
[Text largely based upon old Society Bylaw 8.10.]

Article 17 Removal from Office
17.1 Members of the Executive and Commissioners may be removed from office for impropriety, for violation of the Constitution or Bylaws of the PGSS, for delinquency in their duties, or for misappropriation of PGSS funds. They shall be removed from office:

17.1.1 [Text of previous 8.10.1.1, with the percentage from 10% to 5%, plus addition of Council vote.]
After the receipt by the Elections Commissioner of a petition signed by five-percent (5%) of the regular members of the Society requesting impeachment or a motion requesting a non-confidence vote passed by a simple majority of Council. Within twenty-four (24) hours, the Elections Commissioner shall instruct the President or the Speaker to call a General meeting containing a motion of non-confidence against the representative. The motion of non-confidence shall be passed, and the representative duly dismissed, by majority vote. The meeting shall be held within twenty-one (21) days of receipt of the petition, and shall be preceded by five (5) days notice. The notice shall include the time and place of the meeting, as well as the agenda and the motion of non-confidence, and shall be widely publicized.

17.1.2 [Text of previous 8.10.1.2, with italicized bits changed from the status quo.]
By a non-confidence vote by Council. This vote shall have the effect of impeaching officers of the society. If the officer is also a member of the Board of Directors, the motion shall recommend to the board that the officer also be removed from the board. Such a vote shall be the result of a motion endorsed by at least ten (10) voting members of Council. The motion shall be debated at a Council meeting held after five (5) days
notice of motion has been given to members of Council. To be resolved, the non-confidence motion must be passed by:

17.1.2.1 One-half (1/2) of the total voting membership of Council, or
17.1.2.2 Two (2) successive two-thirds (2/3) majority votes of Council separated by at least five (5) days. If the first votes passed, six (6) days notice of motion shall be required before the second meeting. This notice shall publicize that the motion has been once passed and shall detail the ramifications of a second passing; namely that the representative would be removed from office.

17.2.5 In either case (17.1.2.1 or 17.1.2.2), representatives shall not be eligible to vote on such a motion of non-confidence.

17.2.6 All appointed or elected representatives not referred under item 10.1 of this Bylaw shall be dismissed only after a two-thirds (2/3) vote at a Council meeting held after five (5) days notice of motion. The President of the Society shall be responsible for the administration of the vote by secret ballot. Such a motion of dismissal shall be endorsed by at least five (5) voting members of Council prior to inscription on the agenda of Council.

J. Mooney, on motivation, stated that this is important because right now our constitution allows removal from office to fall under bylaws, which are amendable by Council and don’t have to go through our general membership to be approved. That is inappropriate considering Executives are elected by the general membership. Therefore it is very important that we change this to an article because right now this is unconstitutional. Secondly, the mechanism by which people are removed needs to have a high threshold in order not to be abused, but it also needs to be possible. Right now there are 3 mechanisms in order to remove officers of the society. The first way is a petition by 750 people, this number may be too high and difficult to achieve. The second way is two successive unanimous votes of Council, which again is an extremely high threshold. The third way is to have a vote in which 2/3rds of the total voting membership of Council vote in favour of removing someone from office, this also a rare occurrence. Therefore right now there is no mechanism available to remove people from office that has a reasonable threshold which can be achieved.

T. Troughton asked if there is a reason why it should be easier.

J. Mooney answered that 2 years ago there was a strong divide between the Executives so there are a lot of reasons why it needs to be addressed.

The VP External on a point of information, if there is any department that holds 5% numbers, around 370 people.

The Speaker answered that Education, Music, Neuroscience and Engineering would have at least 370 people.

Motion to commit to committee (A. Kaats/ T. Centea)
BIRT Motion R11-10-#36 is referred to the PGSS Policy and Structure Advisory committee (PSAC).
Amendment (F. Upham / M. Isabel)
That the PSAC return with its recommendations at the February Council meeting.

Motion to commit passed as amended.

5.8. Motion R11-10-#37 Complaints Committee (J. Mooney/ A. Kaats)
WHEREAS there is a notion within the PGSS body that certain VPs are not fulfilling their duties
BIRT there be an adhoc committee formed of 5 members of council, selected by council, which upon a complaint by any PGSS member about any member of the PGSS executive has to investigate that complaint. The committee shall then make a report and advise council at the following meeting what action to take (e.g. exhortation, impeachment....). The committee should end once the electoral term for PGSS executive ends.

J. Mooney, on motivation, stated that in the event that people are not fulfilling their duties, the issue is not addressed soon enough and that is why he brought this motion forward.

F. Upham on a point of information asked how this is different from the Executive Evaluation committee that we just recently formed.

E. Cawley debated against the motion as we have created many new committees and no one is sitting on them. We should fill the committees we already have.

The VP External stated that there is one member on the Executive Evaluation committee but he would love people to nomination themselves so that we can start this process as soon as possible.

A. Kaats debated against the motion because Council is the oversight committee for the Executive and this motion suggests that an adhoc committee make recommendations for what Council should do in the case of Executive transgression. We are supposed to be overseeing the Executives and we are a pretty big committee. You can bring your grievances here and they will be heard. It may also be a better idea to amend the definition of the purview of the Judicial Advisory Board to deal with this type of stuff because that is a pretty solid committee that deals with the most difficult types of problems within the PGSS and is the best committee for issues such as this.

J. Mooney added that be believes that M. Krause brought up this motion because there are months between council meetings and if something goes wrong before than there should be a committee to address such concerns.

Motion failed.

6. Executive Reports
6.1. VP External
Report online.

6.2. VP Academic
Report online.

6.3. VP Finance
Report online.

6.4. VP Internal
Report online.

6.5. President
Report online.

7. Commissioner Reports

7.1. Elections Commissioner
Report online.

7.2. Equity Commissioner
Report online.

7.3. Senate Commissioner
Report online.

7.4. Environment Commissioner
Report online.

7.5. Health Commissioner
Report online.

7.6. Social Commissioner
Report online.

7.7. Student Support Commissioner
Report online.

7.8. Family Care Commissioner
Report online.

8. Other Reports

8.1 Steering Committee
Report online.
8.2 Constitution Committee
Report online.

9. Question Period (15 minutes)

N. Cyr asked what the latest news is with the CFS saga.

The VP External answered that he has a timeline and the next stage will be the second examination of their representation. He continued to give a brief overview of the legal timeline so far.

N. Cyr asked if PGSS sent any money to CFS this year and did we participate in any events within the CFS.

The VP External answered no; we have ceased the fee levy for the CFS. We did go to the semi-annual general meeting in May in which we sent a letter declaring the results of our referendum and asked them to ratify it via a motion. Once that was ruled out of order we staged a walk out and never went back.

F. Upham asked why we did not send representation to the joint senate board meeting in which the topic was graduate students. How did we miss out on being a part of this.

The VP Academic answered that the former VP Academic, Dahlia, was invited to the meeting before he assumed the role and he was only told that the meeting was happening after last Council (that is why he did not inform Councilors at the last meeting). Only senators and members of the board of governors were invited to take part in the meeting, so there was no student representation on the board. The format was table discussion; we were not invited to solicit members for the meeting.

F. Upham asked if there was a PGSS member on the organizational committee.

The VP Academic answered that he is not aware if anyone from the PGSS was on the organizing committee.

R. Strasser asked if no money went from PGSS to CFS where did that money that we paid in our fees go.

The VP External answered that the fee levy was ceased altogether; PGSS members did not pay anything.

J. Mooney asked the VP External about the External Commissioner position which was mentioned in the Executive minutes. He also asked why the Executive were handling a lot of Board of Director business over the summer.
The VP External answered that the Executive were considering creating another Commissioner position since there was an absence of a VP Academic at the time, but since then the need has decreased. However, it would be a good committee-of-the-whole discussion for the future. Secondly, the Executive do discuss Board of Director issues; motions were not passed, but suggestions to the Board were made.

M. Munir asked about the issue of office space for graduate students. He also asked about the status of the student STM passes.

The VP Academic answered that complaints or issues such as office space can be forwarded to the PGSS. Departments work under faculties so everything is faculty based, but what the PGSS can do is bring the issues to the Council of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies; we meet once a month and we also meet with the Deans of faculties.

The VP External gave a brief overview of the STM negotiations. Negotiations are ongoing.

A-E. Keen asked about the time limitations for Ph.D. completion and explained that students are being asked to pay back all the tuition fees that they missed when submitting their thesis late.

The VP Academic answered that this is not an individual case. However, this is not a policy on behalf of McGill. The policy is only that it ends at Ph.D. 7. We have talked to the ombudsperson about this issue. We are getting the numbers so that we can present the case to the administration.

M. Isabel asked why there is no report from the VP Finance and if she could explain the documents and financial statements that she provided in the package.

A. Kaats asked if we have a representative for the Athletics Board.

The VP External answered yes, he is the representative.

E. Cawley asked if there is an update on the GSA fee levy situation and at what point all of the GSAs will be included in these discussions.

The VP Academic answered that we will be holding a town hall type event towards the end of November to talk about this issue and all of the GSAs will be invited.

F. Upham asked who is responsible for filling the committee which we make in Council.

The Speaker answered that the Nominating Committee is responsible for taking applications; the VP Academic is responsible for advertising the open positions.

The VP Academic added that he is trying to standardize the reporting system.
10. New Business

10.2. Motion R11-10-#43 Religious Studies Graduate Student Society (RSGS) (T. Troughton/ J. Mooney)
WHEREAS the Religious Studies Graduate Society (RSGS) has requested recognition by the PGSS; and WHEREAS RSGS has submitted the appropriate documentation as per Bylaw 11 of the PGSS Constitution; therefore
BIRT the PGSS recognize the Religious Studies Graduate Society (RSGS) as per Bylaw 11.

Motion passed.

10.3. Motion R11-10-#44 Committee of the Whole Respecting Language Courses (VP-External / N. Cyr)
Whereas McGill intends to charge students for taking non-required French and English language courses;
BIRT a committee-of-the-whole be formed for 15 minutes to discuss the issue.

Amendment
BIRT a committee-of-the-whole be formed for 5 minutes to discuss the issue.

Motion passed as amended.

10.4. Motion R11-10-#45 A Bylaw Amendment Regarding the Steering Committee (J. Mooney/ F. Upham)
BIRT Bylaw Section 6.6.17.1.2 be amended in first reading to strike the text "to discuss possible problems or issues as they arise above those of an administrative and procedural nature, and to discover appropriate courses of action."
BIFRT Bylaw Section 6.6.17.1.5 be added in first reading, with the text "The CSC shall have the power to designate time limits regarding announcements, debate on council motions, reports, and all other elements of the council agenda, subject to approval by Council"
BIFRT Bylaw Section 6.6.17.2.1 be amended to read, "The President of the Society and one other member of the executive committee, elected by the executive"
BIFRT Bylaw Section 6.6.17.2.2 be amended to read "Five members directly elected by Council"
BIFRT the previous text of Bylaw section 6.6.17.2.2 be renumbered to 6.6.17.2.3, and all subsequent sections be renumbered accordingly.

J. Mooney, on motivation, stated that the first change should be made because right now it says that movers should be invited to the steering committee meeting only to discuss problems or issues, but it is very rare for someone to be invited to a steering meeting and it should be a general invitation to everyone regardless if there are issues to discuss. Secondly, last year we would have presentations in Council that would take up a lot of time; there has to be a time limit that goes out before the council package is given to everyone. Thirdly, currently the composition of the steering committee is just the
Executive and the Council Commissioner. No one who has the authority to vote in Council makes up the Steering Committee of Council. It would be appropriate to have some voting members of Council on the Steering Committee.

A. Kaats debated against this motion and agrees with the report of the steering committee.

Motion (A. Kaats/ F. MacDonald)
To commit this motion to the Steering Committee.

A. Kaats, on motivation, stated that there are a number of changes here that are ill advised. Part of the reason that there are no voting members on the steering committee is because by setting the order of the agenda they will not be bias. He will leave it to the overview of the steering committee.

E. Cawley debated against sending this to the steering committee as that is the committee that is being changed.

Motion
To go into a committee-of-the-whole for 5 minutes.

No objections.

Council came out of the committee-of-the-whole.

Motion
To commit this motion to the Policy and Structure Advisory Committee.

Motion passed (J. Mooney abstained).

10.5. Motion R11-10-#46 Committee of the Whole Respecting Executive and Commissioner Transition Period (VP-External / J.Mooney)
Whereas executive and commissioner elects shoulder a greater workload as they transition from a volunteer to a paid position;
BIRT a committee-of-the-whole be formed for 10 minutes to discuss if and/or what compensation could be offered to newly elected PGSS representatives in the month prior to assuming office.

Motion passed.

10.6. Motion R11-10-#47 A Bylaw Amendment Concerning In-Council Elections (J. Mooney / A. Kaats)
BIRT Bylaw 8.5.7 be added in first reading, stating, "No campaigning shall be allowed in the case of Council and General Meeting Elections."
J. Mooney, on motivation, stated that the Council regulation has a loophole when it comes to elections. There are very specific regulations regarding official election periods during the Executive elections. There is a period when campaigning is allowed and a period when it is not. All of the material for campaigning has to go to the Elections Commissioner to be approved; there is a very clear system. However, for in Council elections, or AGM elections, there are effectively no regulations: no set period which campaigning can take place; someone can send out an email with inaccurate information and it won’t necessarily go through the eyes of the Elections Commissioner for review. We don’t have a set campaign period and set regulations. We could set up a campaign period etc, but the principal of having in Council elections is that anyone in Council can come and run for a position; it should be something spontaneous. If it is going to be something relatively spontaneous, people can talk about it before hand, but they shouldn’t campaign. The only campaign should be allowed in Council when candidates are making their speeches. The clearest way to deal with this issue is to prohibit campaigning before Council. We should add an amendment to this saying that the speeches that are made in the actual meeting are the exception.

Amendment (J. Mooney)
In the case of Council and General Meeting elections no campaigning should be permitted prior to the meeting.

E. Cawley debated against the motion, elections in Council are often spontaneous, but that is not necessarily an advantage. We often have quite a few candidates and they are only given a few minutes to convey their message. There should be campaigning, but it should follow the general rules and campaign material should go through our Elections Commissioner to make sure that any inaccurate information is not distributed.

R. Nassim debated against the motion, although he agrees with the idea of the motion it is not necessarily correct. Election regulations only pertain to candidates and right now for Council elections technically the person becomes a candidate at the start of the Council meeting. Before the Council meeting that person is not a candidate and therefore can do whatever they want. This is a good initiative, but first we need to define what a candidate is and set up a campaign period that is different from the general elections. This is a band aid solution for a much bigger problem.

J. Mooney agreed with R. Nassim that this is a band aid motion, but right now people who may be more familiar with Council can take advantage of their knowledge to send out information in advance and that puts other well qualified candidates at a disadvantage which is fundamentally unfair. There does need to be an overhaul of the election regulations, but right now the loophole needs to be taken care of.

T. Hamade stated that since this is not an emergency it can be brought back to Council after review by the Elections Committee.

A. Kaats called for a 30 second Caucus.
Motion failed.

10.7. Motion R11-10-#48 Committee of the Whole Respecting VP-External Language Requirements (VP-External / N. Cyr)
Whereas the VP external is a role that requires a knowledge of the French language; 
BIRT a committee-of-the-whole be formed for 10 minutes to discuss a constitutional change that would require a working knowledge of French for the VP External position.

Motion passed. (J. Mooney opposed).

10.8. Motion R11-10-#49 Committee of the Whole Respecting the Strategic Enrolment Plan (VP External/ M. Dodge)
WHEREAS the University has presented its draft Strategic Enrolment Plan, 
BIRT Council enter into Committee of the Whole to discuss the draft Strategic Enrolment Plan and its effects on graduate students and post-doctoral fellows.

Motion to table (J. Mooney/ J-P. Willynck)
Motion passed.

Motion to extend Council
Motion passed.

10.9. Motion R11-10-#50 To Adopt the Recommendations of the Constitution Committee (J. Mooney/ P. Schweppe)
BIRT the recommendations of the Constitution Committee, contained in the report of the Constitution Committee, be adopted.

Motion passed.

10.10 Roles of VP Internal and Social Commissioner (Motion R11-10-#51) (J. Mooney/ M. Dodge)
BIRT the IAC be directed by Council to make recommendations clarifying the roles of the VP internal and the Social Commissioner.

J. Mooney, on motivation, thinks that the role of the VP Internal and the Social Commissioner should be clarified because it is not clear from the Constitution.

Amendment (R. Nassim/ J. Mooney)
BIRT the Policy and Structure Advisory Committee, in consultation with the Internal Affairs Committee, be directed by Council to make recommendations clarifying the roles of, and the relationships between, the VP internal and the Social Commissioner.

Motion to table (A. Kaats/ J. Sannicandro)
Motion passed (opposed: J. Mooney, J. Jenson, M. Dodge, A-E. Keen).
10. 11 A Motion to Restrict Payment (Motion R11-10-#52) (J. Mooney/..)
BIRT in the event that an officer of the society exceeds his or her allotted leave of
absence, all stipend payments to that officer immediately cease pending a review by
Council.

Motion out of order.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (N. Cyr/ R. Strasser)
Motion passed at 21h55.
POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS’ SOCIETY OF McGill University
Minutes for the Council Meeting of
Wednesday, December 1, 2010, 18h30

Councilors
Anatomy and Cell Biology J. Degeer, Art History & Communication Studies J.
Sannicandro, F. MacDonald, J. Lin, Biochemistry L. Van der Kraak, Biology E.
Pedersen, Bioresource Engineering E. ElSayed, Chemical Engineering S. Bastien, D.
Aebi, Chemistry J. Mooney, M. Krause, A. Goulet-Hanssens, Civil Engineering M.
Nunes, H. Nikopour Deilami, Communication Sciences and Disorders J. Burns,
Dentistry B. Hoac, Myeneni. Myeneni, Earth and Planetary Sciences D. Carozza, R.
Carver, East Asian Studies D. Steacy, Electrical Engineering A. Kaats, P. Samadi,
English C. Gélinas-Faucher, D. Barkley, Epidemiology and Biostatistics A. Findlater,
R. Ng, Experimental Medicine J. Nichol, K. Soye, French Language and Literature
N. Nolette, M. Isabel, German Studies P. Schwepp, Hispanic Studies C. Bondi,
Human Genetics D. Meadows, Y. Cao, Information Studies M. Brown, Integrated
Studies M. Sato, F. Mendez, T. Altayeb, Islamic Studies M. Munir, Management R-M.
Corbett, Mathematics and Statistics B. Smith, J. Tousignant-Barnes, Mechanical
Engineering T. Centea, K. Fayazbakhsh, B. Akih Kumgeh, Mining, Metals, Materials
Engineering T. Hamade, M. Fadaei Kermani, Music C. Wingate, A. Burgoyne,
Neurology and Neuroscience M. Shiell, J. Soles, Ph.D. H. Safadi, Philosophy M.
Xhignesse, Physical and Occupational Therapy A. Moga, V. Darsaklis, Physics J.
Carr, Physiology N. Khosravi Hashemi, Political Science C. Power, D. Volkmer,
Psychiatry E. Cawley, Russian and Slavic Studies T. Levesque, Social Work M. De La
Sablonnière-Griffin, Sociology J. Jensen, Urban Planning L. Wiginton, Y. Shah

Commissioners & Non-voting Members
Council Commissioner D. Simeone, Health Commissioner J. Mooney, Elections
Commissioner T. Hamade, Family Care Commissioner H. Myers, Environment
Commissioner C. Nei, Student Support Commissioner U. Trojahn, Equity
Commissioner E. Sirett, AGSEM M. Rozwoski, Secretary M. Boudreau

Regrets
Senate and Library Commissioner A. DeGuise, Air and Space Law M. Dodge, Music
F. Upham, Religious Studies T. Troughton, Parasitology N. Cyr
Call to Order
18h36

1. Approval of the Agenda

Amendment (J. Mooney/ M. Krause)
To amend the agenda to strike motion 10.1.

Amendment failed.

Agenda approved (J. Mooney/ R. Carver).

2. Speaker’s Report

The Speaker announced that the next Council meeting will be on January 12th instead of on January 5th. Also, the time limits for the motions are not binding.

3. Announcements

3.1 Presentation on the *Journal de Montreal*
A brief presentation was given.

3.2 Presentation from Vaughan Dowie, McGill Executive Head of Public Affairs on Tuition Policy
A brief presentation was given, followed by a question and answer period.

4. Approval of the Minutes

4.1 C11-10-#03
Minutes approved as amended (J. Mooney/ J. Carr).

5. Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders

5.1 Motion R11-12-#51 - To accept Nominating Committee Recommendations (J. Mooney/ J. Carr)
WHEREAS the Nominating Committee has met to review nominees applying for external and internal committee positions, and presented recommendations to Council with respect to committee appointments;

**BIRT Council approve the recommendations of Nominating Committee, as listed below:**
PGSS Environment Committee - Chris Wrobel (Associate Member)
PGSS Health and Wellness Committee – Katia El Jurdic
Motion passed.

5.2. Motion R11-12-#52 - To elect candidates to the Nominating Committee
(E. Cawley/ J. Mooney)
BIRT Council hold elections for the following vacancies on the Nominating Committee:
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Dentistry
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Education
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Law
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Management
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Religious Studies
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Arts
- one (1) member at-large

Motion passed.

M. Corbett from Management nominated himself.

5.3. Motion R11-12-#53 – PGSS-GPS Grants Programme
(VP-Finance / J. Mooney)
WHEREAS the following grant applications have been reviewed:
Shelley Ludman - The Pavilion Project Group
Kaykhosro Izadian - Energy Harvesting Research Team
Cayley Sorochan - Art History and Communication Studies Conference
Martha Shiell - Computer Networks for Neuroscientists
Ali Mosahedi Mohamadi - McGill Nature and Environment Lovers Engineers
Field Trip to Engineering Facilities in Mont Saint-Sauveur - Gina Trinh
Graduate Student Association for Neurosciences - Holiday Party
BIRT the following amounts be granted to:
Cayley Sorochan - Art History and Communication Studies Conference -$800.00
Martha Shiell - Computer Networks for Neuroscientists - $90.00

M. Shiell, on a point of information, asked why the grant for the Graduate Student Association for Neurosciences was not recommended.

The VP External stated that the VP Finance is not here, he cannot answer that question. However, it is currently under the jurisdiction of Council to pass anything.

M. Shiell, on a point of information, stated that it is her understanding that the grant applicants whose grants were not approved should be informed before the meeting so that they can be prepared to come and contest the decision. In this case we were not informed.
The Speaker answered that he believes that is the language of Regulation 3.

M. Shiell stated that she would also like to know if there were any other grant applicants who were informed that their grant did not get approved.

H. Deilami stated that he sits on the Grants Review Committee. He had the experience of working with two VP Finances. Last year we approved almost all of the applications and there was no problem. This year the committee is not working well. We are rejecting so many grants for reasons which are not in the regulation. Also, there is so much delay in handing out the cheques to the applicants.

E. Cawley, on a point of information, asked how much Neuroscience is asking for.

M. Shiell answered that they are asking for $800.

**Motion to amend (M. Shiell/ J. Carr)**

To approve the Graduate Student Association for Neurosciences - Holiday Party grant application in the amount of $800.

M. Shiell stated that this is a regular event and they have never had any difficulty getting approval for funds from PGSS in the past. When we requested information from the GRC we were told that we were given previous grants this year, which is not true. We were also told that we were rejected because of the nature of the event. Ian Mahar and Kristen Parker from GSAN are here to answer any questions about the event.

I. Mahar and K. Parker from the Graduate Student Association for Neuroscience granted speaking rights.

J. Carr, on a point of information, added that attached to the agenda is the 6 month budget review which indicates that there is still plenty of money in the grants allocation.

The VP External stated that he believes there is a clear discrepancy between what is presented by the VP Finance and what is actually true. He knows for a fact that there are several errors in her report. It is a discussion we should have when adopting the reports.

K. Parker, on motivation, stated that the Neuroscience is a big department. This event is a very good networking opportunity and will benefit many of the members.

J. Mooney stated that he is a member of the Committee on Monetary Affairs. He looked through the previous grant allocations and we have allocated over $21,000 of our $32,000 budget. The report of the VP Finance includes the money that has been given out in the form of cheques, not the money that has been allocated. So we have already allocated well over $20,000 of our $32,000 budget; he guesses that is why a lot of these grants are being rejected.
L. Van der Kraak asked what GSAN is charging the students if they get the funding verses if they do not get the funding.

K. Parker answered they are charging $20 for tickets regardless if they get the grant or not. However, if not they will have to take away from other events in the year.

J. Mooney, on a point of information, asked what percentage of the grant would be spent on food and beverages.

K. Parker answered about a 5th, less than half of the total budget. The grant money would follow the guidelines in regulation 3 in terms of food and beverages.

J. Carr asked if the event is open to all graduate students to attend.

K. Parker answered that the event is geared towards GSAN students, but all graduate students are welcome to attend.

**Amendment passed** (back to the main motion).

The Elections Commissioner stated that it is his understanding that we have burned through 2/3rds of the grant budget. If the committee where to approve all of the grants in the motion (8) then we would only have 90% of the budget remaining and we still have 5 months left in the year. The grant which was just approved by Council was only approved because the submitters knew how to check the agenda and come to ask for an amendment; this is not fair. He is against the whole issue and he thinks an explanation should be given at the next Council meeting and all of the grants sent back to the GRC for re-review.

E. Cawley highlighted that this has happened for at least the last few Council meetings in which we have no explanation as to why these grants are not approved or how much they are. If someone is not here to explain to us how much these grants are and why they are not approved she would amend to approve them all. However, she suggests that this be sent back and each individual informed as to why their grant was not approved and told that they can precede with their event and it will be re-evaluated in January. If the grant is legitimate then Council should understand what the money is for, because chances are it will be approved. This is unfair to the people who have submitted these grants and want to go ahead with their events. If someone can tell the VP Finance to go ahead with that.

The VP Academic asked, on a point of information, do we know how many of those grants are urgent?

H. Deilami answered that most of the events are happening this term. If we accept them we should accept them now.

**Main motion passed as amended** (T. Centea abstained).
Motion (VP Academic/ E. Cawley)
BIRT Council remove the grants which were not approved from the whereas clause.

Motion passed.

Motion (VP Academic/ Election Commissioner)
BIRT Council refer the grants which were not approved back to the Grants Review Committee (GRC) for review.

The VP Academic, on motivation, stated that normally it is not the responsible thing to send things back to the GRC because GRC has been elected by Council to review the applications, and we approved them. The Council is the accountability for the GRC. However, there is a performance that has failed Council when it comes to strategies for the GRC program, the way we handle GRC, the way we approve grants etc. It is not only that someone from GRC failed, but Council also failed in raising accountability. He would like this to be sent as a message back to the GRC that they have to (from now until the end of the year) create a plan regarding how the rest of the money will be allocated. We should not put the rejected grant application at a disadvantage because we have no idea why they were rejected. We need to have information about the grants, we need to have a plan, and we need people that are accountable. This body is supposed to be raising accountability for the Executive and their performance.

T. Centea, debating in favour, stated that Council is accountable for passing this motion or not. He does not see how Council can vote on allocating money if we do not trust the GRC. Sending this back to the GRC is a good idea because we need to have the information to vote on this.

B. Akih Kumgeh asked if the GRC can provide Council with statistics regarding the grant applications this year and last year.

M. Munir asked about the criteria for grant applications. Do academic events get priority over social events?

The Speaker answered that in the grants regulation there are a series of priorities.

Amendment (B. Akih Kumgeh/ A. Kaats)
BIFRT the GRC be asked to come back to Council with a statistical outline of the evolution of the grants over the year; that they look at the money that has been allocated, and if there is an insufficient amount remaining to fund grants for the rest of the year, that they come back with a proposed budget amendment.

Amendment passed.

M. Isabel stated that it should not be the GRC who should come to Council to explain the grants, that is the job of the VP Finance and she has not been here for most of the Councils we have had this year.
H. Deilami added that it is not the fault of the GRC. It is the VP Finance who is responsible.

Main motion passed as amended.

Emergency Motion (M. Krause)
BIRT Council impeach the VP Finance now.

Motion out of order.

Emergency Motion (J. Carr/ D. Steacy)
Whereas there is significant concern from Council about the grant process and the approval and denial of grants;
BIRT the chair of the Grants Review Committee be called to account at the January 12th Council meeting.

D. Steacy, on a point of information, asked if this is a motion of censure.

The Speaker answered that a call to account of not a form of censure.

E. Cawley asked on a point of information if a motion of censure would be in order.

The Speaker answered not without notice.

Motion passed.

6. Executive Reports

6.1. VP External
Report online.

6.2. VP Academic
Report online.

6.3. VP Finance
The VP Finance report ruled out of order as it does not follow regulation 12 from the PGSS constitution; it will not be included in the archives of the Council documents.

6.4. VP Internal
Report online.

6.5. President
Report online. The President also briefed the Council on the new thesis submission timeline.
7. Commissioner Reports

7.1. Elections Commissioner
The Elections Commissioner announced that the nomination period is now open for the Executive elections, as well as the period for submitting referendum questions.

7.2. Equity Commissioner
Report online.

7.3. Senate Commissioner
Report online.

7.4. Environment Commissioner
Report online.

7.5. Health Commissioner
Report online.

7.6. Social Commissioner
Report online.

7.7. Student Support Commissioner
Report online.

7.8. Family Care Commissioner
Report online.

8. Other Reports

8.1 Committee on Monetary Affairs
BIRT the budget line item for the Commissioner Executive pool be raised from $7,000.00 to $10,000.

J. Mooney, from the CMA, stated that the Commissioner pool is running a bit low; this year the Commissioners are using the pool for more activities and we want to be able to fund these important initiatives.

The VP External asked where this money is actually coming from in the budget.

J. Mooney answered that the CMA knew that there was a many thousand dollar surplus from the previous year and the money is coming from that surplus.

The VP External asked if there was any consultation from the CMA to take that money out of other parts of the budget. Why are we working outside of our budget? Why can’t we work within it?
J. Mooney answered that there was some discussion about whether it would be appropriate to take this money from another budget line item, but ultimately the committee voted to take it from the surplus.

A. Kaats added that when we go through the budgeting exercise we predict the revenue that we anticipate getting and the expenditures that we anticipate having. It turns out that last year, our revenue was significantly higher than we anticipated and our expenditures were lower. When the previous budget was created, the projections were based on data that did not include the returns from last year and the final numbers. The idea of taking something from a surplus, it is a little more abstract than that. We expect to have a similar surplus in revenue this year so there is plenty of wiggle room in the budget and we can increase the line items for various things in anticipation of this.

The VP External asked if there was any consultation with any other group, or the Executives, to find out if there are any underutilized line items in the current budget in order to move that unused money into the Executive-Commissioner pool. There are several line items that are not touched and will probably not be expended this year. Would it not make more sense to work within the budget we have instead of taking it from this pool which is being talked about?

A. Kaats answered that it does make more sense. We would expect that our VP Finance would have presented us with options like this, but she did not.

Motion to amend (VP External/ J. Carr)

BIFRT the line item for FEUQ research be reduced by $3,000.

The VP External clarified that we have a $10,000 line item for FEUQ research and we have only spent $500 of it.

Amendment passed.

Motion to table (A. Kaats/ D. Meadows)

A. Kaats stated that we should be looking at all the line items before we make a decision.

Motion to table failed.

Main motion passed, as amended (A. Kaats abstained).

9. Question Period (15 minutes)

J. Jensen asked about the thesis submission deadline. What is the significance of this decision?

The President answered that McGill’s current practice up to this year was that you could submit a thesis up until August 31st in the summer semester and not have to pay tuition in the fall semester. There is an initial submission deadline and a final submission deadline
and Ph.Ds have to do their defense in-between and for Masters it is fairly straightforward. With this new deadline policy they are trying to smooth out all of the submission deadlines so that students can submit when they are ready rather than trying to meet the deadline in order to not pay tuition for another semester.

E. Cawley stated that she is unhappy with one of the Executives. She would like the President to explain to her what the options are when you are unsatisfied with someone who is paid a significant amount of money to do a job that they are not doing. She feels that there needs to be more accountability, what can she do about this?

The President answered that there are several ways to impeach an Executive and they are listed in our Constitution. The Speaker continued to explain the different methods of impeachment.

J. Mooney asked the President when the last time the Policy and Structure Advisory Committee met.

The President answered that the last time the committee met was October, but there is another meeting planned for early January.

A. Kaats asked, in regards to McGill’s tuition policy, when the Principle’s position on tuition became McGill’s position.

The President answered that, as far as she knows, the McGill Board of Governors has not voted on this issue in the past. However, in terms of the tuition policy, if Council is interested that is something we can bring to the Senate or to the Board of Governors.

A. Kaats asked how we can obtain an actual official vote from McGill on their tuition policy.

The VP Academic answered that first off, we need to know if what the Principle is saying regarding tuition is supported by history. He thinks that in the past Senate probably adopted a presentation regarding this. He is not sure, but we need to look back into the history of McGill’s tuition policy before we take any official steps. He does not recommend a mandate from this body to go to the Board of Governors with a motion regarding this, not until all of the proper research has been done.

10. New Business

10.1. R11-12-#54 -Journal de Montreal Motion of Support [10min] (VP-External/ AGSEM)
WHEREAS the union of employees of the Journal de Montreal have been locked out of their work place for 22 months,
AND WHEREAS they have made a public call for support in boycotting the Journal de Montreal,
BIRT PGSS officially support the boycott of Journal de Montreal.
Motion to object to consideration (J. Mooney/ J. Carr)
Motion withdrawn.

Motion to table (E. Cawley/ D. Steacy)
E. Cawley, on motivation, stated that this motion should be tabled until we have heard the other side.

The VP External stated that he supports the motion to table.

Motion to table passed (A. Kaats, M. Isabel, J. Sannicandro, J. Lin opposed).

10.2. R11-12-#55 – Rencontre des Partenaires en Education [10min]
(VP-External/ J. Jensen)
WHEREAS on December 6th, in Quebec City, the Rencontre des partenaires en Education will be taking place,
AND WHEREAS it is likely that this meeting will suggest to the government to drastically increase Quebec tuition,
BIRT Council enter into Committee-of-the-Whole for 10 minutes to discuss the Rencontre des partenaires en Education.

Motion passed.

Motion to go into closed session.

Motion passed (No objections to allowing guests to stay).

10.3. R11-12-#56 – Knowledge of French for the VP-External [10min]
(President/ VP External)
Whereas knowledge of the French language is important for PGSS representation in External and Governmental Affairs;
BIRT that Society Regulation 4.3.2.3 be modified to read as follows:
Regulation 4.3.2.3 A statement from each candidate (not more than 350 words). In the case of the VP-External position, each candidate must declare their level of proficiency in the French language in their respective statements.
BIFRT that a new Bylaw 4.6.6 be created, in first reading, as follows:
If a VP-External or VP-External-elect does not have sufficient proficiency in French to carry out the requirements of the position, the elected candidate shall enrol in an appropriate intensive language course, selected by the Executive Committee. The intensive French course shall take place in the period from election to August 31st of the election year, and the cost of the course will be covered by the Society.

The President, on motivation, stated that having knowledge in French would be a very good asset for the VP External. We want to provide future VP External’s with the support to have a working knowledge in French if they do not already have that knowledge.
Motion to strike the first BIRT clause (J. Mooney/ M. Xhignesse)
Motion failed.

Amendment (M. Corbett/ M. Xhignesse)
To add in French and English.

Discussion ensued.

Amendment failed.

Main motion passed.

10.4. R11-12-#57 – Transition Period [10min]
(VP-Academic/ J. Mooney)
BIRT a new Bylaw 4.4.8.4 be created, in first reading, to read as follows:
Executives-elect, if elected in the regular annual election, shall receive a stipend, as set
and regulated by the annual budgeting exercise, for the month preceding the date upon
which the executive-elect assumes office. Executives elected in Special or Council
elections shall only receive such stipend if upon election there is still time remaining
before the executive-elect assumes office.

The VP Academic, on motivation, stated that when our Executives are elected they spend
a lot of time training for the job so it is only fair to give them a one month stipend.

Motion to table (J. Carr/C. Power)
Motion passed.

Motion to extend Council until 21h30 (M. Isabel)
Motion passed.

10.5. R11-12-#58 – Copyright Act Changes [10min]
(VP-External/ J. Jensen)
WHEREAS Bill C-32, An Act to amend the Copyright Act, may have significant impact
on academic researchers,
AND WHEREAS it is presently in the committee phase of the House of Commons,
BIRT Council enter into Committee-of-the-Whole for 10 minutes to discuss Bill C-
32.

Motion passed.

10.7. R11-12-#60 – Health and Wellness Day [10min]
(Health Commissioner/ E. Cawley)
BIRT Council enter committee of the whole for a period of 10 minutes to consider
the revised text of attached Mental Health Referendum question.
BIFRT Council propose any necessary revisions to the current text of the Mental
Health Referendum Question.
Preamble: Currently, graduate students have access to fewer doctors at McGill Mental Health Services than undergraduates. Graduate students, who generally make greater use of mental health services, have access to fewer doctors because they pay less in student services fees than undergraduates. A fee increase would not only result in access to an equal number of doctors for graduate students, but it would also allow for the hiring of additional doctors to address students' mental health needs.

Therefore,
"Do you agree that, as of September 2011, the Student Services Fee be increased according to the following fee schedule in order to equalize mental health services between graduate students and undergraduates?
Part- time (1-11.5 credits) – increase by $4.50 (currently $75.50, new $80.00)
Full-time (12+ credits) – increase by $7.50 (currently $125.50, new $133.00)
Additional Session – increase by $2.50 (currently $42.00, new $44.50)"

Motion passed.

Adjournment

Quorum lost at 21h53.
POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS’ SOCIETY OF McGill University
Minutes for the Council Meeting of
Wednesday, January 12, 2011, 18h30
C11-01-#06

Executives
President Alexandra Bishop, VP Internal Magnus Bein, VP External Ryan Hughes,
VP Academic Roland Nassim

Councilors
Anatomy and Cell Biology J. Degeer, Anthropology B. Noga, Art History &
Communication Studies J. Sannicandro, F. MacDonald, J. Lin, Atmospheric and
Oceanic Sciences E. Viktor, Biochemistry L. Van der Kraak, Bioresource Engineering
E. ElSayed, Chemical Engineering S. Bastien, D. Aebi, Chemistry J. Mooney, M.
Krause, Communication Sciences and Disorders J. Burns, Earth and Planetary
Sciences D. Carozza, East Asian Studies D. Steacy, Educational & Counseling
Psychology O. Leung, Electrical Engineering A. Kaats, English C. Gélinas-Faucher, D.
Barkley, Epidemiology and Biostatistics A. Findlater, R. Ng, K. Zinszer, Experimental
Medicine K. Choucair, X. Xiong, French Language and Literature N. Nolette, M.
Isabel, Geography A. Poisson, J-P. Willynck, German Studies P. Schwegge, Hispanic
Studies C. Bondi, History M. Wyman-McCarthy, C. Ulmer, Human Genetics D.
Meadows, Y. Cao, Information Studies M. Brown, B. Blanchard, Integrated Studies
M. Sato, F. Mendez, Islamic Studies M. Munir, Management R-M. Corbett,
Mathematics and Statistics B. Smith, J. Tousignant-Barnes, Mechanical Engineering
T. Centea, K. Fayazbaksh, Mining, Metals, Materials Engineering T. Hamade, Music
C. Wingate, A. Burgoyne, F. Upham, Natural Resource Sciences C.Wu, Neurology and
Neuroscience J. Solis, Parasitology R. Strasser, M. Villalobos Solis, J. Madriaga, Ph.D.
H. Safadi, Pharmacology and Therapeutics V. Bhosle, Philosophy M. Xhignesse,
Physics J. Carr, M. Zamfir, Political Science C. Power, D. Volker, Postdoctoral Studies
H. Dokainish, Russian and Slavic Studies T. Levesque, Social Work M. De La
Sablonnière-Griffin, Sociology E. Denton, Urban Planning L. Wiginton, Y. Shah

Commissioners & Non-voting Members
Council Commissioner D. Simeone, Health Commissioner J. Mooney, Elections
Commissioner T. Hamade, Family Care Commissioner H. Myers, Student Support
Commissioner U. Trojahn, Equity Commissioner E. Sirett, Social Commissioner P.
Tyagi, Senate Commissioner A. Deguise, AGSEM M. Rozwoski, Secretary M.
Boudreau

Regrets
Call to Order
18h37

1. Approval of the Agenda

-Motions 5.10 and 10.12 were withdrawn by the movers.

Motion to amend the agenda (Senate Commissioner/ J. Carr):
- To move motions 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, the emergency motion, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4, and 10.5 to the beginning of business arising, in that order.
- To move motions 10.1, 10.6, 10.7, 10.8, 5.6, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9, 10.9, 10.10 and 10.11 to the beginning of new business, in that order.

Motion passed.

Motion to add emergency motion to the agenda (VP External/ H. Dokainish)
Whereas the Federal Government eliminated the postdoctoral education tax credit in 2010, and there have been on-going issues involving acceptance of postdoctoral fellows’ (PDFs) student status by the Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA) since 2008;
Whereas some McGill Postdoctoral Fellows have been audited by the Federal Government and subsequently their 2009 income has been declared taxable despite McGill’s issuance of the requisite T2202 forms;
Whereas the actions of the CRA have put an untenable financial burden on these PGSS members and their families, and stand to threaten all PGSS members who were McGill PDFs between 2006-2009;
Whereas the ambiguities in the Tax Act involve require careful negotiation of taxation, education, and public law exceeding the expertise of individual PDFs or typical tax consultants;
**BIRT $40,000 be reallocated from the Maternity Leave Pilot Project budget and placed into the Executive Special Projects fund for the primary purpose of legal counsel on behalf of McGill PDFs through the Association of Postdoctoral Fellows Executive Council under direction and oversight of the PGSS Executive Committee;**
**BIFRT the remainder of that sum be reallocated to the Support fund for graduate and post-doctoral student parents should it not be needed for the purpose of said legal counsel after a course of action has been determined by legal consultation in conjunction with Executive oversight.**

Motion to add to the agenda passed. Emergency motion added to the agenda.
The agenda is approved as amended (J. Mooney/ J. Carr).

Speaking rights granted to guests; no objections.

2. Speaker’s Report

Nothing to report.

3. Announcements

Brief announcements were given.

4. Approval of the Minutes

4.1 C10-12-#05
The minutes were approved (J. Mooney/ M. Isabel).

5. Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders

5.1. Motion R11-01-#62 - To accept Nominating Committee Recommendations (J. Mooney/ M. Isabel)
WHEREAS the Nominating Committee has met to review nominees applying for external and internal committee positions, and presented recommendations to Council with respect to committee appointments;
**BIRT Council approve the recommendations of Nominating Committee, as listed below:**
Vicheka Lay - CGSS
Victor Goebel - Judicial Advisory Board
Nesochi Chinwuba - CGPS (Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Science), Counselling Services Advisory Board
Lisa Kirsch - Research Advisory Committee

Motion passed.

5.2. Motion R11-01-#63 - To elect candidates to the Nominating Committee (Senate Commissioner / R. Strasser)
**BIRT Council hold elections for the following vacancies on the Nominating Committee:**
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Dentistry
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Education
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Law
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Religious Studies
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Arts
- one (1) member at-large
Motion passed. No one was elected.

5.3. Motion R11-01-#64 – PGSS-GPS Grants Programme
(President/ J. Mooney)
WHEREAS the Grants Review Committee (GRC) has reviewed five (5) new grant applications and three (3) previous grant applications, for a total of eight (8) applications;
WHEREAS the GRC recommends funding the following projects:
1) “Contemplay: a urban furniture pavilion” [McGill School of Architecture]: $800
2) “Biochemistry Department Poster Day” [Biochemistry Graduate Student Society]: $560
3) “McGill 10th Annual Education Graduate Students' Society Conference” [McGill Education Graduate Students' Society]: $800
5) “McGill Music Graduate Symposium 2011” [Music Graduate Students' Society]: $700

**BIRT Council approve, from the PGSS/GPS grants program, the disbursement of up to:**
1) $800 to Shelley Ludman for the project “Contemplay: a urban furniture pavilion” [GrantID_10-11--36]
2) $560 to Christopher von Roretz for the project “Biochemistry Department Poster Day” [GrantID_10-11—37]
3) $800 to Heather Phipps for the project “McGill 10th Annual Education Graduate Students' Society Conference” [GrantID_10-11—38]
4) $800 to Ian Whittington for the project “13th Annual Conference: "The Battle of the Brows: Cultural Distinctions in the Space Between" [GrantID_10-11—39]
5) $700 to Erin Helyard for the project “McGill Music Graduate Symposium 2011” [GrantID_10-11—40]

J. Carr asked how much money is left in the grants budget.

J. Mooney answered that there is about $10,000 left in the grants budget.

T. Centea asked when the grant account is refilled.

The Speaker answered that it is refilled on June 1st.

J. Mooney asked what happens when a committee does not have a chair.

The President answered that she acted as chair for the grants review committee in the absence of the VP Finance.

Motion passed.

5.4. Motion R11-01-#65 – Environment Commissioner
(President/ J. Mooney)
WHEREAS the Environment Commissioner, Ms. Cynthia Nei has submitted her resignation effective December 3rd 2010.

**BIRT** the Council ratify the decision of the Executive, as per Bylaw 5.2.1, to accept the resignation of Ms. Cynthia Nei from the position of Environment Commissioner, BIRT Council immediately go to election for the position of Environment Commissioner.

Motion passed.

The Elections Commissioner explained the election process. He called for candidates.

Each candidate gave Council a brief introduction of themselves:
- Alexandre Poisson - Faculty of Science
- Shirine Aouad - Faculty of Education
- Etienne Low-Decarie – Faculty of Science

A brief question and answer session took place.

The Elections Commissioner explained the voting ballot.

5.5. Motion R11-01-#66 – VP-Finance
(President/ J. Carr)
WHEREAS the VP-Finance, Ms. Natalie Lee has submitted her resignation effective December 17th 2010,

**BIRT** the Council ratify the decision of the Executive, as per Bylaw 4.3.5, to accept the resignation of Ms. Lee from the position of VP-Finance.

Motion passed.

**Emergency Motion (VP External/ H. Dokainish)**

Whereas the Federal Government eliminated the postdoctoral education tax credit in 2010, and there have been on-going issues involving acceptance of postdoctoral fellows’ (PDFs) student status by the Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA) since 2008;

Whereas some McGill Postdoctoral Fellows have been audited by the Federal Government and subsequently their 2009 income has been declared taxable despite McGill’s issuance of the requisite T2202 forms;

Whereas the actions of the CRA have put an untenable financial burden on these PGSS members and their families, and stand to threaten all PGSS members who were McGill PDFs between 2006-2009;

Whereas the ambiguities in the Tax Act involve require careful negotiation of taxation, education, and public law exceeding the expertise of individual PDFs or typical tax consultants;

**BIRT** $40,000 be reallocated from the Maternity Leave Pilot Project budget and placed into the Executive Special Projects fund for the primary purpose of legal counsel on behalf of McGill PDFs through the Association of Postdoctoral Fellows Executive Council under direction and oversight of the PGSS Executive Committee;
BIFRT the remainder of that sum be reallocated to the Support fund for graduate and post-doctoral student parents should it not be needed for the purpose of said legal counsel after a course of action has been determined by legal consultation in conjunction with Executive oversight.

The Speaker noted that if this motion passes then motion 10.4 R11-01-#70 – Amend the Budget, Family Friendly Grants cannot pass. Please consider this motion in conjunction with motion 10.4.

The VP External, on motivation, stated that the whereas clauses are self explanatory. There is a clear and present danger to our postdoctoral students. Postdocs, as per the last budget, were declared as employees: they lost their education tax credit on the federal side; on the provincial side they still have it. The question here is does the federal government have the right to determine what a student is? Some of these students have been audited, not only here at McGill, but also at other universities. They are being taxed for the 2010 year, and also the 2009 year; we do not know if it will even go beyond that. We are taking about thousands of dollars that will directly impact the students and the families that they support. Postdoctoral Fellow Matt Milner has done a lot of research about this issue. We have had a tax consultation with a lawyer and they seem to think we may have a case. We need legal counsel so that we can have a clear idea of what we are facing and come up with an action plan that we can move forward with.

M. Milner debated in favour of the motion. We have a postdoc at UBC who received a tax bill for $27,000 and another one getting a tax bill for $45,000. They are retroactively applying the law and they are going backwards for 4 years. Until 2010 postdoctoral fellowships were tax exempt like any other scholarship. Now they are fully taxable. The CRA is auditing people and up to 4,000 postdocs (past and present) at McGill can potentially be affected by this. We need to talk to a lawyer and we need to have the funds to do it. At the moment we do not need $40,000 but we need to have funds in the budget available to even talk to a lawyer.

The Family Care Commissioner, debated against this motion and in favour of the family care motion. The family care motion was debated and approved at the Executive Commissioner Caucus meeting. The mat pat project allocated $40,000 to help graduate students and postdocs pay for maternity and paternity. It is a family care issue and that is exactly where the committee intends on spending the money. The family care committee would like to help people right now. We are extending the scope of funding to allow people who are pregnant to apply and also people who are caring for ill and elderly family members. He would also like to oppose the way this is being done. He thinks the money should stay within the family care initiatives.

T. Hamade asked if McGill is helping the postdocs in any way with this issue.

M. Milner answered that McGill is not offering money or legal counsel to the postdocs to help with this issue.
J. Carr asked if the postdocs need the full $40,000 now.

The VP External answered that this is the last time we can amend the budget for this year. If money is needed we should have the funds available. Whatever money is not used will go back into family care.

The VP Internal debated against the motion. He doesn’t think all of the facts are on the table. He would propose to amend the motion to pay for the current legal bills out of the legal defense fund. The family care motion was approved via consensus among all of the Executives and Commissioners. Before we pass this motion we should get a better idea of what the legal ramifications are.

J-P. Willynck asked if there has been collaboration with other schools about this issue.

The VP External answered that similar audits have taken place at Laval. He has also contacted several other schools. The family care initiative already has $60,000 in its budget. The $40,000 is coming from the mat/pat project budget which we will not use otherwise, unless we put it into family care or we pursue something like this. The reason why we are going for an emergency motion is because we just received word from the tax lawyer yesterday. This is also affecting PGSS members and their families. Council is going to have the final word on where that money goes, but since January is the last month for budget amendments we need to have the funds available.

The Family Care Commissioner stated that the money will be used efficiently by the Family Care Committee if they are given the funds.

The Equity Commissioner debated against the motion. The Executives and Commissioners decided as a body that this money would be allocated for family care. There are other areas within the budget that we can get this money from in order to help the postdoc students.

T. Centea asked what happens if the family care committee does not get the money, or if the postdocs do not get the money.

The VP External answered that the money is currently not being used for anything. The family care committee already has $60,000 in their budget. The postdocs do not have any funds. We do not know what is going to happen. The ultimate course of action will have to be decided by Council. Without Council approval this money is not going anywhere.

The Family Care Commissioner replied that they are extending the scope of the family care program if they are given this money. More people applied for family care funding this year than they did last year. The money to the grants fund will also be used to fund family friendly events.

M. Milner added that the postdoc association has no access to any money. If they don’t get funds from somewhere the postdocs are on their own.
The Student Support Commissioner debated against the motion. Money is already set aside to support students in legal matters through the Trust Fund for Student Support (TFSS). The legal expenses so far can be covered through this fund.

A. Burgoyne debated in favour of the motion. Family care already has a budget and their budget is not being cut. Any money that is not being used for postdocs will automatically go into family care. There is no other way to acquire money to do legal research for postdocs. Legal research cannot be funded from the TFSS. Passing this motion means that we are prepared and it gives us the opportunity to help the postdocs. If we vote this motion down than we are leaving every single postdoc who is a member of this society in the dark. This motion is hurting family care very little given a crisis of this magnitude. We need to support our postdocs as they are vital members of this society.

The Senate Commissioner debated in favour of the motion. We should definitely support our postdocs. The postdocs have nothing and this is the only way they will be able to fight the CRA.

J. Mooney debated against the motion. He stated that after substantial debate and consultation in April 2010, the CMA decided to allocate this $40,000 under the family care envelope. There was a consensus at the executive commissioner caucus last month that any budget amendment to reallocate this money should be done in consultation with the Family Care Commissioner and that the caucus members were reassured that a consensus had been reached about how to use this money. He argued that we should not pit families against postdocs and we should base any emergency action on the budget amendment in the council package which was the result of consensus. He recognized that we should also help our postdoc members and proposed to amend the consensus motion to include a provision for dealing with postdoctoral tax problems such that it doesn't take 100% of the money earmarked for a set of family care projects away.

**Amendment (J. Mooney/ M. Krause)**
BIRT the $40,000 be replaced with $15,000 to be placed in a new budget line item for the postdoc legal challenge.
BIFRT $15,000 go to the support fund for student parents, and $10,000 to the grants fund.

A. Burgoyne spoke against the amendment. We do not know how much the legal battle will cost. This could also potentially hurt the family care budget more in the long run.

F. Upham debated against this amendment. The reality is different now and we must debate on the main motion keeping the new reality in mind.

The VP External added that there is no leaving in the lurch for the family care project. They already have $60,000 in their budget. That money is available for student parents.
The Family Care Commissioner debated in favor of the amendment, stating that he was willing to accept a reduction in the expected family care projects budget it in the spirit of compromise to assist postdoctoral fellows.

M. Milner stated that the reality is that postdocs need some money and help. There are families on all sides. He is open to discussing the amount.

Amendment failed.

Main motion passed (J. Mooney, M. Krause, C. Gélinas-Faucher opposed).

10.2. R11-01-#68 – Amend the Budget
(President/ Senate Commissioner)
BIRT $2,000 be reallocated from Cooperative Research with FEUQ to Travel and conference.

The President, on motivation, stated that the FEUQ budget is greatly underused.

Motion passed.

10.3. R11-01-#69 – Amend the Budget
(President/M. Isabel)
BIRT $5,000 be reallocated from PGSA Funding Initiative to the Grants program.

The President, on motivation, stated that in view of the circumstances of the grants program we want to make the money more assessable to all PGSS members, not just GSAs.

J. Mooney asked if these funds will be matched by the university.

The President answered no.

Amendment (J. Mooney/ J. Soles)
BIRT $5,000 be reallocated from PGSA Funding Initiative to the Family Care Budget.

Amendment failed.

Motion passed (M. Krause abstained).

10.4. R11-01-#70 – Amend the Budget, Family Friendly Grants
(Family Care Commissioner/..)
BIRT the budget be amended so that the line item Mat/Pat project ($40,000) become zero.
BIFRT the budget be amended so as to increase the line item “Support fund for graduate and post-doctoral student parents ($60,000) become $90,000.
BIFRT the budget be amended so that the line item “PGSS Grants fund” ($31,600) become $41,600. This amount of $10,000 may only be used to fund projects that are deemed to be family-friendly, meaning that children are welcome to participate and attend, as determined by the grants committee, and that this must be explicitly stated in all publicity related any project that receives said funding, and are in accordance with Society Regulation 3. As well, projects that receive such funding are to be distinguishable from projects not so funded in the report of the GRC to Council.

Motion is no longer in order.

10.5. R11-01-#71 - Retain Position
(J. Mooney/ M. Isabel)
WHEREAS The Student Support Commissioner was unable to attend recent Council meetings due to a class conflict
AND WHEREAS the Constitution specifies (Society Bylaw 5.4.3) "Three (3) missed meetings will result in automatic resignation unless the Council approves a motion for the commissioner to retain his or her position
BIFRT the Student Support Commissioner to retain her position.

J. Mooney stated that this is a procedural motion. The Student Support Commissioner had valid reasons why she missed 3 Council meetings. She is doing a great job for the Society.

T. Hamade asked who came up with this motion. Why wasn’t a motion to retain her position given to the former Health Commissioner? He does not think the rules are fairly being applied to everyone; he would like fair treatment for all commissioners and the rules to be upheld equally for everyone.

Motion passed.

6. Executive Reports

6.1. VP External
Report online.

6.2. VP Academic
Report online.

6.3. VP Finance
Position vacant.

6.4. VP Internal
Report online.

6.5. President
Report online.

7. **Commissioner Reports**

7.1. **Elections Commissioner**  
Report online.

7.2. **Equity Commissioner**  
Report online.

7.3. **Senate Commissioner**  
Report online.

7.4. **Environment Commissioner**  
Position vacant.

7.5. **Health Commissioner**  
Report online.

7.6. **Social Commissioner**  
Report online.

7.7. **Student Support Commissioner**  
Report online.

7.8. **Family Care Commissioner**  
Report online.

8. **Other Reports**

8.1 **Committee on Monetary Affairs**  
Report online.

9. **Question Period (15 minutes)**

A 15 minute question period took place.

**Motion to reconsider the emergency motion (J. Carr/ F. Upham)**

The Speaker called for a 3 minute recess to consult Robert's Rules. He explained that the motion is debatable and that the debate can refer to the content of the original motion.

J. Carr, on motivation, stated that Council should consider funding the postdoc legal challenge through a fund under its direct discretion to ensure due diligence.
J. Mooney, debating in favor, argued that there are other, completely unutilized, budget line items which Council should consider in trying to fund postdoc legal counsel. It would be better to take a good look at the budget and money that won't be spent at all rather than taking money from projects which are ready to go in the family care portfolio.

A. Kaats, debating in favor, noted that the text of the emergency motion does not specify that spending from the reallocated money needs to be approved by Council; the executive can spent it however they want.

Motion failed.

Motion to extend Council (M. Isabel/ C. Gélinas-Faucher)
Motion passed.

10. New Business

10.1. R11-01-#67 –Duties of VP-Finance [10min]
(President/ M. Steacy)
Whereas the VP Finance has resigned and the main duties consist of the following: GRC (chair), CMA (chair), BOD (member), Health and Wellness Committee (voting-member) and society signing authority.
Whereas the time period between an interim election and a general election is insufficient for an newly elected official to learn, understand and effectively perform in the role of the VP Finance.
Whereas the Executive committee recommends that an interim election not be held and that the duties be distributed among the remaining executive until a new candidate is elected during the regular election period.
BIRT council enter into committee-of-the-whole for 10 minutes to discuss the possibilities of an interim election for the position of VP Finance or the following proposed reallocation of the VP-Finance duties:
Duties:
Grant Review Committee: President
Committee on Monetary Affairs: VP Academic
Board of Directors: VP-External
Signing Authority: President
Voting Member of the Health and Wellness Committee: VP Internal

Motion to go into a committee of the whole
Motion passed.

Motion to leave the committee of the whole
Motion passed.

Motion to amend (VP External/ A. Burgoyne)
BIRT the duties of the VP Finance be divided amongst the Executive as suggested in the duties division.
BIFRT this be in place until the next Council meeting when we hold an election for the VP Finance.
BIFYFRT Council enter into an election for the VP Finance at the February Council meeting.

Motion passed as amended.

10.6. R11-01-#72 – Motion to Amend a Previously Adopted Referendum Question
(Health Commissioner/ J. Carr)
BIRT that the motion previously adopted, R11-10#29, and as amended, R11-10-#42, be amended to read:
[Note: Recall that R11-10-#42 specified that this is to be a question for the ordinary referendum period.]
Preamble: Currently, graduate students have access to fewer doctors at McGill Mental Health Services than undergraduates. This service differential is the result of a student service fee increase that was accepted by undergraduate students but rejected by graduate students in 2008. The current situation, in which graduate students, who generally make greater use of mental health services than undergraduates, have access to fewer doctors, will remain in place unless the fees paid to provide this service are made equal between graduate and undergraduate students. A fee increase would not only result in access to an equal number of doctors for graduate students and undergraduates, but it would also allow for the hiring of additional doctors to address students' mental health needs.

Therefore,
"Do you agree that, as of September 2011, the Student Services Fee be increased according to the following fee schedule in order to equalize mental health services between graduate students and undergraduates?
Part-time (1-11.5 credits) – increase by $4.50
Full-time (12+ credits) – increase by $7.50
Additional Session – increase by $2.50
---------
Part time currently $75.50, new $80.00
Full-time currently $125.50, new $133.00
Additional Session currently $42.00, new $44.50"

Motion passed.

Adjournment
Motion to extend Council
Motion failed at 20h50.
POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS’ SOCIETY OF McGill University
Minutes for the Council Meeting of
Wednesday, February 2, 2011, 18h30
C11-02-#07

Executives
President Alexandra Bishop, VP Internal Magnus Bein, VP Academic Roland Nassim

Councilors

Commissioners & Non-voting Members
Council Commissioner D. Simeone, Health Commissioner J. Mooney, Elections Commissioner T. Hamade, Family Care Commissioner H. Myers, Senate Commissioner A. Deguise, Environment Commissioner A. Poisson, AGSEM M. Rozwoski, Secretary M. Boudreau

Regrets
1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was amended:
- Motion R11-02-#87 (Family Care Fee Levy) withdrawn by the mover.
- Strike the presentation from the Family Care Committee and replace it with an announcement for Francofete.
- Move item 10.3 Motion R11-02-#90 (Indemnification) to the beginning of Business Arising.
- Move item 10.1 Motion R11-02-#88 (AGSEM Support Motion) immediately after the referendum questions.

Motion to adopt the agenda (J. Mooney/ J. Carr)
Motion passed. The agenda is adopted.

2. Speaker’s Report

The Speaker reminded Council to engage respectfully.

3. Announcements

3.1 Francofete (5min)
A brief announcement was given.

3.2 Resignation of the Social Commissioner
A brief announcement was given. Motion of thanks to Pooja adopted.

3.3 ASEQ – Health Plan for 2011/2012 (10min)
A brief announcement was given.

The Elections Commissioner announced that 2 Executive positions are being extended: President and VP External.

4. Approval of the Minutes

4.1 C11-01-#06
Approval of the minutes postponed (J. Mooney). No objections.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders

10.3. Motion R11-02-#90 – Indemnification (A. Deguise/J. Mooney)
BIRT the PGSS Council, in accordance with Bylaw 3, indemnify and save harmless the PGSS Directors serving in the “FY2011” academic year and all previous years.

Motion passed.

5.1. Motion R11-02-#79 Health Plan Renewals (Health Commissioner/ E. Cawley)
WHEREAS the Health and Wellness Committee has very recently reviewed the results of a comprehensive survey of PGSS members regarding their views on the health plan offered by the PGSS
AND WHEREAS the Committee has established a preliminary recommendation for coverage changes but would like to review all information in further detail and consider another month of claims data and potentially recommend modifications to this referendum question at the March council meeting
AND WHEREAS the PGSS Constitution requires that referendum questions be submitted by the February Council meeting
BIRT the following question be placed on the annual referendum:

Preamble:
The PGSS Health and Wellness Committee (HAWC) recently reviewed the results of a comprehensive survey of over 300 PGSS members to determine what coverage changes members wanted to make to the health and dental plan offered by PGSS. The committee, in an attempt to maximize the aspects of coverage desired by members while minimizing the overall cost of the plan, agreed to present a set of recommended coverage changes to the plan in a referendum question to determine the will of the PGSS membership regarding the plan. Last year, the total plan cost was $413.50 (Health $ 224.25; Dental $189.25), though an increase in health plan claims over the past year will force the cost to increase if current coverage levels are maintained. The committee recommends the following change to the plan:

Increase physiotherapy coverage from $20 to $30 per visit with a $400 annual maximum (premium change +$4.45) AND
Increase psychology coverage from $20 to $30 per visit with a $500 annual maximum (premium change +$6.50) AND
Reduce eyeglass/contact coverage from $200 to $100 per 24 months (premium change -$23.85) AND
Remove coverage for naturopathy (premium change -$12.25) AND
Add coverage massage therapy with MD referral at $20/visit with a $400 annual maximum (premium change +$6.50)

Therefore,
For the year 2011-2012, do you agree that the PGSS Health and Dental plan:
1) Be renewed with the coverage changes recommended by the PGSS Health and Wellness Committee for a total plan cost of $427.37 (Health $255.69; Dental $171.68)
2) Be renewed with no coverage changes for a total plan cost of $446.02 (Health 274.34; Dental 171.68)
3) Not be renewed

The Health Commissioner stated that a very comprehensive survey was done including 300 anonymous members from the PGSS and this is what the Health and Wellness Committee based their recommendations on. 35% wanted to decrease the coverage for naturopathy and 35% wanted to keep it the same. The committee unanimously voted for naturopathy to be removed. People wanted an increase in coverage for psychology and physiotherapy. The committee also agreed to reduce the coverage for eyeglasses as this is not an insurance coverage and there is a tax on the premium. The eyeglass coverage is a net loss on the whole. The committee believes this will maintain the best coverage without allowing fees to skyrocket. They reduced certain areas of coverage in order for the premium to not increase.

Discussion ensued.

Motion passed unanimously.

5.2. Motion R11-02-#80 - To accept Nominating Committee Recommendations (M. Dodge/ F. Upham)
WHEREAS the Nominating Committee has met to review nominees applying for external and internal committee positions, and presented recommendations to Council with respect to committee appointments;

BIRT Council approve the recommendations of Nominating Committee, as listed below:

PGSS Grants Review Committee : Claire Han
David Thomson Award Committee: Yalda Jafari

Motion passed.

5.3. Motion R11-02-#81 - To elect candidates to the Nominating Committee (M. Isabel/ President)
BIRT Council hold elections for the following vacancies on the Nominating Committee:
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Dentistry
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Education
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Law
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Management
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Religious Studies
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Arts
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Engineering
- one (1) member at-large
Motion passed. Ferryl Alley was elected to the member-at-large seat.

5.4. Motion R11-02-#82 – PGSS-GPS Grants Programme (President/ A. Kaats)
Whereas the Grant Review Committee (GRC) has reviewed eight (8) new grant applications and one (1) previous grant application, for a total of nine (9) applications;
Whereas the GRC recommends funding the following projects:
1) "Research Day" [Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Occupational Health Student Society]: $800
2) "Second Human Genetics Postdoctoral Fellow Research Day" [Human Genetics Student Society]: $800
3) "McGill Colloquium on Health and Law [Reproductive Rights in a Pluralistic Society]: $800
4) "GGFS Annual Symposium:(Dis)embodied Feminisms" [McGill Graduate Group for Feminist Scholarship]: $800
5) "Web2.You 2011" [Web2.You Organizing Committee]: $400

BIRT Council approve, from the PGSS/GPS grants program, the disbursement of up to:
1) $800 to Rolina van Gaalen for the project "Research Day" [Grant ID_10-11--42]
2) $800 to Ashley Birch for the project "Second Human Genetics Postdoctoral Fellow Research Day" [GrantID_10-11--43]
3) $800 to Meara Conway for the project "McGill Colloquium on Health and Law [GrantID_10-11--44]
4) $800 to Danielle Barkley for the project "GGFS Annual Symposium:(Dis)embodied Feminisms" [GrantID_10-11--48]
5) $400 to Adrienne Smith for the project "Web2.You 2011" [GrantID_10-11--49]

Motion passed.

5.5. Motion R11-02-#83 – Ratification of Resignation of Social Commissioner (President/Adrian)
WHEREAS the Social Commissioner, Ms. Pooja Tyagi has submitted her resignation on Jan 25th 2011,
BIRT the Council ratify the decision of the Executive, as per Bylaw 5.2.1, to accept the resignation of Ms. Pooja Tyagi from the position of Social Commissioner.

Motion passed.

5.6. Motion R11-02-#84 – Election of the VP-Finance (President/ F. Upham)
Whereas the VP Finance position is currently vacant
BIRT Council go immediately to elections to fill this position.

Motion passed.

The Elections Commissioner explained the election process. He called for candidates.

Each candidate gave Council a brief introduction of themselves:
Bahareh Ghotbi - Faculty of Engineering
A brief question and answer session took place.

The Elections Commissioner explained the voting ballot.

5.7. Motion R11-02-#85 – Graduate Student Life Fund (President/ Jonathan)

BIRT the following question be put to graduate students as part of the winter referendum:

Preamble:
Currently at McGill there are 52 Graduate Student Associations (GSA), 35 of which are recognized by the PGSS and 17 which are not officially recognized. 13 of the 35 recognized GSAs currently charge fees to students in their department. Just under 3000 out of 7300 graduate students are currently members of GSAs that collect fees. Previously, GSAs were able to choose whether or not to charge a fee to students in their department. The average fee charged to graduate students was $9.60 per semester in 2010-2011. GSAs organize and administer various events and functions on campus which greatly enhance student life including guest speakers and conferences. These events are made possible by the contributions of the GSA fees. However, due to recent McGill policy changes, it will no longer be possible for individual GSA to collect fees after 2013. A proposed solution to this issue is the creation of a "Graduate Student Life Fund", which would collect the equivalent of GSA fees and redistribute the fees to recognized GSAs based on the number of students registered. The departments which do not have GSAs are encouraged to form associations but in the interim are able to receive funding through an application process. The PGSS will be holding a series of workshops to help unrecognized GSAs to become recognized and gain access to this funding. This fee, if implemented, will replace all other GSA fees currently collected.

"Do you agree that, as of September 2011, that a new fee be created for all Graduate Students, according to the following per semester fee schedule, to be paid to the "Graduate Student Life Fund" in order to ensure proper funding of all Graduate Student Associations?

Part-time (1- 11.5 credits) – $5.00
Full-time (12+ credits) – $10.00
Additional Session – $2.50

The President, on motivation, stated that when renegotiating the Memorandum of Agreement with the University they stated that they no longer want to collect fees for GSAs. They want PGSS to take responsibility for this service. They would like to create a fund so that GSAs can apply to get funding through PGSS. Unrecognized GSAs can become recognized to collect the funds as well.

Discussion ensued.
Amendment (VP Academic)
To change all instances of “graduate” to “post-graduate.”
Amendment passed.

Amendment (E. Cawley/ J. Carr)
To add “/per semester” after each amount.
Amendment passed.

Motion passed as amended (MBA Councilors opposed).

5.8. Motion R11-02-#86 – Mental Health Referendum Question (Health Commissioner/ E. Cawley)
WHEREAS the McGill administration has requested that the upcoming mental health question wording be slightly modified;
BIRT that the motion previously adopted, R11-10#29, and as amended, R11-10-#42 and R11-01-#72, be amended to read:
Preamble:
Currently, graduate students have access to fewer doctors at McGill Mental Health Services than undergraduates. This service differential is the result of a student service fee increase that was accepted by undergraduate students but rejected by graduate students in 2008. The current situation, in which graduate students, who generally make greater use of mental health services than undergraduates, have access to fewer doctors, will remain in place unless the fees paid to provide this service are made equal between graduate and undergraduate students. A fee increase would not only result in access to an equal number of doctors for graduate students and undergraduates, but it would also allow for the hiring of additional doctors to address students' mental health needs.
Therefore,
Do you agree that, as of September 2011, the Student Services Fee be increased according to the following fee schedule in order to equalize mental health services between graduate students and undergraduates and that the increase occur in addition to any other ancillary fee increases implemented by the University according to the MELS guidelines?

Part-time (1-11.5 credits) – increase by $4.50
Full-time (12+ credits) – increase by $7.50
Additional Session – increase by $2.50

Part-time currently $75.50, new $80.00
Full-time currently $125.50, new $133.00
Additional Session currently $42.00, new $44.50

Amendment (friendly)
To spell out the acronym MELS.

Amendment passed.
Main motion passed as amended.

10.1. Motion R11-02-#88 – AGSEM Support Motion (M. Rozworski/J. Mooney)
WHEREAS the Association of Graduate Students Employed at McGill (AGSEM) has represented Teaching Assistants since 1993 and recently unionized Invigilators who will be bargaining for their first Collective Agreement;
WHEREAS the vast majority of AGSEM's membership is composed of graduate students and AGSEM remains the only teaching-oriented union on campus;
WHEREAS previous negotiations between the university and labour unions have been highly contentious, prompting labour unions look for broad-based support across campus;
WHEREAS Teaching Assistants at McGill have expressed their will to see major improvements to their working conditions;
WHEREAS a successful outcome in negotiations with McGill will allow Teaching Assistants to further strengthen their working conditions as well as allow Invigilators to standardize rates of pay across campus and improve other working conditions;
BIRT the PGSS stand in solidarity with AGSEM throughout the negotiations with the university administration for Collective Agreements for TAs and invigilators;
BIFRT the PGSS support AGSEM by informing all PGSS members about the progress of the negotiations, and by otherwise encouraging its members to support AGSEM during the negotiations.

Motion passed (M. Krause and M. Dodge opposed).

5.10. Motion R11-12-#54 -Journal de Montreal Motion of Support (VP-External/M. Rozworski)
WHEREAS the union of employees of the Journal de Montreal have been locked out of their work place for 22 months;
AND WHEREAS they have made a public call for support in boycotting the Journal de Montreal;
BIRT PGSS officially support the boycott of Journal de Montreal.

M. Rozworski stated that he tried to contact the other side to get some support. They laughed him off. This Council should support the Journal de Montreal as they are both democratic organizations.

T. Centea debating against the motion stating that he is not sure why this is coming up at PGSS. The strike is a personal thing.

M. Rozworski stated that this is not a strike this is a lockout. We are here to decide if we want to support this.

J. Mooney, on a point of information, contacted the Journal de Montreal and received a response in the form of a press release from them. Can we table this and put the response into the package for next month.
Motion (J. Mooney/ J. Carr)
To include the press release in next month’s Council package.

A. Kaats debated against including this in the council package.

Motion withdrawn.

Motion to table (J. Mooney/ J. Carr)

M. Isabel debated against tabling the motion. The letter could have been distributed for this council meeting.

M. Dodge asked if the letter contains new information that has not already been in the media.

M. Krause debated in favour of tabling the motion.

J. Mooney added that this letter is an answer to the question: can the Journal de Montreal come to our council meeting.

B. Noga asked how many months this has been on the council agenda.

The Speaker answered since December.

Motion to table failed. Back to main motion.

J. Mooney raised a point of personal privilege requesting that the Speaker refrain from expression his personal view on the topic at hand after he referred to Quebecor material as "propaganda."

All in favour of having the letter from Journal de Montreal read. No objections.

Motion to go into closed session to read the letter. Motion passed.

Motion to leave closed session. Motion passed.

Main motion passed (J. Caar, J. Mooney, D. Steacy, R. Carver, M. Krause, D. Volker, T. Centea object; E. Cawley abstained).

5.11. Motion R11-12-#57 – Transition Period (VP-Academic/ J. Mooney)
BIRT a new Bylaw 4.4.8.4 be created, in first reading, to read as follows:
Executives-elect, if elected in the regular annual election, shall receive a stipend, as set and regulated by the annual budgeting exercise, for the month preceding the date upon which the executive-elect assumes office. Executives elected in Special or Council elections shall only receive such stipend if upon election there is still time remaining before the executive-elect assumes office.
Motion to commit to the PSAC (J. Mooney/ M. Krause)
Motion passed.

Motion to extend Council.
Motion passed.

5.12. Motion R11-12-#59 – Health and Wellness Day (Health Commissioner/M. Krause)
BIRT Council enter committee of the whole for a period of 5 minutes to suggest activities for a Health and Wellness Day, to be sponsored by the HAWC.

Motion to table (Health Commissioner/M. Krause)
Motion passed.

5.13. Motion R11-01-#75 –Family Care Regulation (Family Care Commissioner/ J. Mooney)
BIRT Regulation 13.5.1.2, currently written as:
“13.5.1.2 An applicant for support from the FCP must be the parent or legal guardian of a minor. The minor must normally be under the age of 12, but in exceptional circumstances this requirement may be waived, at the discretion of the committee.”
Be amended to read:
“13.5.1.2 An applicant for support from the FCP must be the parent or legal guardian of a minor. The minor must normally be under the age of 12, but in exceptional circumstances this requirement may be waived, at the discretion of the committee. Those who are expecting to become the parent or legal guardian of a minor within 3 months of the last day of a given application period may also apply for support. In these cases, a proof of pregnancy, such as a doctor’s note, containing the expected delivery date must be included with the application. Such applicants will be tentatively approved for support, which will be made available to them once proof of delivery is submitted to the PGSS. PGSS members who are the primary caregiver for an ill and/or elderly family member may also apply.”

The Family Care Commissioner, on motivation, stated that this was his campaign promise and he hopes it passes.

J. Carr asked what implications this has on the family care budget.

The Family Care Commissioner answered that these changes will only affect 10% of the total budget.

Motion to commit to the PSAC (Senate Commissioner/ E. Cawley)

The Family Care Commissioner debated against this motion to commit. It is simple enough let’s just pass it.
E. Cawley debated in favour of the motion to commit; we need to get it right the first time and have it reviewed.

Motion to amend the motion to commit (A. Burgoyne/ J. Carr)
To commit to the Family Care Committee.

Motion to amend passed. Motion is committed to the Family Care Committee.

5.14 Motion R11-01-#76 –Family Care Regulation (Family Care Commissioner/ J. Mooney)
BIFRT Regulation 13.7.1, currently written as:
“13.7.1 At least once per term, participants shall be invited to meet with the FCC to discuss issues with the programme, with the goal of improving the how of information about family issues at the PGSS.”
Be amended to read:
“13.7.1 At least once per term, participants shall be invited to meet with the FCC to discuss issues with the programme, with the goal of improving the flow of information about family issues at the PGSS.”

Motion passed.

5.14. Motion R11-01- #77 Report of the PSAC (President/ J. Mooney)
[Note: This is an omnibus motion, as the motions in the report are on different subjects. If a single motion needs more debate, it may be removed from omnibus at the request of a single member.]
BIRT that the report of the PSAC be adopted, and that all bylaw amendments therein be adopted in first reading.

Motion to go into the committee of the whole.
Motion passed.

Adjournment
Motion to extend Council
Motion failed at 21h13.
PGSS

POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS’ SOCIETY OF McGill UNIVERSITY
Minutes for the Council Meeting of
Wednesday, March 2, 2011, 18h30
C11-03-#08

Executives
President Alexandra Bishop, VP Internal Magnus Bein, VP Academic Roland Nassim,
VP External Ryan Hughes, VP Finance Adrian Kaats

Councilors
Air and Space Law M. Dodge, Anthropology A-E. Keen, Art History &
Communication Studies J. Lin, F. MacDonald, Biochemistry L. Van der Kraak,
Biology E. Pedersen, Bioresource Engineering L. ShuangYe Qiao, Chemical
Engineering S. Bastien, Chemistry J. Mooney, M. Krause, A. Goulet-Hanssens, Civil
Engineering H. Nikopour Deilami, Communication Sciences and Disorders J. Burns,
Dentistry B. Hoac, East Asian Studies D. Steacy, Educational & Counseling
Psychology O. Leung, English C. Gélinas-Faucher, D. Barkley, Epidemiology and
Biostatistics A. Findlater, R. Ng, Experimental Medicine S. Kwan, J. Xiong, French
Language and Literature M. Isabel, A. Brun del Re, Geography A. Poisson, J.P.
Willynck, German Studies P. Schwepppe, Hispanic Studies C. Bondi, History M.
Wyman-McCarthy, C. Ulmer, Human Genetics D. Meadows, Y. Cao, Information
Studies M. Brown, B. Blanchard, Integrated Studies M. Sato, F. Mendez, E. Sirett,
Islamic Studies M. Munir, Mechanical Engineering T. Centea, K. Fayazbakhsb, B.
Akih Kumgeh, Mining, Metals, Materials Engineering T. Hamade, Music C. Wingate,
F. Upham, Neurology and Neuroscience J. Soles, Parasitology R. Strasser, Ph.D. H.
Safadi, Pharmacology and Therapeutics V. Bhosle, Philosophy M. Xhignesse,
Physical and Occupational Therapy A. Moga, Physics J. Carr, M. Zamfir, J. Kennedy,
Political Science C. Spilly, Postdoctoral Studies H. Dokainish, Psychiatry E. Cawley,
Psychology I. Pivneva, Religious Studies T. Troughton, Social Work M. De La
Sablonnière-Griffin, Sociology J. Jensen, Urban Planning L. Wiginton, Y. Shah

Commissioners & Non-voting Members
Council Commissioner D. Simeone, Health Commissioner J. Mooney, Elections
Commissioner T. Hamade, Family Care Commissioner H. Myers, Senate
Commissioner A. Deguise, Environment Commissioner A. Poisson, Student Support
Commissioner U. Trojahn, Equity Commissioner E. Sirett, AGSEM L. Lewis,
Secretary M. Boudreau

Regrets
Anatomy and Cell Biology J. Degeer, Earth and Planetary Sciences D. Carozza, Electrical Engineering P. Samadi, Russian and Slavic Studies T. Levesque, Political Science D. Volker, Music A. Burgoyne

Gallery and Guests
SPF Administrator L. Wyatt, FEUQ A. Campeau, L-P. Lavote, Family Care Committee L. Risk, B. Rutter, Environment Committee C. Wrobel, Nursing C. Paney, Education L. Han, Chemical Engineering A. Shams, Psychiatry K. Humbert, Pharmacology E. Zhou, Physiology M. O’Sullivan

A presentation was given by Principal Munroe-Blum; followed by a short question and answer period.

Call to Order
19h37

1. Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the agenda (VP Finance/ Health Commissioner)
The agenda was amended in the following ways:
- The mover removed motion 5.7 from the agenda.
- A motion regarding the election of the Social Commissioner was added after Motion 5.3.
- Motions 5.8, 5.9, 10.1, 10.2, 10.10 were moved after the election.
- A committee of the whole to discuss the confidential report of the VP Finance was added immediately after the election of the Social Commissioner.
- Announcement of the Elections Commissioner regarding election candidates was added to the announcements section.

No objections. The agenda was approved as amended.

2. Speaker’s Report

Nothing to report.

3. Announcements

3.1 Sustainability Projects Fund – Lillian Wyatt
L. Wyatt gave a brief presentation of the Sustainability Projects Fund.

3.2 Redpath Library Renovations - Senate & Libraries Commissioner
The Senate Commissioner gave a brief presentation on the Redpath Library Renovations.

3.3 Family Friendly Events – Family Care Committee
L. Risk gave a brief presentation on upcoming family friendly events.
3.4 PGSS Elections – Elections Commissioner
The Elections Commissioner introduced the Executive Candidates for the 2011-2012 PGSS elections. He listed the dates for the debates and hustings, as well as for the voting period.

4. Approval of the Minutes

4.1 C11-01-#06 (J. Carr/ E. Cawley)
The minutes were approved as amended.

4.2 C11-02-#07(J. Carr/ E. Cawley)
The minutes were approved as amended.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders

5.1. Motion R11-03-#92 - To accept Nominating Committee Recommendations (E. Cawley/ R. Strasser)
WHEREAS the Nominating Committee has met to review nominees applying for external and internal committee positions, and presented recommendations to Council with respect to committee appointments;
BIRT Council approve the recommendations of Nominating Committee, as listed below:
Lisa Rose Palladini to the University Health and Safety Committee
Motion passed.

5.2. Motion R11-03-#93 - To elect candidates to the Nominating Committee (Senate Commissioner/ J. Carr)
BIRT Council hold elections for the following vacancies on the Nominating Committee:
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Dentistry
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Education
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Law
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Religious Studies
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Arts
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Engineering
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
- one (1) member at-large
Motion passed. No one was elected.

5.3. Motion R11-03-#94 – PGSS-GPS Grants Programme (President/ VP Finance)
WHEREAS the Grants Review Committee (GRC) has reviewed six (6) new grant applications and three (3) previous applications, for a total of nine (9) applications;
WHEREAS the GRC recommends funding the following projects:
1) Hands-on Interdisciplinary Course on Micro- and Nano-biotechnologies ($625);
2) McGill-Queen's Graduate Student Conference ($625);
3) Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Research Symposium 2011 ($800); and
4) McGill Institute of Islamic Studies Student Council Graduate Symposium ($620).

BIRT Council approve, from the PGSS/GPS grants program, the disbursement of up to:
1) $625 to Sebastien Ricoult for the event titled, "Hands-on Interdisciplinary Course on Micro- and Nano-biotechnologies” (Grant ID 10-11-46).
2) $625 to Matthew Wyman-McCarthy for the event titled, "McGill-Queen's Graduate Student Conference" (Grant ID 10-11-47).
3) $800 to Alexis Goulet-Hanssens for the event titled, "Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Research Symposium 2011" (Grant ID 10-11-52).
4) $620 to Fadia Bahgat for the event titled, "McGill Institute of Islamic Studies Student Council Graduate Symposium" (Grant ID 10-11-54).

Motion passed. No amendments.

5.4 Election of Social Commissioner (President/ M. Dodge)

BIRT we go immediately to an election for the position of Social Commissioner.

Motion passed.

The Elections Commissioner explained the election process. He called for candidates.

Each candidate gave Council a brief introduction of themselves:
   - Alireza Shams
   - Kirsten Humbert
   - Michael Krause

A brief question and answer session took place.

The Elections Commissioner explained the voting ballot.

5.5 Committee of the whole: VP Finance report (VP Finance/ Senate Commissioner)

BIRT Council go into a closed session committee of the whole regarding the confidential report of the VP Finance.

Motion passed. Council entered into closed session; no objections.
Council left closed session; no objections.

Whereas Council would like a review of the Family Care Program;

BIRT regulation 13.5.1.1 be suspended until the close of this session of Council.

Motion passed.

Motion to extend Council (T. Centea/ J. Carr)
Motion passed.

5.8. Motion R11-02-#89 –Policy on Conduct of Research (President/ T. Centea)
Whereas the PSAC has reviewed the Policy on the Conduct of Research that was approved in first reading at council;
Whereas the PSAC has proposed minor changes;
**BIRT the Policy on the Conduct of Research found in the PSAC report be adopted in second reading.**

The President, on motivation, stated that they made some minor changes to the policy, but it has been very consistent.

Motion passed.

5.9. Motion R11-02-#91 Recognition of the Graduate Association of Pharmacology and Therapeutics Students at McGill University (GAPTS-McGill) (V. Bhosle/ Senate Commissioner)
WHEREAS the Graduate Association of Pharmacology and Therapeutics Students at McGill University (GAPTS-McGill) wishes to be recognised by the PGSS as the official representative of its respective membership;
WHEREAS their constitution has been submitted to the PGSS secretary and fulfills the PGSS requirements for recognition stipulated under Article 9 and Bylaw 11;
WHEREAS the membership GAPTS-McGill unanimously voted to seek PGSS recognition during the GAPTS-McGill General Assembly on January 25, 2011;
**BIRT the PGSS recognise under Article 9 and Bylaw 11 the Graduate Association of Pharmacology and Therapeutics Students at McGill University (GAPTS-McGill) as the official representative of its respective membership.**

Motion passed.

10.1. Motion R11-03-#95 To adopt a Tuition Fee Policy (VP-External/ M. Isabel)
Whereas the current PGSS policy on the Tuition Freeze is no longer relevant;
**BIRT council adopt the proposed policy on Tuition Fees, in first reading, to entirely replace the present policy.**

The VP External, on motivation, stated that the last tuition policy was adopted in 2007. It was a policy on the tuition freeze which is no longer relevant. Tuition increases will take effect in 2012. This is a new tuition fee policy that will direct PGSS when it comes to increasing tuition fees in the province of Quebec. It is for graduates, not undergraduates.

Brief discussion ensued.

Motion passed (Opposed: E. Cawley, M. Dodge; Abstained: J. Mooney).

10.2. Motion R11-03-#96 Regarding Defi-Climat (VP-Internal/ Environment Commissioner)
WHEREAS Defi-Climat 2011 is a civic-level challenge to individuals and organizations to make sustainable choices to reduce the risk of environmental impacts,
WHEREAS SSMU and McGill are participating in Defi-Climat 2011.

**BIRT Council recommend to the PGSS Board of Directors to join the Defi-Climat Campaign, subject to the conditions of the PGSS Policy on the Environment.**

The VP Internal, on motivation, stated that Defi-Climat is a challenge for decreasing our environmental impacts through carbon emission. McGill signed on and they are looking for support to promote it to their membership. The Internal Affairs Committee is working with the Environment Committee and we are planning some events to kick it off mid March. We are looking for endorsement and some support.

The Environment further explained the Defi-Climat Campaign and explained the sign up process.

Motion passed (M. Dodge and F. MacDonald opposed).

10.10. Motion R11-03-#105 Report of the PSAC: Petition Percentages (Article 2.3.4) (President/ J. Mooney)
Whereas the PSAC recommends the following changes to Society Article 2.3.4 to be consistent with previous Article changes:
From:
To request of the Executive that a question be asked at the annual referenda as shall be held by the Society pursuant to the requirements of the Bylaws, by submitting a petition bearing the signatures of ten percent (10%) of the membership of the Society
To:
To request of the Executive that a question be asked at the annual referenda as shall be held by the Society pursuant to the requirements of the Bylaws, by submitting a petition bearing the signatures of seven percent (7%) or 525 regular members of the Society, which ever is least, with a maximum of twenty five per cent (25%) of the names on the petition being registered in a single unit which is represented or eligible for representation on Council.

**BIRT Society Article 2.3.4 be amended to:**
To request of the Executive that a question be asked at the annual referenda as shall be held by the Society pursuant to the requirements of the Bylaws, by submitting a petition bearing the signatures of seven percent (7%) or 525 regular members of the Society, which ever is least, with a maximum of twenty five per cent (25%) of the names on the petition being registered in a single unit which is represented or eligible for representation on Council.

Motion to extend Council (Senate Commissioner/ M. Dodge)
Motion passed.

The Speaker explained that this is a procedural change only.

Motion passed.
5.5. Motion R11-01-#74 – Family Care Bylaw (J. Mooney/ J. Carr)
Whereas this motion was passed at the September 2010 meeting of the PGSS council;
Whereas changes to the motion were recommended by the Constitution Committee;
Whereas the motion was re-written in accordance with the recommendations of the
Constitution Committee:

**BIRT Bylaw 5.1.2 be amended by the addition of:**
i. Family Care

**BIFRT Bylaw 5.13 be created, in first reading, as follows:**

5.13 Duties of the Family Care Commissioner
5.13.1 The Family Care Commissioner shall:
a. in conjunction with the Family Care Committee, oversee the administration and
management of the Family Care Programme;
b. respond to inquiries from Society members regarding family issues; and
c. engage in long-term planning with respect to the Society's position on family issues.

**BIFRT new Bylaw 6.6.18 be created, in first reading, as follows:**

6.6.18 Family Care Committee (FCC)
6.6.18.1 Purpose:
The Family Care Committee shall:
6.6.18.1.1: survey, assess, monitor and work towards improving the quality of family care
available to the PGSS community;
6.6.18.1.2: consider all family care-related aspects of actions and policies taken within
the University that have an effect on the Society and its members;
6.6.18.1.3: coordinate all family care and maternity/paternity-related actions and policies
taken within the Society;
6.6.18.1.4: collaborate with other family-care related groups and offices;
6.6.18.1.5: decide how funds allocated for the support for graduate and post-doctoral
student parents are distributed, within the scope of the Family Care Programme;
6.6.18.1.6: provide information to members of the Society with regards to family care
and maternity/paternity-related issues;
6.6.18.1.7: meet monthly to discuss family care-related issues involving the Society and
the University;
6.6.18.1.8: make recommendations to the Council in regards to family care-related issues;
6.6.18.1.9: ensure the identity of those who apply or assistance under the scope of the
Family Care Programme, or who contact the Family Care Committee for information or
support, is kept confidential.
6.6.18.2 Membership:
6.6.18.2.1 The Family Care Commissioner (Chair)
6.6.18.2.2 Seven (7) regular members of the Society.
6.6.18.3 Duties of the Chairperson:
The chairperson shall:
6.6.18.3.1: coordinate all meetings of the FCC;
6.6.18.3.2: promote an awareness of the FCC;
6.6.18.3.3: serve as a liaison between the FCC and any external groups, committees or
individuals.
6.6.18.3.4: delegate the above duties to members of the committee at the chairperson’s discretion. The chairperson shall remain ultimately responsible for all delegated duties.

Motion to amend (J. Mooney/ J. Carr)
BIRT line 6.6.18.1.5 be removed.

Motion to amend passed.

Motion passed as amended.

5.6. Motion R11-01-#73 –Discussion of Health Plan (Health Commissioner / J. Carr)
BIRT Council enter Committee-of-the-Whole for a period of 10 minutes to discuss the health insurance plan renewal procedure.

Motion to table (J. Carr/ J. Mooney)
Motion passed.

6. Executive Reports

6.1. VP External
Report online.

6.2. VP Academic
Report online.

6.3. VP Finance
Report online.

6.4. VP Internal
Report online.

6.5. President
Report online.

7. Commissioner Reports

7.1. Elections Commissioner
Report online.

7.2. Equity Commissioner
Report online.

7.3. Senate Commissioner
Report online.

7.4. Environment Commissioner
Report online.

7.5. Health Commissioner
Report online.

7.6. Social Commissioner
Position vacant.

7.7. Student Support Commissioner
Report online.

7.8. Family Care Commissioner
Report online.

8. Other Reports

8.1 Committee on Monetary Affairs
Report online.

8.2 PSAC
Report online.

9. Question Period (15 minutes)

Motion (J. Carr/ A. Goulet-Hanssens)
To skip question period.

Motion passed; no objections.

10. New Business

10.3. Motion R11-03-#97 to Allow for Electronic Campaigning for In-Council Elections
(Elections Commissioner/ VP Finance)
BIRT the addition of Bylaw 8.5.7, in first reading:
Until one week prior to the set date for in-council elections, those who intend to become candidates in the elections can submit their nomination to the Elections Commissioner along with a statement (not more than 200 words and subject to approval by the Elections Commissioner) to be distributed through the council listserv. With the exception of the statement, no other means of campaigning are permitted prior to the council meeting.

The Elections Commissioner, on motivation, stated that this only applies to in Council elections.

Motion passed.
10.4. Motion R11-03-#98 to Amend the Equity Issues Policy (M. Dodge/ Equity Commissioner)
WHEREAS Issues Policy 5(a) currently reads as:
5) The PGSS will endeavor through the usual course of its operations (a) Not to affiliate or collaborate with organizations known to promote or engage in unjust discriminatory practices.
**BIRT that Issues Policy 5(a) be modified, in first reading, by the addition of the word “fund” to read as:**
5) The PGSS will endeavor through the usual course of its operations (a) Not to affiliate, fund or collaborate with organizations known to promote or engage in unjust discriminatory practices.

Motion passed.

10.5. Motion R11-03-#99 to Endorse the PGSS-SPF Project (VP-Internal/M. Isabel)
WHEREAS PGSS has identified a mandate to implement sustainability in its operations and function;
WHEREAS the PGSS has received a grant of $30,000 from the McGill Sustainable Project Fund to engage in a comprehensive ecological planning process with post grad leadership [Enclosed in February Council package.]
**BIRT Council endorse the PGSS SPF project.**

The VP Internal, on motivation, stated that in the February Council package he included the proposal for this project. He is seeking endorsement through Council. We received a grant from the SPF; this is mostly funded externally, but there will be some cost to this. We will be engaging consultants to look at how we operate Thomson House and potential areas in which we can decrease our social and environment impacts.

Motion passed.

10.6. Motion R11-03-#100 to Amend Bylaw Regarding Referendum Petition (President/J. Carr)
WHEREAS the following amendment passed in first reading, and has been recommended by the Constitution Committee,
**BIRT Society Bylaw 8.11.3 be amended, in second reading to:**
“Questions may be placed on the annual referendum by resolution of February Council or by the presentation to the Elections Commissioner of a petition bearing the signatures of at least seven percent (7%) or 525 regular members of the Society, whichever is less, with a maximum of twenty five per cent (25%) of the names on the petition being registered in a single unit which is represented or eligible for representation on Council. A call for annual referenda questions shall be published by the Elections Commissioner no later than December 1 of each year.”

Motion passed.
10.7. Motion R11-03-#101 on the use of bottled water on campus (M. Isabel / Environment Commissioner)
WHEREAS the PGSS constitution has an environmental policy that strives to “Encourage PGSS members to be environmentally aware and to adopt lifestyle practices that foster the values of environmental sustainability”, and to “Encourage, support, and participate in student-initiated sustainability projects”;
WHEREAS bottled water is an issue that relates directly to sustainability practices at McGill University and to student initiatives, such as TAPthirst; and
WHEREAS beverage exclusivity contracts between companies and schools and municipalities are typically negotiated without public consultation, with little meaningful debate and limit the opportunity for conscious consumer choices to support local businesses and public water supplies;
BIRT PGSS continue to work with the McGill Office of Sustainability, McGill Food and Dining Service, and McGill administration to reduce the sale and demand of bottled water on the McGill campus; and
BIFRT PGSS distribute information to all clubs and services, and to the student body on issues pertaining to bottled water; and
BIYFRT PGSS promote the sustainable alternative of already readily available tap water, and other sustainable methods of water distribution such as reusable glasses and bottles, etc.

Motion passed (M. Dodge opposed).

Motion to go to 10.11 (J. Mooney/ J. Carr)
No objections; motion passed.

10.11. Motion R11-03-#106 Report of the PSAC: Removal from Office (President/ J. Mooney)
Whereas the PSAC has carefully considered the discussion during the committee on the whole on this motions and incorporated changes when necessary,
BIRT that Society Bylaw 8.10, be repealed, in first reading, and later sections renumbered effective the coming into force of a new Society Article 17 Removal from Office.
BIFRT new Society Article 17 Removal from Office be created, as follows.
[Text largely based upon old Society Bylaw 8.10.]

Article 17 Removal from Office
17.1 Members of the Executive and Commissioners may be removed from office for impropriety, for violation of the Constitution or Bylaws of the PGSS, for delinquency in their duties, or for misappropriation of PGSS funds.
17.1.1 [Text of previous 8.10.1.1, with the percentage from 10% to 525 members or 7% whichever is less, plus addition of Council vote.]
Executives shall be removed from office after the receipt by the Elections Commissioner of a petition signed by 525 members or 7% of the regular members of the Society, whichever is less with a maximum of twenty five per cent (25%) of the names on the petition being registered in a single unit which is represented or eligible for representation on Council requesting impeachment or a motion requesting a non-
confidence vote passed by a **2/3 majority vote of council provided that at least 2/3 of the voting members be present at the time of the vote.** Such a motion shall be endorsed by at least ten (10) voting members of council prior to inscription on the agenda of Council. The motion shall be debated at a Council meeting held after five (5) days notice of motion has been given to members of Council. Within twenty-four (24) hours, the Elections Commissioner shall instruct the President or the Speaker to call a General meeting containing a motion of non-confidence against the representative. The motion of non-confidence shall be passed, and the representative duly dismissed, by majority vote. The meeting shall be held within twenty-one (21) days of receipt of the petition, and shall be preceded by five (5) days notice. The notice shall include the time and place of the meeting, as well as the agenda and the motion of non-confidence, and shall be widely publicized.

[other methods of impeaching removed]

17.1.2 Commissioners shall be removed from office:
   a. by a non-confidence vote passed by a **2/3 majority vote of council provided that at least 2/3 of the voting members be present at the time of the vote.** Such a motion shall be endorsed by at least ten (10) voting members of council prior to inscription on the agenda of Council. The motion shall be debated at a Council meeting held after five (5) days notice of motion has been given to members of Council or
   b. after the receipt by the Elections Commissioner of a petition signed by **525 members or 7%** of the regular members of the Society, **whichever is less with a maximum of twenty five per cent (25%) of the names on the petition being registered in a single unit which is represented or eligible for representation on Council, requesting impeachment.** Within twenty-four (24) hours, the Elections Commissioner shall instruct the President or the Speaker to call a General meeting containing a motion of non-confidence against the representative. The motion of non-confidence shall be passed, and the representative duly dismissed, by majority vote. The meeting shall be held within twenty-one (21) days of receipt of the petition, and shall be preceded by five (5) days notice. The notice shall include the time and place of the meeting, as well as the agenda and the motion of non-confidence, and shall be widely publicized.

17.1.3 All appointed or elected representatives not referred under items 17.1.1 and 17.1.2 of this Bylaw shall be dismissed only after a two-thirds (2/3) vote at a Council meeting held after five (5) days notice of motion. The President of the Society shall be responsible for the administration of the vote by secret ballot. Such a motion of dismissal shall be endorsed by at least five (5) voting members of Council prior to inscription on the agenda of Council.

The President, on motivation, stated that this is coming from the PSAC. She would like to use the new wording which is only slightly different [new wording listed above; no objections].

**Motion to extend Council (F. MacDonald/ M. Isabel)**

Motion failed.

**Adjournment**

21h50
Executives
President Alexandra Bishop, VP Internal Magnus Bein, VP Academic Roland Nassim

Councilors

Commissioners & Non-voting Members

Regrets

Gallery and Guests
Call to Order
18h37

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was amended in the following ways:
- The addition of an elections announcement.
- Motions 5.8, 5.9, 10.5 were tabled until next meeting.

No objections. Agenda approved as amended (J. Mooney/ A. DeGuise).

2. Speaker’s Report

The speaker gave a brief announcement.

3. Announcements

3.1 PGSS Elections – Elections Commissioner
The Elections Commissioner gave a summary of the election results to Council. Click here to view them.

4. Approval of the Minutes

4.1 C11-03-#08
The minutes were approved (J. Mooney/ T. Centea).

5. Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders

5.1. Motion R11-04-#110 - To accept Nominating Committee Recommendations

(WHEREAS the Nominating Committee has met to review nominees applying for external and internal committee positions, and presented recommendations to Council with respect to committee appointments;
[Report may be forthcoming.])

Motion tabled.

5.2. Motion R11-04-#111 - To elect candidates to the Nominating Committee
(E. Cawley/ J. Mooney)
BIRT Council hold elections for the following vacancies on the Nominating Committee:
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Dentistry
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Education
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Law
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Religious Studies
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Arts
  - one (1) member from the Faculty of Engineering
  - one (1) member from the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
- one (1) member at-large

Motion passed. No one was elected.

5.3. Motion R11-04-#112 – PGSS-GPS Grants Programme (J. Mooney/ M. Krause)
WHEREAS the Grants Review Committee (GRC) has reviewed fourteen (14) grant applications;
WHEREAS the GRC recommends funding the following projects:
1) "Research Language Assistance Day" ($450) (Grant ID 10--11--45).
2) "PT-OT Job Fair" ($675) (Grant ID 10--11--53).
3) "A talk with Alex Gilliam from Public Workshop " ($675) (Grant ID 10--11--55).
4) "Urban Planning Class Field Trip to Detroit" ($225) (Grant ID 10--11--56).
5) "Adams Club: Climb Mt Washington" ($225) (Grant ID 10--11--58).
6) "Asturias Academy Library Project" ($225) (Grant ID 10--11--60).
7) "CEGSS 18th Annual Conference" ($675) (Grant ID 10--11--63).
8) "Mosaic 2--Meeting of Semanticists Active in Canada" ($450) (Grant ID 09--10--56)

BIRT Council approve, from the PGSS/GPS grants program, the disbursement of up to:
1) $450 to Andrew Rath for the event titled, "Research Language Assistance Day" (Grant ID 10--11--45).
2) $675 to Marie-France Laurin for the event titled, "PT-OT Job Fair" (Grant ID 10--11--53).
3) $675 to Molly Johnson for the event titled, "A talk with Alex Gilliam from Public Workshop " (Grant ID 10--11--55).
4) $225 to Lindsay Wiginton for the event titled, "Urban Planning Class Field Trip to Detroit" (Grant ID 10--11--56).
5) $225 to Kristyn Rodzinyak for the event titled, "Adams Club: Climb Mt Washington" (Grant ID 10--11--58).
6) $225 to Robyn Maler for the event titled, "Asturias Academy Library Project" (Grant ID 10--11--60).
7) $675 to Farshad Mirshafiei for the event titled, "CEGSS 18th Annual Conference" (Grant ID 10--11--63).
8) $450 to David-Etienne Bouchard for the event titled, "Mosaic 2--Meeting of Semanticists Active in Canada" (Grant ID 09--10--56).

Amendment (J. Mooney/M. Brown)
To amend Grant ID 10--11--60 from $225 to $800.

Amendment failed.
Main motion passed.

5.4. Motion R11-04-#113 to discuss FEUQ Elections (President/ F. Upham)
BIRT that Council go to committee of the whole for up to 15 minutes to hear from and to question candidates for the executive of the FEUQ for 2011/2012.

Motion passed. Council entered into the committee of the whole. Council left the committee of the whole.

5.5. Motion R11-04-#114 Resignation of the VP-External (President / M. Dodge)
WHEREAS the VP-External, Mr.Ryan Hughes, has submitted his resignation,
BIRT the Council ratify the decision of the Executive, as per Bylaw 4.3.5, to accept the resignation of Mr.Hughes from the position of VP-External, and thank him for his year of exemplary service for the PGSS membership.

Motion passed.

5.6. Motion R11-04-#115 Interim Elections (President/T. Centea)
Whereas the VP External has resigned;
Whereas the time period between an interim election and the end of the current term is insufficient for an interim elected official to learn, understand and effectively perform in the role of the VP External.
Whereas the Executive committee recommends that an interim election not be held and that the duties be distributed among the remaining executive and relevant memebers until the end of the current term;
BIRT council enter into committee of the whole for 10 minutes to discuss the possibilities of an interim election for the position of VP External or the following proposed reallocation of the VP External duties:
Duties:
CFS Lawsuit: Council Commissioner
GG13: VP Academic
Science and Policy Exchange: Health Commissioner
FEUQ: Marieve Isabel

Motion passed. Council entered the committee of the whole. Council left the committee of the whole.

Motion (J. Mooney/ R. Carver)
BIRT Council accept the proposal to not hold an interim election for the position of VP External, and that the executive divvy up the duties of the VP External as they see fit.

Motion passed.

5.7. Motion R11-04-#116 Elections (President /V. Bhosle)
BIRT that Council go immediately to election for the positions of Elections, Council, Family Care, Student Support, Equity, to take office effective June 1, 2011 and for the position of Health Commissioner, to take office effective immediately.

Motion passed. The Elections Commissioner called for candidates for each Commissioner position.

Each candidate gave an introduction of themselves to Council:

Health Commissioner: Elizabeth Cawley
Student Support Commissioner: Lena Palacios
Council Commissioner: Jonathan Mooney
Equity Commissioner: Sara Houshmand
Family Care Commissioner: Irina Pivneva
Elections Commissioner: Tarek Hamade

A brief question and answer period followed. The Elections Commissioner explained the elections and ballot voting process.

5.8. Motion R11-04-#117 Committe of the Whole to Discuss the Budget (VP Finance/...)
BIRT Council enter committee-of-the-whole for up to 15 minutes to discuss the budget.

Motion tabled until next meeting.

5.9. Motion R11-04-#118 Committe of the Whole to Discuss Disbursement Programmes (VP Finance/...)
BIRT Council enter committee-of-the-whole for up to 15 minutes to discuss disbursement programmes.

Motion tabled until next meeting.

5.10. Motion R11-03-#102 to Extend Family Care Programme to Elderly and Ill Family Members and Expecting Parents (Family Care Commissioner/ R. Nassim)
BIRT article 13.5.1.2 of the PGSS constitution, currently written as:
“13.5.1.2 An applicant for support from the FCP must be the parent or legal guardian of a minor. The minor must normally be under the age of 12, but in exceptional circumstances this requirement may be waived, at the discretion of the committee.”
Be amended to read:
13.5.1.2
“An applicant for support from the FCP must be the parent or legal guardian of a minor. The minor must normally be under the age of 12, but in exceptional circumstances this requirement may be waived, at the discretion of the committee. Those who are expecting to become the parent or legal guardian of a minor within 3 months of the last day of a given application period may also apply for support. In these cases, a proof of pregnancy, such as a doctor’s note containing the expected delivery date, or official document of guardianship must be included with the application. Such applicants will be tentatively approved for support, which will be made available to them once proof of delivery, or completion of the guardianship process, is submitted to the PGSS. PGSS members who are the primary caregiver for an ill and/or elderly family member may also apply.”

Motion passed.

5.11. Motion R11-03-#104 Report of the PSAC: Executive Stipends (President/ M. Dodge)
Whereas motion R11-12-#57 was referred to the PSAC during the February council meeting;
Whereas the PSAC has added a final statement clarifying the eligibility of executive-elect to received stipends;
**BIRT a new Bylaw 4.4.8.4 be created, in first reading, to read as follows:**
Executives-elect, if elected in the regular annual election, shall receive a stipend, as set and regulated by the annual budgeting exercise, for the month preceding the date upon which the executive-elect assumes office. Executives elected in Special or Council elections shall only receive such stipend if upon election there is still time remaining before the executive-elect assumes office. If the Executive-elect is concurrently serving as an officer of the society during the month preceding the date upon which the Executive-elect assume office then they shall only receive one stipend, whichever is higher of their current stipend or the training stipend.

Motion passed.

No objections to going to motions 10.1 and 10.2.

10.1. Motion R11-04-#119 To modify the role of the Equity Commissioner
(Equity Commissioner/ M. Dodge)
**BIRT Blyaw 5.7.1, concerning the duties of the Equity Commissioner, be amended, in first reading, by the addition of:**
e. be kept informed and consulted by the Executive and Commissioners in all equity-related issues arising within the Society’s operations (equity being defined in PGSS’s policy on Equity and Diversity).

Amendment (F. Upham/ T. Centea)
To add that this should apply to all Executive/Commissioner relationships.

Amendment passed.
Motion to refer to PSAC
Motion passed.

10.2. Motion R11-04-#120 To modify Regulation 3: Grants (Grants Review Committee/A. DeGuise)
WHEREAS the procedures for grant application prioritization are arbitrarily set by the Grants Review Committee (GRC) when there are “insufficient funds remaining to fund all eligible applications during a particular funding period;”
WHEREAS there are no criteria for identifying when there are “insufficient funds;”
WHEREAS the Society Regulation that sets application priority when there are “insufficient funds” should be applicable as general application prioritizing criteria; and
WHEREAS the GRC believes that various modes of event accessibility should be considered when prioritizing funding;
**BIRT Society Regulation 3.5.6 be amended to read,**
“3.5.6 The GRC shall apply the following ordered criteria in prioritizing funding for events:
3.5.6.1 The event is organized by a PGSS recognized Post-Graduate Student Association (PGSA);
3.5.6.2 The event is open to all PGSS members;
3.5.6.3 The event physically takes place on one of McGill’s campuses;
3.5.6.4 Expecting a greater numbers of PGSS member participants as compared to the other applications being considered in the same period;
3.5.6.5 The event differs from other events funded by PGSS during the same fiscal year, in subject matter, in the organizing PGSA and/or expected PGSS participants;
3.5.6.6 The event makes provisions for the attendance of PGSS members with children either by facilitating the participation of children or by providing appropriate child care during the event;
3.5.6.7 The event makes provisions for supporting access to participants with disabilities;
3.5.6.8 The event takes steps to reduce or offset negative environmental impacts that occur as a result of the event;
3.5.6.9 The event is open to members of the McGill community at large; and
3.5.6.10 The event is open to members of the public.”

Motion to table until next council meeting (T. Centea/A. Deguise)
Motion passed.

5.12. Motion R11-03-#106 Report of the PSAC: Removal from Office (President/J. Mooney)
WHEREAS the PSAC has carefully consider the discussion during the committee on the whole on this motions and incorporated changes when necessary,
**BIRT that Society Bylaw 8.10, be repealed, in first reading, and later sections renumbered effective the coming into force of a new Society Article 17 Removal from Office.**
**BIFRT new Society Article 17 Removal from Office be created, as follows.**
[Text largely based upon old Society Bylaw 8.10.]
Article 17 Removal from Office
17.1 Members of the Executive and Commissioners may be removed from office for impropriety, for violation of the Constitution or Bylaws of the PGSS, for delinquency in their duties, or for misappropriation of PGSS funds.

17.1.1 [Text of previous 8.10.1.1, with the percentage from 10% to 525 members or 7% whichever is less, plus addition of Council vote.]

Executives shall be removed from office after the receipt by the Elections Commissioner of a petition signed by 525 members or 7%, whichever is less, of the regular members of the Society requesting impeachment or a motion requesting a non-confidence vote passed by a 2/3 majority vote of council provided that at least 2/3 of the voting members be present at the time of the vote. Within twenty-four (24) hours, the Elections Commissioner shall instruct the President or the Speaker to call a General meeting containing a motion of non-confidence against the representative. The motion of non-confidence shall be passed, and the representative duly dismissed, by majority vote. The meeting shall be held within twenty-one (21) days of receipt of the petition, and shall be preceded by five (5) days notice. The notice shall include the time and place of the meeting, as well as the agenda and the motion of non-confidence, and shall be widely publicized.

[other methods of impeaching removed]

17.1.2 Commissioners shall be removed from office:

a. by a non-confidence vote passed by a 2/3 majority vote of council provided that at least 2/3 of the voting members be present at the time of the vote or
b. after the receipt by the Elections Commissioner of a petition signed by 525 members or 7%, whichever is less, of the regular members of the Society requesting impeachment.

Within twenty-four (24) hours, the Elections Commissioner shall instruct the President or the Speaker to call a General meeting containing a motion of non-confidence against the representative. The motion of non-confidence shall be passed, and the representative duly dismissed, by majority vote. The meeting shall be held within twenty-one (21) days of receipt of the petition, and shall be preceded by five (5) days notice. The notice shall include the time and place of the meeting, as well as the agenda and the motion of non-confidence, and shall be widely publicized.

17.1.3 All appointed or elected representatives not referred under item 10.1 of this Bylaw shall be dismissed only after a two-thirds (2/3) vote at a Council meeting held after five (5) days notice of motion. The President of the Society shall be responsible for the administration of the vote by secret ballot. Such a motion of dismissal shall be endorsed by at least five (5) voting members of Council prior to inscription on the agenda of Council.

Motion passed.

5.13. Motion R11-03-#107 Report of the PSAC: Steering Committee (President/ Health Commissioner)

Whereas the PSAC has considered the referred motion regarding changes to the steering committee;

BIRT Bylaw Section 6.6.17.1.2 be amended in first reading to strike the text “discuss possible problems or issues as they arise above those of an administrative and procedural nature, and to discover appropriate courses of action.”
BIFRT Bylaw Section 6.6.17.1.5 be added in first reading, with the text "The CSC shall have the power to designate time limits regarding announcements, debate on council motions, reports, and all other elements of the council agenda, subject to approval by Council"

BIFRT Bylaw Section 6.6.17.2.1 be amended to read, "The President of the Society and one other member of the executive committee, elected by the executive"

BIFRT Bylaw Section 6.6.17.2.2 be amended to read "Three members directly elected by Council"

BIFRT the previous text of Bylaw section 6.6.17.2.2 be renumbered to 6.6.17.2.3, and all subsequent sections be renumbered accordingly.

BIRT Bylaw section 6.6.17.1.3 be added to state “discuss possible problems or issues as they arise above those of an administrative and procedural nature, and discover appropriate courses of action ”

BIFRT Bylaw 6.6.17.2.3 be struck.

BIFRT Bylaw Section 6.6.17.2.3 be added “Unfilled seats be filled by members of the executive committee.”

BIFRT Bylaw 6.6.17.2.2 be changed to read “non-voting chair”

President, on motivation, stated that this is trying to get council more involved in steering.

Amendment (A. Deguise/ J. Mooney)
To change the composition to 3 Executives and 3 Councilors.

Amendment failed.

Main motion passed.


BIRT that a new Society Article 8.6, be created, as follows:
8.6 Each Executive member shall be required to attend all Council meetings, from beginning to end. Three (3) missed meetings without valid reason will result in automatic resignation unless the Board of Directors approves a motion recommended by Council for the Executive member to retain his or her position. Valid reasons, as determined by the Board of Directors, may include but are not limited to Society business, illness or bereavement, or being on an approved leave-of-absence.

Motion passed.

Motion to extend Council (M. Dodge/ I. Pivneva)
Motion passed.

5.15. Motion R11-03-#109 Report of the PSAC: Meeting Attendance (President/ J. Mooney)

Whereas the PSAC recommends the following changes to Bylaws 5.4.3, 5.3.11, 4.3.5.3 using appropriate wording for Officers and ‘x’ meetings:
Whereas X represents Council, Executive Commissioner Caucus or Executive meeting as referred to in the respective motions.
Whereas Y represents the relevant number of missed meetings.

**BIRT council enter into committee of the whole for 10 minutes to discuss the following recommendations from PSAC to Bylaws 5.4.3, 5.3.11, 4.3.5.3:**

4.3.5.3 Executive members absent from four (4) consecutive regular Executive meetings without valid reason shall be deemed to have delivered their resignations. Valid reasons shall include Society business, illness or bereavement.

5.3.11 Commissioners absent from three (3) meetings of the Caucus without valid reason shall be deemed to have delivered their resignations.

5.4.3 Commissioners shall be responsible to the Council. Commissioners shall report to each meeting of the Council and shall be required to attend all Council meetings, from beginning to end.

Three (3) missed meetings will result in automatic resignation unless the Council approves a motion for the commissioner to retain his or her position.

“Officers” absent from “y” meetings without valid reason shall be deemed to have delivered their resignations. Valid reason shall be approved by “x”. In the case of confidential or sensitive reasons, the executive in closed session may evaluate the validity of the reason and submit their recommendation to “x”.

Motion passed. Council entered the committee of the whole.

Council left the committee of the whole.

**6. Executive Reports**

6.1. VP External
Position vacant.

6.2. VP Academic
Report online.

6.3. VP Finance
Report online.

6.4. VP Internal
Report online.

6.5. President
Report online.

**7. Commissioner Reports**

7.1. Elections Commissioner
Report online.

7.2. Equity Commissioner
7.3. Senate Commissioner
Report online.

7.4. Environment Commissioner
Report online.

7.5. Health Commissioner
Report online.

7.6. Social Commissioner
Position vacant.

7.7. Student Support Commissioner
Report online.

7.8. Family Care Commissioner
Report online.

8. Other Reports

8.1 Grants Review Committee
Report online.

8.2 Ad Hoc Committee on room sponsorship
Report online.

9. Question period

A brief question period took place.

Adjournment
Quorum lost at 20h50.
POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS’ SOCIETY OF McgILL UNIVERSITY

Minutes for the Council Meeting of
Wednesday, May 4, 2011, 18h30

Executives
President Alexandra Bishop, VP Academic Roland Nassim, VP Finance Adrian Kaats

Councilors

Commissioners & Non-voting Members

Regrets
Pharmacology and Therapeutics E. Zhou, Physics M. Zamfir, Psychology I. Pivneva, Religious Studies T. Troughton

Gallery and Guests
PGSS Environment Committee C. Wrobel, Chemistry M. Rak, Plant Science A. Manceur
Call to Order
18h34

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was amended in the following ways:
   - The addition of an announcement from International Student Services.
   - Motion 10.1 moved to the beginning of business arising as item 5.0.

No objections. Agenda approved as amended (J. Mooney/ T. Centea).

2. Speaker’s Report

The speaker gave a brief announcement. He added that it was a pleasure being the speaker of Council.

3. Announcements

3.1 Council Appreciation (President)
The President announced that Council appreciation will be on Friday May 20th at 5:30pm in the Thomson House basement.

3.2 International Student Services
A brief presentation was given.

4. Approval of the Minutes

4.1 C11-04-#09
The minutes were approved as amended (M. Dodge/ F. Upham).

5. Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders

5.0 Motion R11-05-#127 To (Once Again) Consider the Mental Health Referendum Question (President/Health Commissioner)
Whereas the referendum question regarding the equalization of mental health student services fee for graduate students passed;
Whereas the question referred to full time students as 12+ credits and part time students at 1-11 credits;
Whereas the Basic Conditions Relating to the Application of the Student Services fee defines Full Time Students as 9 or more credits and part time students as less than 9 credits;
BIRT the reference to full time students and part time students in the mental health referendum question be aligned with the accepted 9 or more credits and 9 credits or less respectively as outlined in the Basic Conditions Relating to the Application of the Student Services Fee.
Amendment (E. Cawley/ J. Mooney)
To remove the phrase “once again.”

No objections; amendment passed.

Main motion passed (J. Mooney abstained).

5.1. Motion R11-05-#124 - To accept Nominating Committee Recommendations (M. Dodge/ F. Upham)
WHEREAS the Nominating Committee has met to review nominees applying for external and internal committee positions, and presented recommendations to Council with respect to committee appointments;
BIRT that the following appointments be made:
Laura Risk to the Family Care Committee
Laura Labonte to the Equity Committee, the Health and Wellness Committee, and the PGSS Environment Committee

Motion passed.

5.2. Motion R11-05-#125 - To elect candidates to the Nominating Committee (Health Commissioner/ M. Dodge)
BIRT Council hold elections for the following vacancies on the Nominating Committee:
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Dentistry
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Education
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Law
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Religious Studies
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Arts
- one (1) member from the Faculty of Engineering
- one (1) member at-large

Motion passed. No nominations.

5.3. Motion R11-05-#126 – PGSS-GPS Grants Programme (VP Finance/ J. Mooney)
WHEREAS the Grants Review Committee (GRC) has reviewed eight (8) grant applications;
WHEREAS the GRC recommends funding the following projects:
BIRT Council recommend funding Option 4 as outlined in the report of the Grants Review Committee.

Motion passed.

5.4. Motion R11-04-#117 Committee of the Whole to Discuss the Budget (VP Finance/ J. Carr)
BIRT Council enter committee-of-the-whole for up to 30 minutes to discuss the budget.

Motion passed. Council entered a committee of the whole.

Motion to extend the committee of the whole (T. Centea / E. Cawley). Motion passed.

Adjournment
Quorum lost at 20h46.