Call to Order

1. Approval of the Agenda

2. Speaker’s Report

3. Announcements
   3.1 Laurent Viau – CNCS-FEUQ Candidate for Chair
   3.2 Sustainability Fund Update

4. Approval of the Minutes
   4.1 C10-05-#11

5. Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders
   5.1 Motion R11-06-#1 · Society Budget
   5.2 Motion R11-06-#2 · To Elect Candidates to the Nominating Committee
   5.3 Motion R11-06-#3 · To accept Nominating Committee recommendations
   5.4 Motion R11-06-#4 · Grant Approvals

6. Executive Reports
   6.1 VP External
   6.2 VP Academic
   6.3 VP Finance
   6.4 VP Internal
   6.5 President

7. Commissioner Reports
   7.1 Elections Commissioner
   7.2 Equity Commissioner
7.3 Senate Commissioner
7.4 Environment Commissioner
7.5 Health Commissioner
7.6 Social Commissioner
7.7 Student Support Commissioner
7.8 Family Care Commissioner

8. Other Reports

9. Question Period (15 minutes)

10. New Business
10.1 Motion R11-06-#5 · Temporary Committee and Commissioner Reconstitution
10.2 Motion R11-06-#6 · Permanent Family Care Commissioner and Committee
10.3 Motion R11-06-#7 · Environment Committee Bylaw Change
10.4 Motion R11-06-#8 · Regulation Respecting Ancillary Fees
10.5 Motion R11-06-#9 · Recognition of MAPS
10.6 Motion R11-06-#10 · Committee of the Whole on Proposed Amendments

Adjournment
5. Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders

5.1 Motion R11-06-#1 · Society Budget
(President/…)

BIRT the Society Budget for 2010/2011 be adopted.

5.2 Motion R11-06-#2 · To Elect Candidates to the Nominating Committee
(.../…)

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.]

5.3 Motion R11-06-#3 · 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;
BIRT Council approve the recommendation of Nominating Committee as presented in the Nominating Committee Report included in the present package.

5.4 Motion R11-06-#4 · Grant Approvals

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]

10. New Business

10.1 Motion R11-06-#5 · Temporary Committee and Commissioner Reconstitution

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.

10.2 Motion R11-06-#6 · Permanent Family Care Commissioner and Committee
(Family Care Commissioner/…)

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 man-
agement 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 stu-
dent 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 fami-
ly 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.

10.3 Motion R11-06-#7 · Environment Committee Bylaw Change
(Environment Commissioner/…)

BIRT that a new Bylaw 6.6.14.2.8 be created, in first reading, as follows:
6.6.14.2.8 The Society Representative to the Sustainable Projects Fund.

10.4 Motion R11-06-#8 · Regulation Respecting Ancillary Fees
(President/…)

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 appropriate renumbered.

10.5 Motion R11-06-#9 · Recognition of MAPS
(President/…)

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.

10.6 Motion R11-06-#10 · Committee of the Whole on Proposed Amendments
(VP-External/…)

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, "2.4.4.2.2 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, "2.4.4.2.3 Units with one hundred (100) or more regular members shall be eligible to elect two (2) representatives."
BIRT this become effective September 1, 2010.
At the request of the Steering Committee, this is a written Speaker's Report. This is not common, but in this case serves to inform Council of a decision taken by the Steering Committee.

At a duly constituted meeting of the Steering Committee for Council, held on June 2, 2010, the following motion passed unanimously:

*BIRT reports from Executives and Commissioners be written, unless urgency is demonstrated.*

The word “urgency” is most reasonably interpreted to mean the same standard of urgency that we have traditionally applied to emergency motions, that is, a novel or significant development in the week preceding Council, following the Council deadline.

This is discussed further in the report of the President.

Respectfully,
Daniel Simeone
Council Commissioner 2010-2011
1.0 Federal Representation-Canadian Federation of Students (CFS):

On Wednesday, May 12 Daniel Simeone was examined by François Viau, a lawyer from Gowling Lafleur Henderson, the law firm that is representing the interests of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). Persons also in attendance included: Irving Handelman (PGSS legal representation), Lucy Watson (CFS), Brent Farrington (CFS), a stenographer and myself. Over the course of an afternoon the amended court proceedings were dissected by Mr. Viau. He asked numerous questions, which were answered or rebutted by Daniel Simeone and Mr. Handelman.

On Saturday, May 22 the PGSS delegation traveled to Ottawa to put forward a motion at the opening plenary Semi-Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students. The content of the motion is as follows:

WHEREAS in a referendum held March 29 to April 1, 2010, the members of the Post-Graduate Students’ Society of McGill University voted against continuing their membership in the Canadian Federation of Students; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the membership of the Post-Graduate Students’ Society of McGill University be terminated, effective April 1, 2010.

This motion was sent to the CFS National Executive in advance of the 6 week period required in CFS by-laws for motions to be included in the agenda. Nevertheless, this motion was not included in the finalized agenda. I contacted the National Chairperson, Katherine Giroux-Bougard to address this issue and she informed me that the PGSS motion was not included in the agenda because our referendum was out of order, thus, rendering our motion out of order. Seeing no recourse, the PGSS delegation tried to place this motion on the official agenda during the opening plenary, but we were unsuccessful.

2.0 Provincial Representation-Conseil national des cycles supérieurs de la Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec (CNCS-FEUQ):

On May 12, Alexandra Bishop and I met with the new President of the FEUQ, Louis-Philippe Savoie along with Vice-President, Ariane Campeau and Vice-President of University Affairs, Guillaume Houle. Our primary topic of discussion was the MBA tuition increase and the actions taken by the interested parties of McGill University, the private industry, the media, the Government of Quebec and the students. We also talked about the upcoming tuition fee increases of 2012 and our collective strategies for dealing with these events. We will be addressing the tuition issues in greater detail at our next meeting on Monday, May 31.

2.1 Canadian federation of Students-Quebec (CFS-Q):
The members of the CFS-Q have had 3 meetings in May where we discussed financing, trademark infringement, and debt obligations. We have decided to consolidate bank accounts and take steps to recover missing financial information. We are also undertaking several corporate changes that are currently being negotiated.

3.0 GG 13:

A proposal package has been sent to all of the GG13 members. All interested parties must deliver their respective proposals to the organizing committee by June 15.

4.0 External Affairs Committee (EAC):

I would like to congratulate Dayna Debenedet and Jonathan Mooney, who have become the newest members of the EAC. They have already proven themselves invaluable and I look forward to working with them in the coming year.

4.1 Transit:

A meeting between McGill, the PGSS, and SSMU will likely take place next week, though confirmation has yet to be given at the time of my submission of this report. Topics will include, the Société de transport de Montréal (STM) initiative and the Communauto proposal. On Thursday, April 29, I had a meeting with Marco Viviani, director of development and public relations of Communauto who delivered a proposal that included discounts for McGill students over the age of 21 provided certain conditions were met. These conditions will be discussed in detail along with the status of the STM negotiations.

4.2 Tuition:

We are currently reviewing the PGSS tuition policy and have been researching and collecting information regarding tuition in Quebec. I have contacted Lucien Bouchard, who is the instrumental force behind the effort of private industry to influence the battle between McGill University and the Ministry of Education over the MBA tuition increase, but he declined my invitation to attend this council meeting. I have contacted Michelle Courchesne, the Minister of Education, Recreation and Sport for Quebec and have yet to receive a response. I have contacted Pauline Marois, the Leader of the Official Opposition and have yet to hear a response. Finally, I have contacted Jacques Chagnon, Member of the National Assembly for Westmount-Saint-Louis and former Minister of Education, and I have yet to hear a response.

There is a great deal of anxiety surrounding the proposed tuition increases and we need to openly discuss it, formulate our approach and work closely with our affiliations and local partners. I will be delving more deeply into tuition over the course of the coming year and I urge you to bring any concerns or questions that you may have to myself, members of the EAC, or to the executive.
Dear PGSS Councilors, Members, Commissioners, Executives and Staff:

It is my real pleasure to be re-elected as a PGSS Vice-President Academic and University Affairs for 2010/2011. Working together, hand in hand, with you throughout the past year was a true rich experiment. Together, we have made it to several accomplishments, the CARPET Project, the foundation of the Maternity/Paternity Pilot Project, the online nomination form, the online PGSS, University, Senate forms and several others.

Here we are starting a brand new PGSS year, full of energy and full of hope that together, via our hard work, understanding, cooperation and collaboration, we will build upon our last year’s achievements and expand our vision to new goals and projects for the best of our McGill Post Graduate Student Society.

Please remember that “Together, we can make it happen” & Please remember that “I am here for you in all academic and university affairs related matters. It is my duty to help you out and it is actually “always” my pleasure to help you out.

My main goal for 2010/2011 is to serve the PGSS society members, to survey their needs, to obtain their feedbacks and to work my hardest to carry out projects and accomplish goals that aim to preserve the well-being of our Society members.

Kindly find below a draft of my proposed work plan for 2010/2011:

1. Ensuring proper representation of the society on PGSS, Senate and University bodies.
2. Actively recruiting Graduate and Post-Docs for PGSS, University, and Senate committees.
3. Tracking PGSS/Senate/University Committees Feedback Forms to maintain a reliable high level communication between PGSS Representatives, Members, Council, Executives, and the University.
4. Working towards implementing Phase I and Phase II of the Maternity/Paternity Pilot project for Paid Parental Leave.
5. Reconstructing the Academic & University Affairs section of the PGSS Website.
7. Bringing your own agenda to the university.
8. Implementing the SUCCESS project.

S: Supporting Masters, PhD and Post-Docs via the Maternity/Paternity Project.
U: Unique definition for Post-Docs. Are they Students/ Employees?
C: CARPET’s Efficiency throughout 2010/2011
C: Collaboration with international renowned research centers.
E: Experience evolution towards high quality professional development skills.
S: Supervision’s Quality via Feedback Forms.
S: Surveying the needs of Masters, PhD & Post-Docs and trying to accommodate these needs.

SUCCESS= Supporting MAT/PAT, Unique PDF Definition, CARPET, Collaboration, Experience, Supervision, Surveys

“The way to beat a steep hill is to cut little steps into it, Together we can make it happen”
“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams”

Sincerely,
Dahlia R. ElShafie, academic.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca
Vice-President, Academic and University Affairs, Post Graduate Student Society
Date: June 3, 2010

RE: VP of Finance Report for the June council Meeting

Dear Commissioners,

I have just taken over the role of VP of Finance three days ago, but I have been working on my portfolio for almost one month.

First, I have job-shadowed the previous VP of Finance attending the May Executive meeting, the Board meeting, and the budget preparation process and related meetings. I have also sat down with Eric, the previous VP of Finance and discussed his mandates, accomplishments and the future course of direction which was set by the previous executive councils in the past few years. To understand the broad perspective of my role and responsibilities as VP of Finance, I have met with Marty S. Dean of Graduate Studies along with other incoming executives, attended GG13 Conference in Quebec City in April and discussed business issues with Andre, Thompson House General Manager a few times.

I have conducted the first grant review committee meeting in the last week of May and during this meeting, we reviewed 7 applications. Four were accepted, two were denied and one is under further review. The focus of GRC this year will be on academic events. Please review the constitution before you fill out a grant application form, because there are some requirements on nature of event and timing of submission which you need to adhere by, in order to improve your chance of getting your proposal approved.

During this summer, my work will involve in the following areas;

First, I will continue to review grant applications with the GRC members help throughout the summer and do the follow up correspondence work as necessary. Secondly, I will monitor the
operation of Thompson house by working closely with Andre. We will have weekly discussions every Friday to talk about pressing issues and concerns as well as general progress and successes. There are a number of new additions, parties and renovation work that should make Thompson house even more popular amongst graduate students. At the moment, Thompson house is undergoing some changes in its accounting system. When complete, this new system would provide better reporting. Also, there is the annual audit in the progress which is keeping the Thompson house management busy.

As I mentioned earlier, I took part in preparation of the 2010-2011 PGSS budget and I am pleased to say that the budget is well designed to implement many good ideas which were developed in the past few years.

The monetary committee will only meet as need arises during the summer. It will resume its regular meetings in September.

In terms of my additional responsibilities, I will be in charge of reviewing and approving funding of faculty student associations this summer. I have designed the application form which is being reviewed by other executives at this time. In this regard, I will communicate with Treasurers of those councils and answer their questions or concerns. During the summer, I will be travelling back and forth between Montreal and Toronto quite frequently. So, I have delegated the signing authority to another Executive during the summer. For this reason, there will be reshuffling of the executive portfolio during for fair distribution of work and also to allow me to contribute remotely while I am out of town. That is it, Folks.

Have a safe and fun summer and see you in the August Council meeting.

Natalie Lee
VP Internal Report to Council

June 3, 2010

Prepared by: Magnus Bein

I am excited to begin my position as VP Internal as of the 1st of this month and I look forward to a fun and stimulating experience. This report represents my perspective on the activities of my portfolio managed with the support of the members of the Internal Affairs Committee (IAC). So far, I have had a chance to meet with the former VP Internal as well as the IAC. I also met with Pooja Tyagi, the new Social Commissioner, and Sonia, the Thompson House Night Manager. There are a number of organizational matters we are addressing: 1) setting up online communications, 2) planning events, and 3) coordinating the IAC, next steps and meetings.

1. Online Communications

We have set up a Google Group called PGSS-Internal at http://groups.google.com/group/pgssinternal?hl=en (herein referred to as GG). This is intended for the members of IAC and allows us to be more informed prior to meetings and to make more expedient decisions on matters that need direction prior to committee meetings.

So far we have discussion threads on: various introductory & organizational matters; new requests & proposals; and, particular events. The GG also has a Pages section and file area, which allows information to be shared, commented, and edited by GG members. The information currently in circulation includes: Ongoing Task List; Annual Program Ideas; and, the 2010/11 Event Schedule.

Finally, we are in progress of setting up Google Calendars for use in publicizing events and also for planning. Shared calendars can be published to the public, and this would be suitable for our events program. For instance the Soft Ball league schedule could be in a Google Cal, and this would allow participants to subscribe to the calendar directly. There are also WordPress plugins that would allow publishing a Google Calendar on the PGSS website, streamlining the planning and publication. Another calendar for planning the events, with pre-event meetings and time-blocked planning activities and tasks, would be very helpful to share with all the volunteers and supporters that are involved in the program. One use is to allow those involved in the committee and event organizing to ensure that events have minimal conflict with other plans.

2. Event Planning

Pooja, Sonia, and I have assembled a draft annual program, which is posted online at the GG. Members of the GG can comment on and edit it. Pooja has taken leadership in coordinating summer events and I am taking the lead on Orientation events. For the summer we are aiming for the following program:
Ongoing in June-August

- Joint passes to Biodome, Botanical Gardens, Insectarium (e.g. group fee at discount, promotional passes)
- Softball

Monthly outings, which tentatively would include:

- Bike ride and picnic along Lachine Canal (food from Atwater Market or from TH)
- Nature Walks (find tour leader from NCC, Natural History Club?)
- Canoe trip to Mont Tremblant

In late August and September we are planning:

- Orientation events and house warming party
- Outing to Quebec City
- Trivia and Karaoke nights
- Grad Student Association workshop

3. Coordination

The online tools are intended to help coordinate the Internal Affairs program but without a dynamic and active IAC and a clear action plan accommodating the Internal Affairs budget and correspondence with other initiatives, the program will not be as successful.

The IAC has vacancies that we are working to fill along with the need to include non-voting members in our planning process. There are a number of vacancies to the IAC and we are actively recruiting new volunteers. Also we are inviting non-voting members to the committee to aid integrated planning. For instance, staff input into event planning is critical as they are aware of potential conflicts with other schedules as well as what has been successful in the past. Sonia is currently a member and Marisa has been invited. Over the summer we also will be inviting representatives from other committees of PGSS and groups around McGill.

To begin the Internal Affairs Action Plan, we are compiling organizational info including committee terms of reference and communication resources with their admin details (e.g. FaceBook, feedback questionnaires, PGSS website postings, et cetera). An important part of the plan will be coordinating with other initiatives of the Society and business and identify common goals and activities. We are looking into the feasibility of including a communication strategy in the plan, which could address overlap and collaboration. Based on the organizational guidelines, resources, parallel support activities, and the proposed program, we will draft a budget of how to spend the Internal Affairs allocation.
President’s Report

Welcome to a new year of Council! I hope that this year will be an exciting and productive one. A large amount of appreciation is due to the outgoing executives, commissioners and councilors. We hope to continue your work to the best of our abilities and we will be incorporating exciting new changes and projects to build upon what you have done.

I am looking forward to working with the incoming executive. Everyone has great ideas and plans for the future of the society. With a fresh new perspective I believe that we can see our goals become a reality. Over the summer we will be working with our fellow commissioners and committees to come up with a detailed action plan and goals for the upcoming year.

There are a few things I would like to highlight my brief report. One of changes coming this year is just that: concise reports. The oral or lengthily reports given by executives and commissioners are not conducive to an efficient council meeting. The communication of information is an important part of reaching our society but they should be brief, to the point and convey only the necessary information. Council should be about getting things done, discussing motions and policy. I feel that reports should be included in the council package and questions concerning reports are appropriate but it should take up minimal amounts of council time. The reports are all available online and no further reporting should be necessary at council. Any announcements can be made in the announcement sections. I will also be working with the Executive Evaluation Committee to standardize the report format in order to more easily evaluate if a particular portfolio is being fulfilled. Look out for other upcoming changes to council’s structure in order to make our meetings more productive and efficient!

In order to effectively plan for the upcoming year we need a budget. I urge you to be prudent and analyze the budget with as much care as the outgoing VP-Finance has. Rest assured, society finances are in also good hands with our incoming VP-Finance Natalie Lee. Tonight at council please debate and ask any questions you may have regarding the Society portion of the budget. There are many projects and initiatives outlined for next year. A few interesting ones are the creation of a research position and the recognition referendum. The family care committee and maternity/paternity projects are still developing their full potential. Special attention will be paid to these projects over the coming months as the PGSS has greatly invested in them.

I encourage you to support the budget as the outgoing and income executive have give it much thought and consideration, especially Eric, your outgoing VP-Finance. Eric has worked hard to leave Thomson House and the PGSS in good financial standing. We owe it to him and all future PGSS members to maintain and improve upon this progress.

I apologize that I am unable to be at council with you this evening. However I am looking forward to many more productive council meetings in the year to come.

Please contact me with any question you may have pertaining to my report or with the PGSS in general.

Alexandra Bishop
Green Drinks

The PGSSec screened the film “Strange Days on Planet Earth – Dirty Secrets” on May 25 as part of their monthly Green Drinks Montreal event. This series was produced by National Geographic Organization for the Public Broadcasting Network in the United States. The film looked at the issue of water related pollutants and their environmental consequences in different parts of the ecosystem in different parts of the world. The event was well attended for this time of the year and among the attendees was Brad Wheeler who is one of the new directors of the Molson Hall residence. He is also part of a new initiative in residence called “green life in residence.” This initiative hopes to follow similar ones in American Universities which integrate sustainable living ideas into residence living. Mr. Wheeler indicated his desire to cooperate with the PGSSec on environmental projects at McGill in the future.

The Sustainability Projects Fund

The Sustainability Projects Fund panel is in the process of reviewing project applications. Thirty nine were submitted by the initial April 9 deadline. Forty-five percent of projects have come from undergraduates, forty percent from staff, and fifteen percent have come from either faculty or graduate students. The projects are evaluated on a number of criteria, including the degree of commitment from required parties, the degree of organization of the project, the degree of engagement of the community/stakeholders, the impact the project has relative to the funds requested, and the potential for institutionalization of the project. The PGSSec will hold awareness events at both campuses in the coming months to expose the Fund and its potential to graduate students thereby encouraging more to apply.
This is the first Commissioner report I am submitting to PGSS. I’ll start by introducing myself for the benefit of the councilors who don’t know me or who weren’t at the Family Care Commissioner election on May 5. My name is Hadley Myers, and I’m a second-year PhD student in Electrical and Computer Engineering. Now, on to business: May has been a very exciting month. The Family Care Program came to fruition, with 78 checks, totaling $80.5K, going out to help PGSS members and their families. Here is a breakdown of how that money was distributed:

We are able to fund 78 applications (86% of applying PGSS parents)

Tier 1 -- 50 applicants at $500 = $25,000
Tier 2 -- 19 applicants at $1,500 = $28,500
Tier 3 -- 9 applicants at $3,000 = $27,000
TOTAL = $80,500

The feedback received from the PGSS parents we’ve helped financially has really emphasized the importance of this program, and highlights the significant difference it makes in the lives of graduate students and post-docs currently juggling personal and professional responsibilities. One person was so grateful, he came to Thomson House during the Exec/Commissioner 4à6in the hopes of thanking everyone in person (he said it was his ‘moral obligation’). I wish I could say I was responsible for this, but this recent and tangible accomplishment is a result of months of hard work by the current Family Care Commissioner, Pamela, and the entire Family Care Committee. Additionally, this would not have been possible without the support of the entire PGSS governing body and its voting members, who gave Pamela and the Committee the mandate that saw this program realized. I plan as incoming Family Care Commissioner, to oversee the allocation of another round of support for PGSS students with families in the fall. It is likely that more applications will be submitted then, as awareness of the program and its effectiveness continues to grow.

I also attended the recent Maternity/Paternity forum and plan to work with the VP Academic and the University Affairs Committee to coordinate the Maternity/Paternity project with the work of the Family Care Committee in order to support Society members in the early stages of family formation.

Other than that, I’m currently in the process of settling into my role as Commissioner, learning the structure of the PGSS organization, understanding how Family Care fits into this structure, and meeting everyone involved (I already had the chance to meet director of student services Jana Luker at the 4à6, mentioned above). I have been introduced to a few individual members of the Family Care Committee, but I am really looking forward to meeting the Committee as a whole this month, and to continue to advocate on behalf of all graduate students and post-docs with families in 2010-2011.

Hadley Myers, Family Care Commissioner-Elect
June 2, 2010
Report of the Nominating Committee

A duly constituted meeting of the Nominating Committee took place on May 31, 2010.

*Present: Mehdi El Ouali (Chair), Elizabeth Cawley, James Grabowski, Steve Cannon, Kirsten Humber, Rona Strasser, Marieve Isabel*

*Guest: Daniel Simeone (Council Commissioner-elect)*

The Nominating Committee wishes to recommend the following candidates for appointment to PGSS and University Committees:

**PGSS Committees**

*Family Care Committee (pending reconstitution):*
Irina Pivneva
Dana Bailey

*Internal Affairs Committee:*
Kaywana Raeburn

*Committee for Graduate Student Support:*
Elias Epp

*External Affairs Committee:*
Sina Gallo

**University Committees**

*Sustainable Projects Fund:*
Alexis Goulet-Hansses

*Tomlinson University Science Teaching Project (pending verification that the committee still exists)*
Irina Pivnev
Summary of Changes to the Budget

This budget continues to concentrate on augmenting Society Services and improving the efficiency of Thomson House (bar, restaurant, and catering) operations.

During this past financial year two key areas that PGSS has concentrated on were controlling cost of goods sold and labour costs associated with Thomson House bar, restaurant and catering. Over the last year, management has brought the ratios for our bar, restaurant and catering operations closer to those found in the restaurant and bar industry. This brings the Thomson House bar, restaurant, and catering operations back towards meeting the break even requirement in Article 1 of the PGSS Constitution.

A year and a half of strong corrective action, has shown that the bar, restaurant, and catering operations can be run much more efficiently. By maintaining these improvement measures significant funds can be freed up, which can be used to provide additional services. In terms of efficiencies, two major areas that would still need considerable attention are 1) kitchen efficiency and 2) labour costs during the summer months.

After the issues above have been addressed, the task then will be to stabilize performance expectations for Thomson House bar, restaurant, and catering operations around a business model that provides performance parameters for the bar, restaurant and catering operations over the longer term.

The following are the more noteworthy changes that have been made for this year’s budget:

1) a budget for research on student issues (which can be conducted in conjunction with other student societies);

2) a separate society legal expense line item;

3) organizing a referendum to consult students as to whether to become recognized by the Quebec government;

4) PGSS charitable events fund;

5) Post-doctoral students issues lobbying fund;

6) increase to the VP Internal Budget to better co-ordinate promotion of marketing of events and activities;

7) various daycare-related initiatives (contribution to the SSMU Daycare centre in return for guaranteed daycare spots for graduate students, daycare budget for PGSS members to attend
PGSS committee meetings, contribution for co-ordination of student parent activities, and creation of a Daycare Centre Reserve Fund);

8) maternity leave pilot project to assist graduate and post-doctoral students who are going on maternity leave.

More details regarding most of these initiatives can be found in the CMA list in the VP Finance Council Report in the April 2010 PGSS Council package.

**Terminology**

*Actual*: The amount that was truly spent on the particular line item for the year.

*Budget*: The amount that was allotted to the particular line item for the year.

*Projected*: An estimate of the amounts to be spent by the end of the year based on funds dispersed from June 1st to March 31st (i.e., April and May numbers are estimates).

*% Increase*: The percentage change in the budget line from the current budget year to the new budget year.

**Structure**

Note that the general structure of this budget has been modified from last year’s in order to better separate out the division of expenses between Thomson House (bar, restaurant, and catering) operations and those pertaining to the Society.
## PGSS 2010-2011 Draft Budget

### Revenues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>08-09 Actual</th>
<th>09-10 Budget</th>
<th>09-10 Projection</th>
<th>10-11 Budget</th>
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### Expenses

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<th>09-10 Projection</th>
<th>10-11 Budget</th>
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### Balance

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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>64,550.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>59,750.00</strong></td>
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## Council Responsible Budgets

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<th>09-10 Projection</th>
<th>10-11 Budget</th>
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<td>42,730.83</td>
<td>44,400.00</td>
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<td>77,340.00</td>
<td>88,667.55</td>
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# PGSS Society Initiatives

## Research

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<th>09-10 Budget</th>
<th>09-10 Projection</th>
<th>10-11 Budget</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Cooperative Research with FEUQ</td>
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<td>Researcher/archivist</td>
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## Campaigns & Initiatives

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<tbody>
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<th>09-10 Projection</th>
<th>10-11 Budget</th>
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<tbody>
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**Total**

|                          | 200,000.00   | 172,600.00      | 231,500.00   |
# Executive Responsible Budgets

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<th>09-10 Budget</th>
<th>09-10 Projection</th>
<th>10-11 Budget</th>
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<tbody>
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<th>09-10 Projection</th>
<th>10-11 Budget</th>
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<td><strong>63,940.80</strong></td>
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### Board of Directors Responsible Budgets

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<th>09-10 Projection</th>
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<th>09-10 Budget</th>
<th>09-10 Projection</th>
<th>10-11 Budget</th>
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<tr>
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<th>08-09 Actual</th>
<th>09-10 Budget</th>
<th>09-10 Projection</th>
<th>10-11 Budget</th>
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Executives
President Daniel Simeone, VP Academic Dahlia ElShafie, VP External Ryan Hughes, VP Internal Charalampos Saitis

Councilors

Commissioners & Non-voting Members

Regrets

Gallery and Guests
Call to Order
18h38

1. Approval of the Agenda

- Family Care Commissioner report moved to after approval of the minutes.
- D. Syncox's report moved to after approval of the agenda.

Motion to approve the agenda (M. Isabel/J. Tong)
Motion passed.

David Syncox: SKILLSET Presentation
D. Syncox gave his PowerPoint presentation regarding Skillsets.

2. Speaker’s Report

The Speaker reported that this is his last meeting as Council Commissioner. He enjoyed his term and thanked Council for the opportunity.

3. Announcements

3.1. VP Finance: Draft Budget Presentation
The President gave a presentation on the draft budget. He explained the different sections of the budget.

P. Lirio stated for the record her concern that the funds for the Family Care Committee have gone down to $60,000.

Y. Rahrovani asked how the GREAT awards are administered.

The President answered that PGSS is giving money to Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies which will disperse the money to the various departments according to the formulas that are already set up.

J. Mooney stated that they have increased the funding for the GREAT awards.

N. Lee gave a brief summary of the draft projects list.

The President gave an announcement about Council appreciation night, on May 26th 2010 at 6:30pm in the Thomson House ballroom.

3.3. Upcoming Events
The VP Internal announced the upcoming events: the Ottawa Trip on May 15th and the Open Mic Night on May 21st 2010. The VP Academic announced the Open Forum on the Mat/Pat Project on May 11th 2010.

4. Approval of the Minutes

4.1 C10-03-#09
Minutes approved as amended.

4.2 C10-04-#10
Minutes approved as amended.

Motion to approve the minutes (J. Grabowski/ J. Mooney)
Motion passed.

Family Care Commissioner Report
The Family Care Commissioner announced that the funding program was very successful. 96 families applied for the program and 78 families were given funding for a total of $80,500 awarded. The parents feel very grateful to the PGSS; she has been getting a lot of wonderful feedback about the program and how helpful it has been.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders

5.1. Motion R10-05-#133 · Election of Family Care Commissioner (J. Grabowski / C. Saitis)
BIRT Council hold an election immediately for the position of Family Care Commissioner for 2010/2011.

Motion passed.

The Elections Commissioner explained the elections process. He invited the candidates to introduce themselves.

H. Myers stated that he is pursuing his Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering. He believes that the current system makes it very difficult for people to have children during graduate school. Students are at a disadvantage because they do not have the benefits of the working world. Therefore he thinks that PGSS members should have the same support system when having children as people outside of school, and he will work hard to make that happen.

Y. Rahrovani stated that he is a 2nd year Ph.D. student in Management. He has experienced some of the challenges that come with being an international student and having a family. He has enjoyed working with the Family Care Committee and wants to extend the pilot project for next year. The process of the family care funding program can be improved and he would like to work on making those improvements using the experience he gained this year. He also worked with the McGill Parent Network on some
important issues. In addition he will work on improving communication with a FAQ section on the family care section of the website.

A brief question period followed.

5.4. Motion R10-05-#136 · Grant Approvals (J. Grabowski/ J. Mooney)
WHEREAS the Grants Review Committee (GRC) has reviewed five (9) new grant applications;
WHEREAS the GRC recommends funding the following projects:
1) “Neuroscience Day” [Graduate Student Association of Neuroscience]: $800
2) “ABAQUS Workshop” [ABAQUS Workshop Committee]: $800
3) “PGSA Annual Retreat” [Physiology Graduate Student Association]: $800
4) “Tour to HotDocs Canadian International Documentary Festival” [McGill Persian Poetry Group]: $800
5) “Pharmacology Research Day 2010” [Pharmacology and Therapeutics Graduate Student Association]: $800
6) “La Ronde Excursion” [Iranian Graduate Student Association]: $800
7) “St. John’s Storytelling Circle” [McGill Storytelling Group]: $800

BIRT Council approve, from the PGSS/GPS grants program, the disbursement of up to:
1) $800 to Nadia Houri for the project “Neuroscience Day” [Grant ID 09-10--61]
2) $800 to Kazem Fayazbakhsh for the project “ABAQUS Workshop” [Grant ID 09-10--62]
3) $800 to Mario Calderon for the project “PGSA Annual Retreat” [Grant ID 09-10--63]
4) $800 to Alireza Zareie for the project “Tour to HotDocs Canadian International Documentary Festival” [Grant ID 09-10--64]
5) $800 to Raminder Gill for the project “Pharmacology Research Day 2010” [Grant ID 08-09--66]
6) $800 to Sayed Ali Ghafari Oskoei for the project “La Ronde Excursion” [Grant ID 09-10--68]
7) $800 to Mohammad Shahidzadeh Mahani for the project “St. John’s Storytelling Circle” [Grant ID 09-10--69]

Amend #5 from $800 to $1,000 (M. Milner/ E. Cawley)
Amendment passed.

Amend #1 from $800 to $1,200. (M. Shiell/ A. Luhovy)
Amendment passed.

Motion to refer #6 to next Council meeting and get more information from the GRC (J. Mooney/ J. Grabowski)

Debate ensued.

Motion to call the question (J. Grabowski)
Motion failed.
Debate continued.

Motion failed (abstained: J. Grabowski, in favour: T. Centea, J. Mooney and M. Dodge).

Main motion passed (abstained: J. Grabowski, J. Mooney, in favor: T. Centea, M.Dodge).

Motion to reconsider Motion R10-05-#136 - Grant Approvals (M. Isabel/ D. Simeone)
Motion passed.

Amend #2 from $800 to $1,200
Amendment passed.

5.7. Motion R10-04-#123 · Contract with SSMU Daycare Centre Inc. (President/ N. Cyr)
BIRT Council recommend to the PGSS Board of Directors to enter into contract with SSMU Daycare Centre Inc. concerning reserved spaces for PGSS members at the SSMU Daycare Centre.

Motion passed.

5.2. Motion R10-05-#134 · To accept Nominating Committee recommendations (E. Cawley/ J. Grabowski)

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.

5.8. Motion R10-04-#125 · Executive Evaluations (R. Hughes/ C. Saitis)
WHEREAS Society Bylaw 4.4.9.1 requires the evaluation of executive members.
WHEREAS Society Bylaw 4.4.9.2 outlines the general principles for executive evaluations.
WHEREAS Society Bylaw 2.3.3.3 outlines the executive performance review.
WHEREAS no such evaluation has taken place upon the current or past executive
WHEREAS no clear procedure is specified for such evaluations
BIRT a committee be mandated to put forward a mechanism that would outline the protocol for executive evaluations.
BIFRT this committee recommend a structure for executive reports, work plans and constructive feedback.
BIFRT this committee include 1 member of the incoming executive, 1 member of the current executive, 2 councilors and one member at large.
BIFRT this committee be formed no later than June 1, 2010 and make recommendations by August 2010.
BIFRT committee reports be made publicly accessible.
BIFRT appointments are immediately open for this committee.

Motion passed.

The Elections Commissioner called for nominees.

Ryan Hughes nominated himself to sit on the committee.
Harry Saitis nominated himself to sit on the committee.
Michael Dodge nominated himself to sit on the committee.
Tarek Hamade nominated himself to sit on the committee.
Daniel Simeone nominated himself to sit on the committee.
Dahlia ElShafie nominated herself to sit on the committee.
Matthew Milner nominated himself to sit on the committee.
Jonathan Mooney nominated himself to sit on the committee.

Motion to enlarge the size of the committee: no objections.

No objections to the composition of the committee.

5.9. Motion R10-04-#126 · Sessional Course Instructor Unionization Drive (M. Rozworski/ J. Mooney)
WHEREAS the Association of Graduate Students Employed at McGill (AGSEM) has launched a card-signing drive to unionize sessional course instructors at McGill University;
WHEREAS this drive is a continuation of a year-long unionization effort by AGSEM which has received the full support of PGSS Council;
WHEREAS AGSEM has represented graduate student teaching assistants at McGill since 1993 and remains the only teaching-oriented union on campus;
WHEREAS a successful unionization drive would allow sessional course instructors to avail themselves of the legal right to bargain with their employer to improve their working conditions;
WHEREAS sessional course instructors at McGill earn, on average, $2000 less per course than those working at other Quebec universities (e.g., Concordia, Laval, Université de Montréal, UQAM) and receive no employee benefits whatsoever;
WHEREAS more than 50% of all university teaching in Canada is now performed by sessional course instructors, who are disproportionately graduate students and recent graduates;
BIRT the PGSS stand in solidarity with AGSEM as they work to unionize sessional course instructors at McGill;
BIFRT the PGSS support AGSEM by informing all PGSS members about the card-signing drive and encouraging their participation.

Motion passed.

8. Other Reports
8.1 Judicial Advisory Board [Motion included]

8.2 Constitution Report [Recommendations included]
Motion to pass constitution committee recommendations (E. Cawley/ J. Grabowski)
Motion passed.

APR Emergency Motion (M. Milner/ J. Grabowski)
Whereas the Association of Postdoctoral Researchers is currently re-organizing to allow for better support for its members, and;
Whereas McGill has indicated that the name 'Association of Postdoctoral Researchers' creates undue legal ambiguity, and;
Whereas McGill has requested the alteration of the name of the Association to reflect the current status of members of the Association as 'Fellows', and;
Whereas the Executive members of the Association have unanimously requested the change in recognition, and;
Whereas the Executive of the Association will present this amendment to the next general meeting of the Association for ratification,

BIRT, the recognized name of the "Association of Postdoctoral Researchers at McGill" (APR) be altered to "Association of Postdoctoral Fellows at McGill" (APF) in all PGSS documents.

Motion passed.

10. New Business

10.1. Motion R10-05-#137 · SWAGS Recognition (President/ E. Cawley)
WHEREAS the Social Work Association of Graduate Students (SWAGS) has requested recognition by the PGSS; and WHEREAS SWAGS has submitted the appropriate documentation as per Bylaw 11 of the PGSS Constitution; therefore

BIRT the PGSS recognize The Social Work Association of Graduate Students (SWAGS) as per Bylaw 11.

Motion passed.

Emergency motion (J. Mooney)
BIRT Council thank Ms. Bonnie Barnett for her hard work as Health Commissioner on behalf of the society;
BIFRT Council recognize that Ms. Barnett completed her term as Health Commissioner in good standing and with the support of Council.

Motion passed (objection: E. Cawley).

Motion to commit motions 5.10 to 5.15 to the new Executive Evaluation Committee (President/ M. Milner)

Quorum lost at 21h00.
AGENDA

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Speaker’s Report
3. Announcements
4. Approval of the Minutes
5. Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders
   5.1. Motion R11-09-#11 · To accept Nominating Committee recommendations
   5.2. Motion R11-09-#12 · To elect candidates to the Nominating Committee
   5.3. Motion R11-09-#13 · Grant Approvals
   5.4. Motion R11-09-#14 · Resignation of the VP-Academic
   5.5. Motion R11-09-#15 · Election of the VP-Academic
   5.6. Motion R11-09-#16 · Resignation of the Senate Commissioner
   5.7. Motion R11-06-#6 · Permanent Family Care Commissioner and Committee
   5.8. Motion R11-06-#8 · Regulation Respecting Ancillary Fees
   5.9. Motion R11-06-#10 · Committee of the Whole on Proposed Amendments
6. Executive Reports
   6.1. VP External
   6.2. VP Academic
   6.3. VP Finance
   6.4. VP Internal
   6.5. President
7. Commissioner Reports
   7.1. Elections Commissioner
   7.2. Equity Commissioner
   7.3. Senate Commissioner
   7.4. Environment Commissioner
   7.5. Health Commissioner
   7.6. Social Commissioner
   7.7. Student Support Commissioner
   7.8. Family Care Commissioner
8. Other Reports

9. Question Period

10. New Business

10.1. Motion R11-09-#17 · Family Care Regulation
10.2. Motion R11-09-#18 · Sustainable Projects Fund Rep. To Environment Committee
10.3 Motion R11-09-#19 · Executive Evaluation Committee
10.4 Motion R11-09-#20 · Policy on the Conduct of Research
10.5 Motion R11-09-#21 · Motion of Censure
5. **Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders**

5.1. Motion R11-09-#11 · 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;

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

5.2. Motion R11-09-#12 · To elect candidates to the Nominating Committee

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

5.3. Motion R11-09-#13 · Grant Approvals

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**
  - Fireld Trip to Safari Park
  - $720

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

- **10-11-11 Biology Graduate Student Ass.**
  - Ann Eriksson Book Launch and Reading
  - $75

- **10-11-12 Engineering Graduate Student Group**
  - visiting industrial facilities around Montral
  - $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 Assoc.
  - 2010 Orientation Camping Retreat
  - $700.00

10-11-17 - Association des Etudiantes en langue et literature francaise
  - 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
  - $800.00

BIRT Consil 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
  - Fireld Trip to Safari Park
  - $720

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

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  - Ann Eriksson Book Launch and Reading
  - $75

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  - $800.00

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  - $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  

5.4. Motion R11-09-#14: Resignation of the VP-Academic  
(President / …)

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.

5.5. Motion R11-09-#15: Election of the VP-Academic  
(President/…)

Whereas the position of VP academic is vacant as of September 30th, 2010  
BIRT the PGSS hold a council election on October 6th.

5.6. Motion R11-09-#16: Resignation of the Senate Commissioner  
(President/…)

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.

5.7. Motion R11-06-#6: Permanent Family Care Commissioner and Committee  
(Family Care / 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.

5.8. Motion R11-06-#8 · Regulation Respecting Ancillary Fees
   (President/...)
   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.

5.9. Motion R11-06-#10 · Committee of the Whole on Proposed Amendments
   (VP-External/...)
   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.
10. New Business

10.1. **Motion R11-09-#17 · Family Care Regulation**

(Family Care/ ...)

BIRT the Family Care Programme Regulation in Appendix 2 be adopted.

10.2. **Motion R11-09-#18 · Sustainable Projects Fund Rep. To Environment Committee**

(A.Goulet-Hanssens/ ...)

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 fo the Sustainability Projects Fund.
BIFRT current Bylaw 6.6.14.2.7 be re-numbered to be Bylaw 6.6.14.2.8

10.3. **Motion R11-09-#19 · Executive Evaluation Committee**

(VP-External/ ...)

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.

10.4. Motion R11-09-#20 · Policy on the Conduct of Research
(T. Centea/...)
BIRT the Policy on the Conduct of Research, in Appendix 3, be adopted in first reading.
10.5. Motion R11-09-#21 - Motion of Censure
(VP-External/...)

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.
1.0 Federal Representation-Canadian Federation of Students (CFS):

The examination of the PGSS representative (Daniel Simeone) has been completed and all undertakings have been delivered to CFS legal counsel (Firm: Gowling Lafleur Henderson, Lawyer: François Viau). Our request for documents have been met with both delays and objections. Furthermore, the plea provided by the CFS denies virtually all of our allegations as indicated in our Amended Motion to institute proceedings. Our legal counsel (Firm: Handelman, Handelman & Schiller, Lawyer: Irving Handelman) will be examining the representative for the CFS on September 8, 2010. This examination may extend beyond September 8 and include another day, depending on the behaviour of all parties involved.

2.0 Provincial Representation-Conseil national des cycles supérieurs de la Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec (CNCS-FEUQ):

During the summer, the PGSS attended two regular congresses of the FEUQ. The first, held at Lac Taureau (June 18, 19, 20) offered an introduction to the FEUQ and its organizational structure. A budget was released and action plans were discussed for both the summer and the upcoming school year. The delegation included: Daniel Simeone, Alexandra Bishop, Mariève Isabel and myself. The second congress was in Rouyn-Noranda (August 20, 21, 22) and included the final version of the FEUQ budget, amended action plans and a series of general updates regarding research and campaigns. The delegation included Mariève Isabel and myself.

It is clear that the primary issue of concern to the FEUQ is the looming increase of tuition fees and its effect upon accessibility, current students our education system, and so forth. Throughout the year we will be actively engaging with the CNCS-FEUQ about issues that concern our students (family care, the status of Post-doctoral fellows, representation on the tri-council, etc…) along with their efforts to address any detrimental effects the rise of tuition fees will have upon the members of the PGSS.

2.1 Rassemblement d’associations étudiantes (RAE) (formerly known as the Canadian federation of Students-Quebec component or CFS-Q):

The members of the RAE have had a flurry of meetings this summer regarding the nature of this corporation and its intended purpose. The general consensus is that the RAE will exist to complete its litigation against the CFS and fulfill all of its current corporate obligations. In addition, it is our position that no other responsibilities should be added to this corporation that would deviate from this purpose.

3.0 GG 13:

I am happy to report that the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students (DAGS) will
host the 2011 GG13 Conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Their proposal has been vetted by the Organizing Committee (representing McGill (PGSS), UdeM (FAÉCUM), University of Laval (AÉLIÉS), and Dalhousie (DAGS)) and student associations across Canada. Currently, we are refining the proposal and updating the website.

4.0 External Affairs Committee (EAC):

I would like to congratulate Sina Gallo, who has become the newest member of the EAC.

4.1 Transit:

There has been no progress with negotiations between McGill, the PGSS, and the Société de transport de Montréal (STM).

In contrast, the final proposal from Communauto has been delivered. After undergoing a few amendments, the executive have agreed to the language of this current offer and we recommend that Council approve this contract (see Appendix 1).

4.2 Tuition:

As mentioned in 2.0 the PGSS and FEUQ will be involved in an active campaign against the intended increase of tuition fees at McGill and in Quebec. Plus, we will be participating in campaigns organized with local student associations and will launch independent initiatives that are directed at the problems associated with deregulation, the “self-funded” model and tuition increases.

The majority of the research for our tuition policy review has been completed and we will be producing a survey to sample the graduate student population in the near future. Once we have compiled the data, we will be producing a report and recommendation for Council.

4.3 Initiatives

The EAC is supporting the joint PGSS/SSMU Science & Policy Exchange. This will be a half day event featuring panel discussions and speeches from industry, government, and academic leaders. They will be addressing the role of scientists and researchers in developing public policy. It will take place on October 7, 2010 and we are currently looking for volunteers to help us make this the first of what we are hoping will become a stimulating annual event. Please contact me at external.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca if you would like more information.
Appendix 1

Contract:

M. Ryan Hughes
Vice-President External
Post-Graduate Students’ Society of McGill University
Thomson House – 3650 McTavish Street
Montreal, Quebec
H3A 1Y2

Subject: Agreement between PGSS-McGill and Communauto

Dear Mr. Hughes,

With this letter, Communauto is pleased to offer a special price on our package Le Lièvre to members of the Post-Graduate Students’ Society of McGill University, who meet Communauto admission requirements, and wish to join the group agreement detailed below.

This special package, named Le Lièvre Super, offers an hourly rate of $1 less than the regular package Le Lièvre ($3.95 instead of $4.95 Monday to Friday, and $4.95 instead of $5.95 Saturday and Sunday – respectively up to $47.40 and $59.40 per day).

A rate per kilometre travelled (currently at $0.12/km) is added to the hourly rate.

Details of the Le Lièvre package are available at the following link: http://www.communauto.com/forfaitsABC_ENG.html (please note that fees are subject to change).

In exchange, Communauto asks for PGSS’s collaboration in:

- promoting this special offer to its members. Specifically, the PGSS could:
  - offer space in the yearly agenda to promote the partnership with Communauto;
  - send out information on the Newswire (an email communication service to all PGSS members);
  - offer space on the PGSS and EAC websites;
  - offer literature regarding the PGSS/Communauto deal to their members in the Thomson House administration office;
  - display information regarding the PGSS/Communauto deal to their members on the Thomson House visual display;
  - offer space for Communauto literature at the 2011 PGSS orientation.
- promoting carsharing to the students of the PGSS and the university’s representatives;

- informing future subscribers that, when they make an appointment to join Communauto, they will need to mention that they want to participate in this group agreement, and bring both their valid student card and a letter delivered by the PGSS when they come to their subscription appointment;

- providing the aforementioned letter to students wishing to subscribe to Communauto through this group agreement.

It is our pleasure to give this special opportunity to university students who wish to experience car sharing. Communauto thanks the PGSS executives for their interest in collaborating with us.

A signature below from both representatives will seal this proposed agreement, to be renewed each year.

_____________________________  ______________________________
Marco Viviani                      Ryan Hughes
Director, Development and public relations  Vice-President External
Communauto  Post-Graduate Students' Society (McGill University)
Dear Madam or Sir,

This letter is to confirm that __________________________ is a student member of the Post-Graduate Students' Society of McGill University (PGSS). He (She) can, therefore, subscribe to the package Le Lièvre and benefit from a special hourly rate of $1 less than the regular hourly rate of Communauto’s Le Lièvre package ($3.95 instead of $4.95 Monday to Friday, and $4.95 instead of $5.95 Saturday and Sunday – respectively up to $47.40 and $59.40 per day). A rate per kilometre travelled (currently at $0.12/km) applies in addition to the hourly rate. Details of the Le Lièvre package are available at the following link: [http://www.communauto.com/forfaitsABC_ENG.html](http://www.communauto.com/forfaitsABC_ENG.html) (please note that fees are subject to change).

In order to subscribe, this student was informed that he (she) will have to mention, when taking an appointment to subscribe to Communauto, that he (she) is a confirmed student member of the Post-Graduate Students' Society of McGill University and that he (she) wishes to subscribe to Communauto through the McGill group agreement. Moreover, he (she) is required to bring this signed letter and a valid student card to the subscription appointment.

For more information, please don’t hesitate to contact me.
Best regards,

______________________________
Ms. Marisa Boudreau
Services Coordinator
PGSS McGill
Phone: 514-398-3756
Fax: 514-398-1862
Email: services.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca
Objet : Confirmation de statut

Madame, Monsieur,

La présente est pour confirmer que __________________________________ est un(e) étudiant(e) membre de l’Association des étudiantes et étudiants des 2e et 3e cycles de l’Université McGill (PGSS-McGill). Il-elle peut donc adhérer au forfait Le Lièvre, et bénéficier actuellement d’un taux horaire spécial de 1 $ l’heure moins élevé que le forfait Le Lièvre ordinaire (3,95$ au lieu de 4,95$ du lundi au vendredi, et 4,95$ au lieu de 5,95$ le samedi et dimanche – respectivement jusqu’à concurrence de 47,40$ et 59,40$ par jour). Au taux horaire s’ajoute aussi un coût pour chaque kilomètre parcouru actuellement fixé à 0,12$/km. Les détails sur l’offre du forfait Le Lièvre sont disponibles à la page suivante : http://www.communauto.com/forfaitsABC.html (ces tarifs sont sujets à changement).

Pour s’inscrire, il-elle a été avisé(e) qu’il-elle devra mentionner, lors de la prise de rendez-vous pour son inscription à Communauto, qu’il-elle est étudiant(e) membre de l’Association des étudiantes et étudiants des 2e et 3e cycles de l’Université McGill (PGSS-McGill) et qu’il-elle souhaite souscrire à l’abonnement de collectivité de McGill chez Communauto. De plus, la présente lettre signée devra être apportée lors de l’inscription, ainsi que sa carte d’étudiant(e) valide.

Pour plus d’information, n’hésitez pas à me contacter.
Veuillez agréer, Madame, Monsieur, mes salutations distinguées.

__________________________
Mme Marisa Boudreau
Coordonnatrice des services
PGSS McGill
Téléphone: 514-398-3756
Télécopieur: 514-398-1862

Mme Marisa Boudreau
Coordonnatrice des services
PGSS McGill
Téléphone: 514-398-3756
Télécopieur: 514-398-1862
Appendix 2

The Executive Evaluation Committee June 25, 2010

Executive Reports:

We agree that executive reports should be largely standardized, accounting for the different roles of each executive and their unique personalities. We agree that the executive reports should have the following characteristics:

1.) title of executive;
2.) executive name;
3.) portfolio as described by the constitution, plus inherited or created duties in a list of priority, from first to last. This section should include:
   a). meetings;
   b). activities;
   c). events;
   d). dates
4.) A list of events and meetings that are known at the time of report submission.
5.) Further information and/or recommendations.

These reports should be capped at 2 pages maximum.
Example of an Executive Report:

VP External
Ryan Hughes

January 2010

Federal Representation:
1. Meeting with J. Smith (CBC journalist) regarding PGSS policy. (January 10)
2. Email exchange with J. Jones (Accountant) regarding the payment of bills. (January 11)
3. Telephone exchange with B. Johnson (Lawyer) regarding lawsuit. (January 17)
4. Creation of an affidavit. (January 25)
5. Meeting with External Affairs Committee regarding tuition. (January 26)

Upcoming:
1. Examination. (February 12)
2. Meeting with Concordia Student Union executives. (February 20)

Provincial Representation:
1. Meeting with P. Marois (Leader of the Opposition) regarding Post-doctoral issues. (January 11)
2. Teleconference with the FEUQ for a coordination committee meeting. (January 16)
3. Editing of a press release regarding rising tuition fees. (January 17)
4. Meeting with L. Duluth (President of FAÉCUM) regarding the ancillary fee action plan. (January 20)

Upcoming:
1. Conference. (February 22, 23, 24)

Public Relations:
1. Interview with E. Robertson (McGill Daily) regarding the PGSS position on corporate funding. (January 26)
2. Meeting with Heather Munroe Blum (Principal of McGill) regarding a joint SSMU/PGSS event. (January 27)

Upcoming:
1. Luncheon for Haiti relief efforts (January 29)

Campaigns:
1. Launched transit survey to PGSS members. (January 5)
2. Meeting with M. Viviani to negotiate a contract between the PGSS and Communauto. (January 7)
3. Teleconference with DAGS to discuss the GG13. (January 17)
4. Participated in panel discussion about tuition (Free Education Montreal). (January 18)

Upcoming:
1. Meeting with J. Tripp (NSERC) to discuss student participation on the Tri-Council (March 18)

Recommendations:
1. Review PGSS tuition policy.
2. A survey be planned to sample PGSS members regarding the rise of ancillary fees.

Further Information:
1. Free Education Montreal http://freeeducationmontreal.org/
2. CBC article http://www.cbc.ca/news/interactives/map-tuition-fees/
3. Provincial representation http://www.feuq.qc.ca/
Work Plan:

The work plan will be the structure upon which each executive will filter their activities. This work plan will be formulated during the summer months and outline the goals of the executive team as a whole and indicate how each executive will participate in achieving those goals. This work plan should be delivered to the executive-commissioner caucus meeting prior to council vote in September. This work plan should be presented to council in September for a vote, so that the executive are empowered to actualize the goals and activities outlined in the work plan once the work plan is enacted. The evaluation of the executives will use the progress of achieving the goals outlined in the work plan as a tool for measuring their performance (successes and failures). The presentation of the work plan has yet to be defined.

Evaluation Committee:

It has recommended that the burden of evaluation should not fall upon the council as a whole. A committee consisting of 5 members will evaluate the executive 2 times per year - during the months of December and March. This committee will be composed of 5 members: 2 members at large, a manager of the Thomson House, and 2 councillors. All members of this committee should not be affiliated with the Judicial Advisory Board, the Nominating Committee, nor should they be Commissioners. Each evaluation will be summarized into a report which will be forwarded to council the following meeting after the evaluation. The Committee will decide the chair and all decisions must be consensual. Furthermore, it is recommended that this Committee should meet 2 times per year, in addition to the evaluations to discuss the work plan and consult the executives. This Committee should measure weakness as well as the strengths of the executives.
Dear Councilors, Colleagues, Staff, Commissioners and Executives:

I hope you enjoyed the summer holiday. Welcome back to a new semester, new opportunities, new goals and new achievements. I would like to wish you all the best throughout this year. Kindly, find below my updates.

1. **PGSS VP-Academic Resignation:**

   Unfortunately, due to unforeseen family commitments that suddenly took place in July 2010, I have decided to resign by September 30th, 2010.

   After a year and a half of involvement in PGSS, taking this decision was not easy at all. But when it comes to family, family always takes the upper most priority in my life. Due to this, it appears to me that it will be impossible for me during the next while to fulfill my executive duties. Being an executive requires lots of devotion, commitment, and hard work to be up to the expectations of my colleagues who put their faith in me when they elected me. This is why, I prefer to fulfill both my promised PGSS work plan and PGSS commitments and then resign after ensuring a) stability in regards to the VP Academic Portfolio and b) a smooth transition for the next VP Academic.

2. **PGSS/University/Senate Committees:**

   As per the PGSS constitution, the main duty of the PGSS VP-Academic is to ensure proper student representation in Senate, Sub-Senate, University and PGSS Committees. Over the past month and a half, I have worked my hardest aiming to fulfill this duty prior to my leave.

   By a) Sending out special invitations to graduate and post-doctoral students via e-mails, word of mouth invitations at Thomson House, and special announcement at the newswire, and b) following up with interested candidates, answering their questions, encouraging them to join and maintaining an open communication channel with them; the results of this process have been phenomenal, a total of approximately 53 nomination forms that will need to be ratified by PGSS September Council.

   This is quite an achievement given the fact that lots of graduate and post-doctoral students are away in the summer.

   It is always great to give credit when credits are due. This is why, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Nominating Committee Members who dedicated 6 hours to fully study these nominations, interview candidates and deliver their recommendations to Council. In addition, I would like to extend my thanks to our PGSS service coordinator, Marisa Boudreau for her enormous support throughout this whole process.

3. **PGSS Maternity/Paternity Project:**

   I am currently in the process of finalizing the proposal of the PGSS Maternity/Paternity Project. My upcoming plan is to have feedbacks on it from the a) Family Care Committee. B) Executives C) Commissioners D) Staff and submit it to our PGSS October Council.

   Lobbying for this project on a provincial level via the FEUQ Chicoutimi Conference in January 2010 as well as on a national level on both the CAGS Halifax Conference in November 2009 and the UBC Child Care Conference in May 2010 was a great asset that allowed us to develop a wide network of feedback and support in regard to this project.

   Attending the UBC Conference in May was such a rewarding experience for all our hard work in the Maternity/Paternity Project. Our colleagues from different provinces across the country were so much impressed by our leading initiative and work plan in this project. Both UBC and U
of Alberta graduate student societies wanted to discuss with their executive teams launching out a survey similar to ours to assess the need of Mat/Pat at their universities.

In a 25 minutes power point presentation, I highlighted the initiative, motivation and work plan of our Mat/Pat project at the UBC Child Care Conference. Politicians attending the conference showed extreme support to the project which will help us once we present the project to the University and then go to Phase number II “Provincial and National Work Plan”.

In a 20 minutes interview with University Affairs in May and in August 2010, all aspects of our Maternity/Paternity project was discussed in depth. The article will be coming soon in the University Affairs October edition.

4. **PGSS University Affairs Website:**

Over the past two month, all information required to update our PGSS website were efficiently gathered. I am truly indebted to all our PGSS representatives in Senate, University and PGSS committees for their enormous help into providing us with these accurate detailed information.

5. **Thank You Note:**

I hope I succeeded to be up to your expectations and the expectations of my colleagues. Believe me when I say that PGSS was such a rewarding experience for me, an unforgettable journey that truly and meaningfully stamped my life with valuable knowledge, experience, ethics, and professionalism. I hope I succeeded to fulfill all what I promised and I hope you will remember me with good sweet memories whenever I pass by your mind. I will be surely remembering all of you and missing you so much. I wish you all "all the best of luck" in your future endeavors.

Please remember "Together, we can always make it happen". Please do your very best so that the Maternity/Paternity project be implemented on both university and provincial levels.

Last but not least, please rest assured that my present main focus is to fulfill both my PGSS Commitments and work plan while ensuring a smooth transition to the new VP-Academic. PGSS is my second family and I will never leave without ensuring optimal functionality for its Academic and University Affairs business.

> “Thank You All For Giving Me This Wonderful Opportunity of Representing You”
> “Together We Can Make It Happen”
> “The Future Belongs To Those Who Believe In The Beauty Of Their Dreams” → Roosevelt

Warmly and Respectfully,

Dahlia R. ElShafie
Vice-President, Academic and University Affairs
Post Graduate Student Society
McGill University
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
e-mail: academic.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca
During the month of July and August, the business at Thompson house slowed down significantly. This was expected and therefore not a surprise for us. The difference this year was that we managed to control our expenses better and this resulted in less deficit position for PGSS. By the end of August, the audit work started. Once the audit report is prepared, this report will be available for your review and will be also presented to the Board for approval. The auditor will be invited to speak to the board members. This would give a chance to investigate whether there are any areas of financial accountability we can further improve upon this year.

I have also worked on the grant applications. There were 12 applications in the last two months and one from the previous year that was carried forward. We approved over 90% of these applications. This high approval rate indicates: a) people are submitting proposals that are in line with the intent and purpose of PGSS grant policies. B) students are taking the accountability into their hands and handed in only the serious proposals worthy of public supports.

As part of my portfolio, I am searching for a candidate for the position of External member of the Board. We are looking into getting help in the area of restaurant management or day care services. Naturally, my recruitment efforts are focused on restaurateurs and day care providers. I am in the process of interviewing candidates and hope to finalize the position by the time we have our first Board meeting in the upcoming weeks.

As well, in collaboration with the operations manager of Thompson house, I will be developing programs to improve its operations in terms of efficiency, profitability and sustainability. We will continue to control the cost of food and labor, while developing a creative menu and marketing campaigns to make the Thompson house a more attractive meal time choice for students. We will also investigate whether we can improve our recycling programs and possibly introduce a compost ground for leftover food.

Thanks,

Natalie Lee
VP of Finance
VP Internal Report to Council

September 2, 2010

Prepared by: Magnus Bein

I have enjoyed the process of becoming engaged and active in the PGSS and working closely with the Executive, staff, and the IAC. I want to acknowledge the collective contribution of the President, VP External, admin staff, managers, and the members of the IAC.

1. Events

Over the summer we coordinated:
- The softball league tournament games, approximately 900 grad students were involved; the season closed with a party at Thomson House where approximately 100 people attended
- A bike tour along the Lachine Canal, where 12 people participated;
- A rafting adventure on the Lachine Rapids, where about 8 people attended

On August 31st we delivered a very successful Discover McGill orientation event at Thomson House for new post-grads. This event was co-organized with Teaching and Learning Services and the First Year Office. Approximately 1,000 post-grads attended the event, and we had the voluntary help from over a dozen PGSS members and representatives. Thanks also go to Thomson House staff that helped out in every aspect of the event.

Over the summer the IAC met five times and planned an ambitious program for September, with events in October already on the horizon. The events are attached to this report and IAC members are working to promote and prepare for the remaining events this month and complete the events program for October.

I seek input from Council on a PGSS-oriented event for new and returning post-grads that would provide an opportunity for recruitment and networking. The event would highlight the activities of the Society, its committees and programs, in a social atmosphere. Suggested dates include Oct. 13, 14, or 17, 2010. Please contact me at internal.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca or the Social Comissioner at social.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca.

2. Coordination

Unfortunately there are a number of members who have left the committee. There contribution will be missed. Furthermore there are a number of committee members whose terms will be ending in the next one to three months. Therefore, there are several vacancies that must be filled and we are actively seeking new recruits.

Also we are inviting non-voting members to the committee to aid integrated planning. The Events and Bar Manager regularly attends our meetings and the president of Mac Campus Grad Student Society has joined our GG. We are engaged with dialogue with
commissioners and committees (Family Care, Equity, Student Support, Environment, External), which have a social mandate, so that we can better, accommodate their needs in the events program.

The IAC has postponed development of its work plan, due to the priority of coordinating September events program and some major gaps of information. Currently there is a lack of past and current financial information to cost and plan expenses. Another gap is a clear purchasing procedure.

*I recommend that the procedures financial reporting for the Executive and Operations Manager be assessed and that the procedures for planning specific budgets and purchasing be documented in a format accessible to PGSS officers.*

3. Online Communications

The PGSS Internal Affairs has a Google Group (GG) at: [http://groups.google.com/group/pgssinternal?hl=en](http://groups.google.com/group/pgssinternal?hl=en) for coordinating meetings and events.

Google Applications account has been set up for the mail.mcgill.ca domain, this was done in the past. Anyone with an @mail.mcgill.ca account can subscribe at: [https://www.google.com/a/mail.mcgill.ca/](https://www.google.com/a/mail.mcgill.ca/). This tool provides web-based calendars and documents that can be selectively shared to other users @mail.mcgill.ca or made public by sharing links to content of interest. We are using these resources for organizing IAC business, but it can also be used to collaborate with other committees and communicate to a wider PGSS member audience.

In addition to Google Apps, PGSS has a FaceBook website. *I recommend that the PGSS website committee consider how to integrate these web-applications into the PGSS website and outline a simple procedure for managing content to encourage utility for staff and officers, and PGSS members.*
President’s Report September 2010

Welcome Back! I hope everyone had a restful and productive summer. Things are starting to pick up here at the PGSS and we need everyone refreshed and ready to go! As usual, things quieted down with the administration during July and August, which gave the executive time to plan the following year. Towards the end of August things started to pick up again.

I would like to congratulate everyone on a successful orientation. I spoke to many new students and service representatives during the August 31st orientation, and they all agreed it was a wonderfully successful event. Thanks to the IAC, VP Internal and all the volunteers for putting on a fabulous event. I would also like to extend my thanks to the Thomson House Staff who work tirelessly to see that the 800+ guests were served and content.

As you can see from the council documents, we have had two resignations; a commissioner and an executive. I am sad to lose such talented and committed people. However it is understandable as each of them has extenuating circumstances that will prevent them from completing their PGSS duties over the coming year. I would like to extend my thanks to Mr. James Grabowski and Ms. Dahlia ElShafie for their dedication and hard work for the PGSS. I hope that equally enthusiastic candidates are nominated for these positions.

The executive has agreed that it is important to increase the bilingualism of the PGSS. As a first step we have allotted funding to have the PGSS Constitution translated into French. A translator who has worked for us on previous occasions has agreed to take on the contract for a very competitive rate. Also, there is a possibility of funding from Heritage Canada to assist with this project. I have been working on the grant application for this program over the summer.

The change to GSA Fee Levy structure is an ongoing issue that will be dealt with over the coming year. I was able to have a preliminary meeting with some representatives from the affected GSAs on June 18th. However, due to contact and scheduling issue I have not been able to hold another meeting despite several attempts. I have had several meetings with the administration to discuss this issue and they have been helpful in providing relevant information regarding fee restructuring. I hope to hold a meeting with all of the fee levy GSAs mid-September, now that everyone should be back from vacation, held elections and checking their emails regularly.
Below is a summary of my important activities over the summer and the issues that they addressed.

**PGSS Activities**
- Meeting with Family Care Commissioner to discuss possible integration of Maternity/Paternity project with Family Care Committee. (June 4th)
- Preliminary meeting with GSA to discuss Fee Levy Change (June 18th)
- Executive Evaluations Committee (June 25th)
- Met with Family Care Commissioner to prepare for meeting with McGill Facilities (June 27th)
- Meeting with Jim Nicell, Associate VP University Services and Charles Alder, Director Campus Space and Planning, to discuss possibilities for day care space (June 28th)
- Meeting with SSMU to discuss possible joint homecoming events (August 30th)
- PGSS Orientation (August 31st)
- Meeting with ASEQ, Health Commissioner, VP Finance and Insurance Coordinator (2nd Sept.)

**University Representation**
- Meeting with Professor Kreiswirth, Associate Provost (Graduate Education) Dean Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (June 30th)
- Meeting with Professor Mendelson, Deputy Provost Student Life and Learning, regarding graduate program and GSA fees (June 6th)
- Rediscover McGill Event (August 25th)
- Meeting with Food and Dining Services to discuss sustainability projects and the possibility of including Thomson House in the McGill Meal Plan. (August 25th)
- Meeting with Student Accounts to discuss how fees are assessed and collected. (August 27th)
- Graduation Advisory Committee: round table discussion regarding the changes to graduate funding structure, namely the
phasing out of MIDAs and empowering recruiting units to allocate funding as they prefer. (August 31\textsuperscript{st})

- Meeting with Dean and Associate Dean of Students: Regarding graduation scarves given to McGill Indigenous graduates for convocation. This issue will be coming to next council. (August 31\textsuperscript{st})

**External Activities**
- FEUQ Training Camp (17\textsuperscript{th} -20\textsuperscript{th} June)
- Transit and Tuition Policy meeting at CSU (June 22\textsuperscript{nd})
- Meeting with ADESSE (June 13\textsuperscript{th})

**Important Upcoming Dates**
I have listed the following important meetings that I will be attending in September. If you have any issues that you would like me to address at these meetings please don’t hesitate to contact me.

**Representation**

*Committee for the Coordination of Student Services*
- First meeting of the year: September 13\textsuperscript{th} 2010

*Senate*
- Senates Steering Committee: September 14\textsuperscript{th} 2010
- Senate: September 22\textsuperscript{nd} 2010

*Board of Governors*
- Building and Property Committee: September 13\textsuperscript{th} 2010

*Policy*
- Meeting with Professor Mendelson: September 13th 2010
- Teaching and learning spaces work group September 13\textsuperscript{th} 2010

*Executive*
- Executive meetings: September 7\textsuperscript{th} and September 21\textsuperscript{st} 2010
- Executive Commissioner Caucus: September 15\textsuperscript{th} 2010
The PGSS Environment Commissioner Report  
PGSS Council Meeting September 8, 2010

The MCGSS-PGSSec Strawberry Social

The PGSSec hosted the annual MCGSS-PGSSec strawberry social on July 8. It drew over 80 people and provided an opportunity for graduate student to network. It has proven to be one of the most popular events at the Macdonald Campus during the year since it’s inception by the PGSSec several years ago.

Green Drinks

There were two Green Drinks events during the summer – one on the last Tuesday of July and the other on the last Monday of August (August 30). Films were shown at both events which were well attended. Chris Wrobel, who cofounded Green Drinks Montreal, has lined up several speakers for the fall, including talks on the global water crisis and commercial green roofs.

Green Night

The PGSSec organized Green Night for the third year on September 7. There was a talk on PGSSec and the state of the environment at McGill by Chris Wrobel, long time member of the PGSSec. Following this there was a presentation by Emily McGill, outreach coordinator of the McGill, Macdonald Student Run Ecological Garden Project. This was one of the first projects approved for funding by the panel that administrates the newly created Sustainability Projects Fund. The students ran a garden project very successfully on a quarter of an acre in the Horticulture Center on the Macdonald Campus. One of the project’s goals is to lay the basis for a student run farm on a larger piece of land. This would be used as a teaching tool and also provide food for student group activities and a possible student run cafeteria on the Macdonald campus. The PGSSec will have an awareness evening about the Sustainability Project Fund on September 21 in the Thomson House restaurant, which will feature a presentation by Lilith Wyeth, administrator of the Fund. The goal of this evening is to encourage more graduate students to initiate environmental projects which can be financed by this Fund. This event is similar to one that was organized as a bagel breakfast by the PGSSec on August 19 on the Macdonald Campus.

Goals for the year 2010-2011

The PGSSec met with the Internal VP of PGSS over the summer and will work with him and his committee on a number of environmental projects. One will be to find ways to further green Thomson House and PGSS events. Already Chris Wrobel of the PGSSec has linked the Operations Manager of Thomson
House with Mike Bleho who is manager of the Horticulture Center at the Macdonald Campus. This has led to purchases of produce from the Horticulture Center by Thomson House, thereby allowing the House to source more of its goods locally.
As this is the first session of council, at the start of the Fall 2010 semester, I will begin this report by introducing the members of the 2010-2011 Family Care Committee to the PGSS council: Dana Bailey, Hadil Al-Jallad, Irina Pivneva, Lerona Lewis, Laura Risk, Anyele Perbi, and Sara Thiam.

In order to assist our members in navigating the sometimes-foggy path of academic life while raising children, the Committee has written a pamphlet, titled “Raising a Family while in Graduate School.” Contained within this pamphlet is information that current and soon-to-be parents will find useful, and those who consider parenthood to be not yet on the horizon would still benefit in being made aware of what can be expected when they decide to expand their family. Thanks to Laura, Dana, Lerona and Sara for researching and writing the pamphlet, and again to Dana for designing it.

The Committee is also positioning itself to identify the needs of PGSS members balancing family and academic life, in order to best use the resources given to us by the PGSS council to support these members. To that end, we have put together a survey, available on our website (http://thomsonhouse.ca/wordpress/services-for-members/family-care-programme). We hope to be able to use the information obtained from the survey to prioritize our upcoming initiatives.

Among these new initiatives is the creation of more daycare spots for the children of PGSS members, either as an extension of an existing daycare, or as a standalone PGSS daycare. Even a casual investigation of the existing daycare situation in Montreal paints a grim picture: 7$/day, government-subsidized daycares completely filled to capacity, with 2 or 3 year waiting lists hundreds of names long. At present, the primary obstacle to the creation of more daycare spots is physical space. The Family Care Survey contains many questions on the daycare circumstances specific to PGSS members, and will be used to paint a clearer picture as to their specific needs, which in turn will help us to define the necessary space requirement. However, at present it is clear that a need for more spots does exist. The creation of these spots is a large and ambitious undertaking, and it will likely take some time for this project to materialize, and might be a completely fruitless exercise if not for the support of the PGSS Executive Committee, as well Jana Luker and McGill University Services for Students, for which the Family Care Committee is very grateful. Additionally, we’d like to thank Lisa Gallagher and Diana Tosi of the McGill Childcare Center, and Amy Vincent of the SSMU Daycare Center for their guidance, and Jim Nicell and Chuck Adler of McGill University Services for their help in identifying potential future locations.

Furthermore, the Family Care Committee recognizes that some of our members are facing financial hardships, significantly compounding to the normal stresses associated with graduate and post-doctoral work. This can be particularly straining on parents of young children, single parents and international and out-of-province Canadian students, who are ineligible for many of the government services available to Quebec-residents and, being away from home, lack the support of other family members. Therefore, the Committee wishes to allocate part of the resources marked for family care to alleviate some of their burden, weighing the proportion of the PGSS population within this demographic with the disproportionally-difficult and critical circumstances they are facing, as indicated by the survey.
In closing, the Family Care Committee would like to thank Aaron Winter and Yasser Rahrovani (2009-2010 Family Care Committee members) for their work and dedication to the cause of family-care during the 2009-2010 session of the PGSS council. We wish them the best of luck on their future endeavors.

Hadley Myers, Family Care Commissioner
September 8, 2010
Nominating Committee Report to Council

The Nominating Committee recommends the following committee appointments to PGSS Council.

University Committees

Arts Faculty Council Isabel Galiana
Science Faculty Council Sarah Wilson
CGPS (arts) Isabel Galiana
CGPS (engineering) Ben Akih Kumegh
CGPS (post-doc) Johans Fakoury
CGPS (science) Sanket Joshipura
CGPS (medicine) Yang Ding
Committee for Student Services Jerome Le Boeuf
Shamel Addas
CAPS-C Jerome Le Boeuf
First Year Advisory Committee Sophia Kapchinsky
Senate Committee on Physical Development Faisal Naqib
SCPD Sub-Committee on the Environment Etienne Low-Decarie
Sustainability Policy Workgroup Sarah Reiling
University Health and Safety Graeme Watson
Advisory Committee on Ancillary Services Christopher Godbout
Intellectual Property Appeals Committee Matthew Morantz
Committee on Technology Transfer Shamel Addas
Research Advisory Committee Barbara Stefanska
Committee on Student Affairs
Sub-Committee on Academic Integrity Kristin Dawson
Committee on Student Discipline Roland Nassim
Committee on Student Grievances Vikrant Bhosle
Appeals Committee on Student Discipline and Grievances Leron Vandsburger
Advisory Committee on the Charter of Student Rights Lili Li
Joint Senate-Board Committee on Equity Md Muminul Islam Chy
JSCBE Sub-Committee on Women Erin Lafferty
JSCBE Sub-Committee on Queer People Michael Dodge
JSCBE Sub-Committee on Disabilities Nathalie Blanchard
JSCBE Sub-Committee on First People Stephen Peters
Principal's Prize for Excellence in Teaching
Honourary Degrees and Convocation Committee
Penny Toliopoulos
Jenna Fong

Schulich Library Advisory Committee
Humanities and Social Sciences
Library Advisory Committee
Junhui Zhang
Anna Lewton-Brain

Committee on Enrolment and Student Affairs
Administrative Advisory Committee on
Enrolment and Student Affairs
Teaching and Learning Spaces Workgroup
Rujun Song
Nabil Saliba
Margaret Smithglass

PGSS Committees
Grants Review Committee
Jimmy Peng
Sophia Kapchinsky

Policy and Structure Advisory Committee
Sarah Ko
Michael Dodge

Committee on Monetary Affairs
Daniel Simeone

Judicial Advisory Board
Michael Dodge

Constitution Committee
Jonathan Whitely

Internal Affairs Committee
Yoon Chi

External Affairs Committee
Sophia Kapchinsky
Marieve Isabel

University Affairs Committee
Ahmed Ali Abumazwed

Committee for Graduate Student Support
Yoon Chi

Equity Committee
Sophia Kapchinsky

Nominating Committee Report to the PGSS Board of Directors
For the information of Council, the PGSS Nominating Committee has recommend to the PGSS Board of Directors that Michael Dodge from the Faculty of Law, and Adrian Kaats from the Faculty of Engineering, be appointed to the PGSS Board of Directors.
Family Care Programme
(Family Care Committee)
BIRT the following regulation be adopted for the Family Care Programme.

1 The total amount available, on an annual basis, for the Family Care Programme shall be determined in the annual PGSS budgeting process.

2 The Family Care Committee (hereinafter FCC) shall be responsible for the administration and management of the Family Care Programme (hereinafter FCP) in accordance with the provisions herein contained. All family-care-related initiatives undertaken by PGSS shall fall within the scope of the FCP.

Additionally, the funds allocated for support for graduate-student and post-doctoral parents by the PGSS council in the annual PGSS budget shall be divided amongst various projects determined to be beneficial to PGSS parents by the FCC, after approval by the PGSS Executive Committee, including for the direct financial support of PGSS members who are parents and are facing financial hardship.

3 The FCC, after due deliberation of any application for financial support from the FCP is responsible for determining the merit of the application. The FCC is responsible for determining, within the limits of this Regulation, and other relevant Bylaws and Regulations, the amount of financial support awarded and any terms, and or conditions, associated with any support rendered. The final decision of the FCC may contain terms and conditions which the FCC believes are necessary to protect the administration, management and integrity of the FCP.

4 The FCC will ensure complete confidentiality of any applications submitted for financial support, subject to reasonable measures to secure sufficient information deemed necessary to accurately assess the merit of an application for financial support. Notwithstanding the preceding, non-personal data of a statistical nature may be made public.

5 Procedures

5.1 Eligibility

5.1.1 Only regular members of the Post Graduate Students' Society are eligible to apply for and receive financial support from the FCP.

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.

5.1.3 An applicant must be able to demonstrate financial hardship.

5.1.4 An applicant must be able to show proof of financial expenditures due to child-related expenses. Particularities of an applicant's situation that render a situation difficult are to be considered when making eligibility determinations. Academic considerations take priority in this consideration.

5.2 Application
The application for assistance under the FCP shall include the following information:

5.2.1 Proof of regular PGSS member status.
5.2.2 Most recent completed and filed federal and provincial tax assessment receipts.

5.2.3 A summary of estimated monthly child-related expenses.

5.2.4 Any other information required for the FCC to ascertain a true and complete picture of the applicants financial situation. Failure to provide the necessary information is sufficient grounds for a rejection of an application for financial support.

5.2.5 Any applicant found to have made application under false pretenses will be required to immediately return any funds disbursed. The FCC may request additional information in order ensure that applications are truthful, and that the needs-based criteria are being met. Failure to provide the necessary information is sufficient grounds for the FCC to require the immediate repayment of funds disbursed.

5.3 Consideration of Applications

5.3.1 All applications shall be considered in depth by at least two (2) members of the FCC, who will return with a recommendation to the full committee.

5.3.2 A decision to award financial support to an applicant must receive the approval of a majority of the voting members, and a least four (4) votes in the affirmative.

5.3.3 The FCC is normally expected to have rendered a decision within the month following submission deadlines.

5.4 Tiers of Funding

5.4.1 There shall be three (3) tiers of funding available.

5.4.2 Tier I funding, to a maximum of $3000, is available for individuals demonstrating significant financial hardship, particularly single-parents and parents/guardians of multiple children, in relation to child-care expenses.

5.4.3 Tier II funding, to a maximum of $1500, is available for individuals demonstrating moderate financial hardship, in relation to child-care expenses.

5.4.4 Tier III funding, to a maximum of $500, is available for individuals demonstrating some financial hardship, in relation to child-care expenses.

5.5 Distribution of Funds

5.5.1 There shall be two annual application periods, one in the Fall semester and one in the Winter semester.

5.5.2 An applicant may apply in both periods, but preference will be given to applicants who have not yet received funding in the academic year.

5.5.3 Disbursement of funds will take place up to the maximum amount of the allotted tier at the end of the application process. Records or receipts for child-care expenses may be required before disbursement of the fund is made.

5.5.4 Any approved application must be signed by the VP-Finance or President before payment may be made.
6 Conflict of Interests

6.1 The Family Care Commissioner shall ensure that a member of the committee not review his or her own application.

6.2 PGSS Executives and Commissioners are not eligible for FCP funding.

6.3 Any member of the FCC must declare a conflict of interest with respect to a particular application, and not examine or vote on any issues relating to an application with which the committee member has the conflict.

7 Feedback:

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.

8 Annual Report:
The FCC shall submit an annual report to the Annual General Meeting of the Society. This report shall contain at the very least the following information:

8.1 The total number of applications for financial support submitted to the FCP.

8.2 The total amount of financial support distributed from the FCP.

8.3 Basic statistical information on the members helped by the FCP.

8.4 A general description of the difficulties facing student-parents.
Policy on the Conduct of Research

Preamble

Universities play a fundamental role in advancing knowledge. When used in ways that do not harm society, research conducted at universities directly contributes to social well-being, health, culture and economic development.

Academic freedom, including the freedom of inquiry and the freedom to communicate ideas and results, is essential to University research and innovation. Hence, researchers and students should be encouraged to publicly present their research, regardless of the funding agency. However, academic freedom also obliges students, researchers and institutions to understand the ethical and moral guidelines that apply to their research, and to make every effort to conduct it in a moral, ethical and legal way. All research and scholarship must be governed by the principles of honesty, integrity, transparency, trust, accountability and collegiality. Researchers should have a reasonable knowledge of precedents concerning similar research with regards to its potential harmful effects on society, and should apply this knowledge to guide their research.

Regulations on the conduct of research should govern both the content and method with which research is being conducted. They should help maintain the highest moral and ethical values within research and scholarship; they should be committed to transparency that enriches the reporting of research; and they should ensure that research is neither done in a way nor has outcomes that are directly harmful to society.

Policy

The PGSS supports:
1. A policy that explicitly acknowledges the central role of graduate students in research at the University.
2. Regulations that ensure research cannot be conducted if implicit or explicit conditions of the funding purport or recommend any conclusion.
   a. Transparency in reporting sources of funding, with no anonymous funding directed at specific research efforts.
3. That any contract or binding agreement, including military and private industry partnerships, should allow students and researchers to publicly present their research findings in a timely fashion.
4. Appropriate recognition of student contributions to any scholarly or non-scholarly publication.

5. Regulations that urge researchers to be aware of potentially harmful applications of their research, including obvious uses by supporting agencies and sponsors. Any research deemed harmful by researchers or review committees should be strongly discouraged and subject to strict review and regulation.

6. A clear definition of “harmful applications” of research, in order to guide researchers when weighing the potentially harmful applications of their research against the benefits.

7. Awareness and adherence to the ethical guidelines of applicable research domains, areas or disciplines by all researchers throughout their research.

8. That any policy regulating the conduct of research should be reviewed at the third year of its operation by a working group that includes both graduate and undergraduate representation.
The PGSS environment committee presents

Green Night

An introduction to the environment at McGill

A PGSS Orientation event
Thomson House, 3650 McTavish
Tuesday, Sept. 7

Mix at 5:00 PM
Talk at 6 PM
Free Refreshments
The PGSS environment committee invites you to an awareness evening about

The Sustainability Projects Fund

WHEN: September 21 at 5 PM
WHERE: The Thomson House Restaurant
GUEST SPEAKER: Lilith Wyatt
Sustainability Projects Fund Administrator
Free Refreshments

www.sustainabilityprojectsfund.info
Discover McGill Graduate Orientation  
(New students only, register online with the First Year Office)  
Tuesday, August 31, from 4:30-7:30 PM  
The Discover McGill Graduate Orientation Open House and Welcome event is for all McGill incoming graduate students and postdoctoral scholars. Meet and mingle with Faculty Deans, members of your department, and new colleagues over wine and cheese. Take advantage of the opportunity to learn about the support services at McGill as well!

New Grad Student Orientation Mac Campus  
@ CC Ballroom, Macdonald Campus  
Thursday, September 9, from 2:00-5:00 PM  
Macdonald Campus Graduate Student Society is hosting the Fall Graduate Student Orientation! This wine and cheese event will inform students about the services available on Macdonald Campus, and representatives from various departments and services will be on-hand to answer any questions. All new graduate students to Macdonald campus are strongly encouraged to attend!

Green Night  
Tuesday, September 7, from 5:00-7:00 PM  
Come and learn about the state of the environment at McGill and the PGSS environment committee. There will be free refreshments: traditional and homemade dishes from the garden.

House Warming Party  
Friday, September 10, doors 9:00 PM  
Three DJ’s, three Floors! Come to dance, try our drink specials and meet tons of people at the PGSS house warming party. Perfect start for a new academic year!

Outing: Edible Campus Tour ($, r)  
Saturday, September 11, from 12:30-4:30 PM  
Experience ecological agriculture first-hand with the McGill Macdonald Student-Run Ecological Garden. Taste-test heirloom tomatoes with fresh vegetables grown right on Macdonald Campus! Learn more about McGill edible campus and food production initiatives.

Outing: Walk Mount Royal (r)  
Sunday, September 12, from 1:00-4:00 PM  
Come discover the mountain that is literally McGill's back yard. This leisurely hike will explore the trails and sites this unique park has to offer, including an ascent to the Chateau du Mont-Royal lookout. Trail difficulty is easy.

AfriGrand Caravan  
Thursday, September 16, starts at 5 PM  
African grandmothers and granddaughters cross Canada from September to November on a tour to engage thousands of Canadians as global citizens in the struggle to turn the tide of HIV/AIDS in Africa.

Speed Dating (r)  
Monday, September 20, from 6:00-8:00 PM  
Exclusive to grads and postdocs. Find "the one", or just make new friends. Be sure to register early! $2.00 per person.

Sustainability Fund  
Tuesday, September 21, starts at 5:00 PM  
The Sustainability Projects Fund, established last semester by McGill students, is for building a culture of sustainability among the campus community. Learn about the criteria used to judge a student submitted project from Lliith Wyeth, Fund admin.

Karaoke  
Friday, September 24, starts at 7 PM  
Come and enjoy a meal or a drink in the Thomson House Restaurant while impressing your friends with your singing abilities on a wide collection of songs.

Outing: Quebec City ($, r)  
Saturday, September 25, all day from 8:00 AM - 8:30 PM  
Spend the day touring to the capital of Quebec and soak in the sights of one of Canada's oldest cities.

Green Drinks  
Tuesday, September 28, starts at 5 PM  
Take part in the Montreal chapter of Green Drinks hosted by

Events are held at Thomson House, located on 3650 McTavish, unless otherwise indicated. Please register for events marked with “r” at the PGSS office, room 401, at least one week in advance of the event. Those with a cost are indicated with “$”. Drop by the PGSS office with questions and to register. Please see the website for more details at: http://pgss.mcgill.ca/.
the PGSS Environment Committee, one of over 600 worldwide. As a regular forum, people from various backgrounds can meet to exchange ideas about the environment.

**Trivia Night**  
*Tuesday, September 28, starts at 7 PM*  
Join us for this popular monthly event. Arrive early with your team of 5 or join an existing team, and compete for glory and prizes!

**Oktober Fest**  
*Thursday, September 30, starts at 6:00 PM*  
Come to have a fun time and celebrate the age-old Bavarian tradition with drinks, music and much more.

**1st Annual Science & Policy Exchange**  
*Thursday, October 7, from 1:00-8:00 PM*  
What role should science play in the development of public policy? Come find out at this joint event with PGSS and Student Society of McGill University (SSMU). Keynote speakers and panels on: economic growth & environmental sustainability, ingenuity & entrepreneurship, and a session on grassroots policy development for scientists & engineers looking for ways to get involved.

**Bollywood Night ($, r)**  
*Friday, October 8, starts at 6 PM*  
To raise funds to benefit flood victims in Pakistan, we are holding a three course dinner and performances by internationally renowned artists such as classical Indian performer Amrita Choudhry, the fusion dance group Bollywood Blast and professional Belly dance artist Marmar Marzban.
Executives
VP External Ryan Hughes

Councilors

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 ElShafie, 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.
AGENDA

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

2. SPEAKER'S REPORT

2.1 Trial Period of Altered Council Agenda Order

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

3.1 Equity and Diversity Workshop for PGSS (Equity Commissioner)

3.2 Aboriginal Affairs Workgroup (Linda Starkey)

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

4.1 C11-09-#02

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES AND STANDING ORDERS

5.1. Motion R11-10-#22 - To accept Nominating Committee Recommendations

5.2. Motion R11-10-#23 - To elect candidates to the Nominating Committee

5.3. Motion R11-10-#24 – PGSS-GPS Grants Programme

5.4. Motion R11-10-#25 To elect a Vice-President Academic

5.5. Motion R11-09-#19 Executive Evaluation Committee

5.6. Motion R11-09-#20 • Policy on the Conduct of Research

5.7. Motion R11-09-#21 • Motion of Censure

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1. Motion R11-10-#26 - Budget Amendment

6.2. Motion R11-10-#27 Corporate Sponsorship

6.3. Motion R11-10-#28 Committee-of-the-Whole on the Health Insurance Survey

6.4. Motion R11-10-#29 Student Services Fee Levy Referendum

6.5. Motion R11-10-#30 Aboriginal Affairs Workgroup

6.6. Motion R11-10-#31 Suspension of Privileges

6.7. Motion R11-10-#32 Commissioner Attendance

6.8. Motion R11-10-#33 Petition Percentages (Article)

6.9. Motion R11-10-#34 Petition Percentages (Bylaw)

6.10. Motion R11-10-#35 Executive Attendance at Council

6.11. Motion R11-10-#36 Removal from Office

6.12. Motion R11-10-#37 Complaints Committee

6.13. Motion R11-10-#38 Financial Reporting

7. EXECUTIVE REPORTS
7.1. VP EXTERNAL
7.2. VP ACADEMIC
7.3. VP FINANCE
7.4. VP INTERNAL
7.5. PRESIDENT

8. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

8.1. ELECTIONS COMMISSIONER
8.2. EQUITY COMMISSIONER
8.3. SENATE COMMISSIONER
8.4. ENVIRONMENT COMMISSIONER
8.5. HEALTH COMMISSIONER
8.6. SOCIAL COMMISSIONER
8.7. STUDENT SUPPORT COMMISSIONER
8.8. FAMILY CARE COMMISSIONER

9. OTHER REPORTS

10. QUESTION PERIOD

5. Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders

5.1. Motion R11-10-#22 - 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;

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
5.2. Motion R11-10-#23 - To elect candidates to the Nominating Committee

(... / …)

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

5.3. Motion R11-10-#24 – PGSS-GPS Grants Programme

(VP-Finance / ..)

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
5.4. Motion R11-10-#25 To elect a Vice-President Academic

(President/ ...)

WHEREAS the position of Vice-President Academic is open,

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

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 These sections shall include:
12.1.3.1 Committee meetings;
12.1.3.2 Events attended;
12.1.3.4 Activities;
12.1.3.5 Corresponding dates;
12.1.3.6 Upcoming events, if applicable;
12.1.3.7 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 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.

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

5.7. Motion R11-09-#21 · Motion of Censure
(VP-External/...)

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.
6. New Business

6.1. Motion R11-10-#26 - Budget Amendment

(VP-External/..)

BIRT $9,000 be removed from the budget reserved for the "Researcher/Archivist" and placed into the "Executive Special Projects" pool.

6.2. Motion R11-10-#27 Corporate Sponsorship

(VP-Finance /..)

where as 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.

6.3. Motion R11-10-#28 Committee-of-the-Whole on the Health Insurance Survey

(Health Commissioner /...)

BIRT Council enter Committee-of-the-Whole for 10 minutes to discuss the proposed survey regarding the PGSS health insurance plan.

6.4. Motion R11-10-#29 Student Services Fee Levy Referendum

(Health Commissioner/...)

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”

6.5. Motion R11-10-#30 Aboriginal Affairs Workgroup

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 Scarfs 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.

6.6. Motion R11-10-#31 Suspension of Privileges

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”
6.7. Motion R11-10-#32 Commissioner Attendance

(J. Mooney /...)

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.”

6.8. Motion R11-10-#33 Petition Percentages (Article)

(J. Mooney/...)

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.”

6.9. 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.”

“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.”

6.10. Motion R11-10-#35 Executive Attendance at Council

(J. Mooney /...)

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.

6.11. Motion R11-10-#36 Removal from Office

(J. Mooney/..)

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

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.
6.12. **Motion R11-10-#37 Complaints Committee**

(M. Krause / ..)

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.

6.13. **Motion R11-10-#38 Financial Reporting**

(VP-Finance /..)

where as current policy does not specify who should report to VP of Finance matters that pertain to finance that arise from various PGSS executive and non-executive meetings,

it be resolved that the minute takers of each meeting report to VP Finance any matters that pertain to finance. i.e. reallocation of funding. Specifically, the minute taker should note any reallocation of funding and any other financial decisions to VP of finance via email or other written format within 7 days following the meeting.

the minute takers who will report to VP of finance are :

Executive meeting - President

Caucus Meeting - President

Board of Directors: VP-Finance

Social events and VP internal meetings - VP-Internal

Committee meetings - the commissioner in charge.
Report of the Speaker

After discussion with the Executive, and at the request of a Councillor, I have taken the liberty of arranging the Council package with ‘New Business’ immediately following ‘Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders.’

This will require explicit approval by Council, as the order is set in Regulation (else we will revert to the usual order). This trial arrangement has as its goal to deal with the sense of frustration some Councillors feel about Council not being able to dispose with the business at hand.

If there are any concerns or questions, please feel free to discuss this with me. For this to become a permanent change, modification of the Council regulation would be required.

Respectfully,
Daniel Simeone,
Speaker of Council
Provincial Representation:
1. Email exchange with L. Viau (President of the CNCS) regarding research aid. (September 14)
2. Meeting of the Coordinating Committee (FEUQ members) regarding the annual campaign. (September 20)
3. Meeting with A. Campeau (VP of the FEUQ) regarding updates, media campaign. (September 21)
4. Email/telephone exchange with L.P. Savoie (President of the FEUQ) regarding media relations. (September 22 - 25)
5. Meeting with M. Desjardins, S. Béland, and J.F. Meilleur from ADEESE (UQAM student association/FEUQ member) regarding future collaborations, FEUQ structure and tuition. (September 24)
6. Email exchange with L. Viau (President of the CNCS) regarding family care research. (September 28)

Public Relations:
1. Attended event (Orientuition) at the Concordia GSA regarding tuition in Quebec. (September 13)
2. Meeting with J. Poissant (Engineers Without Borders) regarding collaboration. (September 15)
3. Meeting with M. Zaidi (VP External of the SSMU) regarding upcoming events and general updates. (September 15)
4. Attended MGSS meeting. (September 15)
5. Meeting with A. Brovkin regarding the redesign of the PGSS website and future work (PGSS Web Designer). (September 17)
6. Attended web launch and debate at the Redpath Museum. (September 23)
7. Attended SEDE Calendar launch at the Faculty Club. (September 28)

Initiatives:
1. Attended several “Science & Policy Exchange” meetings along with detailed telephone and email correspondence. (September)
2. Meeting with L. Wyatt (SPF Administrator) regarding the Sustainability Projects Fund. (September 14)
3. Signed contract with M. Viviani (Director of Development and Public Relations for Communauto) regarding the PGSS/Communauto deal. (September 17)
4. Attended “Save the Architecture Café” protest. (September 22)

Upcoming:
1. Marketing the PGSS/Communauto deal. (October)
2. Launching Survey to sample PGSS students regarding tuition fees. (October)

Campaigns:
1. Telephone conversation with A. Bertrand (Canada Revenue Agency) regarding a proposed tax seminar for November with M. Viviani to negotiate a contract between the PGSS and Communauto. (September 10)
2. Meeting with A. Severyns (VP External of the CSU) regarding the proposed panel discussion between QSR, FEUQ, ASSÉ, and FECQ. (September 17)
3. Meetings with M. Rozworski (VP External of AGSEM) and M. Zaidi (VP External of the SSMU) regarding the joint panel discussion on university underfunding scheduled for October 22. (September 20 and 28)
4. Meeting with A. Severyns and M. Zaidi regarding several proposed campaigns/initiatives. (September 28)

**Upcoming:**
1. AGSEM/PGSS/SSMU panel discussion on university underfunding. (October 22)
2. CSU/PGSS panel discussion between the major student unions in Quebec. (October 13)

**Further Information:**
Late August and September were full of media activity. The following are a list of links to interviews and letters.
1. [http://mcgilldaily.com/articles/32078](http://mcgilldaily.com/articles/32078)
2. [http://mcgilldaily.com/articles/33213](http://mcgilldaily.com/articles/33213)
4. [http://mcgilldaily.com/articles/33077](http://mcgilldaily.com/articles/33077)
5. [http://www.charlutan.ca/content/mcgill-mba-tuition-increase-causes-outrage](http://www.charlutan.ca/content/mcgill-mba-tuition-increase-causes-outrage)

The Science & Policy Exchange, featuring Elizabeth May, Philippe Couillard, Marc Garneau and a host of other leaders in their respective fields will take place on October 7, 2010. For more information: [http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/sciencepolicyexchange/](http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/sciencepolicyexchange/)

Register now.
Hello! It has barely been three weeks since our last council meeting but they have been busy! I have included an update on some of the more recent projects that happened this September. At the end of my report you will find and update from all the meetings I attended this month in addition to the schedule of upcoming meetings and events. If you have anything you would like me to address at these meetings please contact me at: prez.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca. A key part of my role as president is to express and defend the interested of the post graduate students. In keeping open channels of communication I can be sure that I have an accurate picture at all time.

The Heritage Canada grant application for the Constitution translation project has been finished with the help of our new hired researcher. The final touches will be put on over the next week and it should be submitted by the time you are reading this at council.

I would like to welcome Marie-Noelle Huet as the PGSS researcher for this year. The executive team is very excited to have Marie Noelle on board. She is already hard at work and has produced a very nice article on the history of Thomson House. Her next projects are more substantial and include research into tuition models and accreditation of student societies.

The closure of the Architecture Café is an issue close to the hearts of many students, graduate and post graduate. It is the unfortunate reality that McGill took the initiative to close the Café without appropriate student consultation. I will be working closely with the SSMU president and Administration to see how we can resolve the closure of the café. The probability of the café reopening is slim, even with the pressure the student body is putting on the McGill Administration. There have been question put forward at Senate and the Board of Governors, both of which meet with firm responses. The Food and Dining Advisory committee was more receptive to student concerns and has promised to release the information and reports that led to the closure of the café. In the near future I hope that a committee will be formed to look at the documentation and decision making process that led to the closure and decide on the future use of the space.

To address the motion on the Aboriginal Convocation Scarf, council will have a guest speaker beforehand to give a brief preamble and motivation. The Associate Dean of Student, Linda Starkey, will be present at council to give a brief description of the Ceremonial Scarf initiative and answer any questions you might have regarding it. I feel that this is a great way that the McGill community can recognize aboriginal culture and students. I urge you to read the enclosed documentation with the council package and to voice any questions or concerns you might have.
Updates from meetings attended in September:

PGSS Activities
  o Audit review: September 16th
    o Went over draft audit with Operations Manager, Auditor and Executives

University Representation
  o SPF meeting with Sustainability Projects Administrator Lilith Waytt: September 14th
    o Discussed how PGSS could get more involved with project and promotion of SPF
  o Meeting with Security Services: September 20th
    o Discussed holding workshops on personal safety and installations of theft prevention devices for PGSS members
    o Promotion of Events
  o Heritage Web Launch at Redpath Museum: September 23rd
    o McGill Heritage Collections are now cataloged online
  o Food and Dining Advisory Committee: September 30th
    o Architecture café, Nutritional Labeling Project, Sustainability Initiatives, Survey Results, Residence Dining Halls

Committee for the Coordination of Student Services
  o First meeting of the year: September 13th 2010→ Cancelled

Senate
  o Senates Steering Committee: September 14th 2010
  o Senate: September 22nd 2010
    o Questions were asked regarding innovation initiatives on campus, change in tuition policy for international students taking second language courses, closure of the architecture café, the Athletics Board and the Commission Parlementaire.
    o Reports of interest include Research performance and Residences

Board of Governors
  o Building and Property Committee: September 13th 2010
    o Presentation on Residences
    o Grant application for improving Redpath Museum accessibility
    o Report on purchases, leases and major construction projects
    o Update on Deferred Maintenance
  o Board of Governors: September 28th
    o Legal Information Clinic and the Tribune both passed their MOAs
    o Presentation on Research Performance
Policy
- Meeting with Professor Mendelson: September 13th 2010
  - Discussed closure of Architecture café
  - Discussed change in tuition policy for extra courses taken by graduate students
  - Discussed time to completion requirement for PhD students

Executive
- Executive meetings: September 7th and September 22nd 2010
  - See minutes
- Executive Commissioner Caucus: September 15th 2010
  - See minutes

Important Upcoming Dates
I have listed the following important meetings that I will be attending in September. If you have any issues that you would like me to address at these meetings please don't hesitate to contact me.

Representation
- Meeting with Isabelle Daoust Ph.D., Director, Recruitment and Retention, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies October 5th
  - Graduate student experience at McGill and what can be done to enhance it.
- Meeting with Dean Kreiswirth October 6th & 21st
  - Time to Completion requirement
- Science and Policy Exchange: October 7th
- Graduate Advisory Committee October 18th
  - Funding mechanisms
- Meeting with Principal Monroe Blum: October 27th
- Campus Community All Members Meeting: October 29th

Committee for the Coordination of Student Services
- First meeting: October 4th

Senate
- Senate Steering October 15th
- Senate: October 20th
- Joint Senate and Board of Governors Meeting: October 25th
  - Topic: Graduate Studies

Board of Governors
- Executive Committee: October 25th
Policy
Policy and Structure Advisory Committee: TBD

Executive
Executive meetings October 5th and 19th

Executive Commissioner Caucus: TBD
Tarek Hamade
PGSS Elections Commissioner

During the September 8, 2010 council meeting, the elections for the Senate and Library Commissioner were held. The elected winner was Alexandre De Guise.
Equity Commissioner’s Report to Council – September 29, 2010

Seeing as this is my first report to Council, I will outline what the Equity Committee (EqC) and I have done during the months of both August and September.

1. We designed an equity brochure in collaboration with the Committee for Graduate Student Support (CGSS) and the Association of Graduate Student Employed at McGill (AGSEM). We printed 300 brochures, which described who CGSS, EqC and AGSEM are and the services we offer students, as well as providing a comprehensive list of resources available on campus for those who feel that they have not been treated equitably or who may need support of some kind.

2. We were present at the PGSS Orientation event for graduate students, and handed out brochures while giving students information about how to get involved with PGSS.

3. The Joint Senate-Board Committee on Equity (JSBCE) meeting scheduled for September 20, 2010 was cancelled by the administration without any reason provided.

4. I represented the EqC and PGSS at the Social Equity and Diversity Education (SEDE) office calendar launch on September 28, 2010. There were quite a few students there, but most were undergraduates. There were also several key members of McGill administration and I had an opportunity to connect with a few of them.

5. We have two upcoming events:

(1) **Equity 5 à 7 on Wednesday, October 20**<sup>th</sup> **for all people working on equity issues on campus**, co-organized with SEDE and SSMU. This is a meet and great to encourage people to network and to connect with others who may be working on similar issues on campus;

(2) **Equity & Diversity workshop on Wednesday, October 27**<sup>th</sup> **from 6-7pm** (snacks will be provided), **designed specifically for PGSS executives, commissioners, and councilors**. The workshop aims to equip graduate leaders at McGill with skills to integrate diversity and inclusivity into their decision-making, planning, and activities. The workshop covers the basic concepts of diversity, but also emphasizes the practical application of basic and intermediate level understandings of diversity. The workshop will be facilitated by Tynan Jarrett, Queer and Trans Advisor, and Sarah Malik, Racial and Ethnocultural Diversity Advisor, of the SEDE (Social Equity and Diversity Education) Office. SEDE is the main body of McGill providing various forms of education, community-building, and consultation services on issues of diversity and equity. **You are all very welcome to attend.**

Please RSVP with your name, faculty, and PGSS position to equity.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca by Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>. 


Members of PGSS,

I hope that you are all easing into the fall semester, and that the pressure hasn't built up to high just yet!

This month there are two key issues to report on, one of which I'm sure you've been hearing about around campus. The closure of the Architecture Café by the administration has created quite an uproar, particularly amongst the SSMU executive. A question was brought to the Senate meeting this month by the SSMU members which lead to a tense discussion about the Café's future. We shall see how this develops in due time. If you have any strong opinions about this matter, please feel free to email me and let me know.

On a wholly different note, over the course of the year, the Academic Policy Committee plans on engaging in a number of discussions about some of the fundamental academic issues we are facing today. One of the first issues to be discussed is the notion of interdisciplinarity. While this term is often deployed in academic discourse, the definition of what it actually constitutes is somewhat vague, and this can lead to complications in everyday practices within the University. Many of you are working in fields that have been labelled as "interdisciplinary," and thus I would be very interested in hearing what this notion/term means to you, particularly with respect to your day to day experiences. Please let me know as soon as possible if you have any thoughts on this matter.

I wish you all the best in the coming month.

Alexander DeGuise
Senate & Library Commissioner
The PGSS Environment Commissioner Report
PGSS Council Meeting October 6, 2010

Sustainability Projects Awareness Evening

The PGSSec had an awareness evening for the newly created Sustainability Projects Fund (SPF) at McGill. The guest speakers were Lilith Wyeth, administrator of the Fund, and Laura Rhodes, the newly hired Food Systems Coordinator of the McGill Dining Services. Ms. Rhodes position was created as a result of the SPF and it entails promoting sustainable purchasing practices by the McGill Dining Services. In her presentation Ms. Wyeth covered the Fund’s background and went through the criteria that are used to decide on projects that are submitted. The deadline for this semester’s submission will be October 22. Ms. Rhodes described her position and some of the initiatives that she is pursuing, such as the sourcing of seafood that are harvested sustainably. She also revealed that most produce that is now being purchased for the McGill Residence cafeteria system is coming from the Macdonald Campus Horticulture Center. Many of the graduate students that were present had an interest in applying for the Fund. Questions revolved around how to integrate their respective research into the application for funds. The PGSSec will be exploring the possibility of making an application to the Fund to further green Thomson House. We will be having a preliminary meeting about this with the Operations Manager of Thomson House and the Internal VP of PGSS in the near future.

Green Drinks Montreal

The PGSSec hosted a Green Drinks Montreal event on September 28 in the Thomson House restaurant. Though it did coincide with the “Sustainability Projects Fund meet and greet” event on the lower campus, there was still a small crowd that came. The speaker was Ms. Bano Mehdi whose presentation was on the effects of climate change on agriculture in Canada. Ms. Mehdi is currently doing a PhD at McGill and had worked at the Brace Institute on Water Resource Management on the Macdonald Campus for eight years on climate change related projects. Even though climate change may result in a longer growing season and the ability to grow warmer season crops, there are a lot of detrimental effects as well. These include unstable weather patterns, drought, and the inability of some current cold season crops to grow under a warmer temperature regime. The talk was very well received and there was an article on it in the McGill Tribune on October 5.

An Organic Agriculture Initiative

A visit to Arundel on September 20 was made by the environment commissioner and one of its committee members, Chris Wrobel, to visit an organic farmer named Michael Rossy, who owns an organic farm called
Runaway Creek Farm (runawaycreekfarm.com). Michael is an organic farmer who is open to the idea of working with students who are interested in learning about organic farming and farm management techniques from a hands-on perspective. Runaway Creek Farm rests in the beautiful Arundel valley surrounded by the Laurentian mountains some 100 kilometres north of Montreal. It is prime agricultural, spring-fed bottomland that has been farmed organically since its creation in 1995.

Runaway Creek Farm is:
- 15 acres: vegetables, fruits, herbs & edible flowers
- 100 acres: pasture land & hay for their livestock
- 200 acres: natural paradise including a small lake, picnic areas and hiking trails.

In addition, Michael Rossy’s neighbour, a McGill professor in the architecture department, Professor Joanna Nash, is a council member for the town of Arundel and is very interested in seeing Arundel become an organic farming community. She along with her neighbours are very open to the idea of hosting students in Arundel who are interested in learning about organic farming in Arundel. There are many acres of prime agricultural land available in Arundel which is open to the possibility of becoming an extension of the farmland currently worked on the MacDonald campus.
Summary

The Health Committee has focused on three issues over the last several months: reviewing coverage options within our insurance plan, addressing the differential service that graduate students receive at Mental Health Services compared to undergraduates, and event planning and execution.

Insurance plan coverage review

The Health Committee has focused on preparing to review our health insurance plan to best represent students’ wishes. We have worked over the last several months with our insurance broker, ASEQ, to construct a survey that will assess students’ use of, satisfaction with, and desire for changes in, our insurance plan. We intend to issue this survey in November and use the results to propose changes in coverage for next year. The proposed changes would be brought to the attention of council and later put to our general membership in a referendum question. I hope to hear suggestions and comments from council, so I have attached the survey and put forward a motion for council to discuss the survey at this meeting.

Mental Health Services

Another major concern is the current status of graduate student access to McGill Mental Health Services. Due to a student service fee increases passed last year by undergraduates but not passed by graduate students, graduate students currently have access to fewer doctors at McGill Mental Health Services, resulting in a service differential when compared to undergraduates. Unfortunately, the only way to correct this situation is to pass the same fee increase that the undergraduate students accepted. While I recognize that fee increases are never popular and that our membership may not want to accept a fee increase, I am proposing that a referendum question to bring the issue to the attention of our membership and see how they wish to act.

Events

I was contacted by the Social Commissioner in August regarding an HIV awareness event, the AfriGrand Caravan, to be held in September. After consulting with the committee, who strongly supported this event, I put forward a joint Health Commissioner/Social Commissioner motion requesting funding for this event from the Exec-Commissioner pool. The motion was approved, and the event took place on September 16. It featured African grandmothers and granddaughters speaking about efforts to combat HIV and was attended by roughly 80 people. I was able to attend part of the event and I can report that it was very successful.

The Committee is now working with McGill Student Health Services to plan a flu shot day in November. Our broker has offered to participate in this event and
make the insurance claims process paperless. We hope this event will be as successful as our rapid HIV testing that took place early this summer.

Other

Lack of attendance at Health Committee meetings is the largest problem facing the committee. I am hoping to work with the committee to find a solution to this problem.

Conclusion

There are several interesting initiatives on the horizon that the Committee is bringing to the attention of council. I hope to receive helpful feedback and support on these issues from my fellow councillors.
Social Commissioner Report June-September 2010

I would like to thank the administrative staff and all the members of the Internal Affairs Committee for being very helpful in all aspects of organization and management of the events. I have thoroughly enjoyed my work as the PGSS Social Commissioner.

I would briefly like to outline the events that I have organized and/or managed so far. The things that I was merely helping with or was not directly involved in are NOT listed here.

Event Promotion Via facebook -
1. Softball Party
2. AfriGrand Caravan
3. HouseWarming Party
4. Walk on Mount Royal
5. Speed Dating
6. Edible Campus Tour
7. Q-Zone
8. Trip to Quebec City
9. Karaoke
10. Trivia Night
11. Miraas: Bollywood Night/Fundraiser
12. Oktoberfest
13. Green Drinks
14. McGill University PowWow
15. First Annual Science and Policy Exchange

Event Promotion via email -
1. Softball Party
2. HouseWarming Party
3. Contacting McGill Graduate Student Associations regarding the promotion of the Quebec city Trip

Management and Organization -
1. Organizing the bike ride. Around 12 people attended.
2. Organizing the Softball Party that included food, drinks and DJ. Around 100 people attended.
4. Hiring One out of the three DJs for the House Warming Party.
5. Co-hosting the first Trivia Night of the year. Around 35 to 40 people attended.

In addition to advertising, organizing the above events included deciding the food menu, figuring out the budget, making sure that we had the required equipment (if any) and in some cases, setting up a doodle and checking availability of the attendees.

Other responsibilities -
I was also responsible for managing the Softball league which included fixing the schedule (every two-three days), rescheduling cancelled games, organizing the all-star game and the softball party, and answering league-related emails (on a daily basis).
I am also responsible for answering any questions related to most PGSS Events (more than three emails a day on average). I am the first person that the graduate students write to regarding any event-related queries.
Meetings -
Attended the three IAC Meetings, missed one and chaired one. Each meeting is one to two hours long. Attended two council meetings and two exec-commissioner caucuses.
Dear PGSS members and Counselors,

First of all I would like to welcome you to the 2010/11 academic year under the new PGSS Executives’ administration. This is my second year in the position of Student Support Commissioner and I have been enjoying this rewarding work very much. I am responsible for chairing the Committee of Graduate Student Support (CGSS), whose mandate it is to provide guidance to students who feel that their right’s have been violated. Most of the “cases” that we are currently following are dealing with conflicts between the student and the graduate supervisor, but maternity-related questions, and inquiries regarding financial difficulties are also frequently encountered. We are currently following 15 student “cases” and we are responding to 5-10 new inquiries per month. The CGSS is furthermore responsible for disbursing the Trust Fund for Student Support (TFSS), an emergency fund that allows society members to afford legal representation and to receive short term relief, in the event of sudden financial shortage. In the month of September, for example, we supported two TFSS applicants with a total of $2500.

In Fall 2009 the CGSS noticed a decrease in inquiries to which we responded by designing a new ad, which you can find now in your PGSS agenda, the PGSS Newswire, and on the info screen in Thomson House, and also as print-outs in several locations around campus. As a result, currently we are busier than ever before!

Another objective of the CGSS for this academic year is to compile the information we have collected over the years in order to investigate if there are any sub-groups of students (e.g. gender, ethnicity, or departmental segregation) that encounter difficulties more frequently than others. In collaboration with the Equity Committee, who is representing the PGSS in several committees at University level, we would like to formulate recommendations how these students could be served better in the future.

I regret that some of you have not been able to meet me in person yet, but unfortunately I have a scheduling conflict with council this semester, due to a class that I am taking on Wednesday evenings. I apologize for this inconvenience.
You can reach me however any time by email (cgss.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca) for questions, suggestions, or if you would like to join our committee.

- Ulrike
(Student Support Commissioner)
In September 2010, the Family Care Committee set up a survey intended to help us understand the family care needs of fellow PGSS members. 75 people have completed the survey thus far and we hope to increase that number as awareness of the committee spreads. So far the respondents have indicated that financial help is a priority for them. This is true for those respondents who identified themselves as parents, as well as for those who identified as the primary caregiver and financial support provider for an ill or elderly family member. Therefore, we are proceeding with our plan to distribute financial assistance, using the portion of our budget allocated to the support of graduate and post-doctoral student parents. We are currently working on putting the financial assistance applications online in order to simplify both the submission and the evaluation processes. We will also review the criteria by which applications were accepted or rejected last May in order to ensure the money is distributed only to those in real need (we will review those criteria again before the next round of applications in the Winter semester). We are aiming to open the application process in the last week of October or, at the very latest, the first week of November, with a deadline in December. The support can then be distributed at the beginning of January. We hope to use this electronic application form for applications for the Mat/Pat project as well; an application period for those caring for ill or elderly family members will follow.

The FCC survey also considers students’ daycare needs, and this remains an important issue for us. Once we have a larger sample size, we will be able to plan out exactly how to accommodate the portion of our population with childcare needs. The creation of more on-campus daycare spots reserved for PGSS members continues to be an objective for us.

Based on the survey responses received to date, it is clear that many students and their families would be interested in an applepicking trip. Therefore, we are planning such a trip for mid-October. We will communicate dates for this trip and for the start of the application process for financial support via the Family Care signup list, which can be found along with our survey at the Family Care Programme section of the PGSS webpage (under services for members).

We’ve also begun distributing a pamphlet containing information someone should be aware of if they get pregnant or have children while studying or researching at McGill. So far, the feedback we’ve received has been extremely positive, not only from students, but from professors. A few professors have told us the pamphlet is a useful resource for them to have when a student they are supervising gets pregnant.

Finally, we have recently begun to address the issue of breastfeeding space on campus. The committee is in the process of investigating what spaces are currently available for women to breastfeed or pump, and will consider what action to recommend in order to increase or expand these spaces if necessary. This is also true for changing areas.

Hadley Myers, Family Care Commissioner
October 6, 2010
Policy on the Conduct of Research

Preamble

Universities play a fundamental role in advancing knowledge. When used in ways that do not harm society, research conducted at universities directly contributes to social well-being, health, culture and economic development.

Academic freedom, including the freedom of inquiry and the freedom to communicate ideas and results, is essential to University research and innovation. Hence, researchers and students should be encouraged to publicly present their research, regardless of the funding agency. However, academic freedom also obliges students, researchers and institutions to understand the ethical and moral guidelines that apply to their research, and to make every effort to conduct it in a moral, ethical and legal way. All research and scholarship must be governed by the principles of honesty, integrity, transparency, trust, accountability and collegiality. Researchers should have a reasonable knowledge of precedents concerning similar research with regards to its potential harmful effects on society, and should apply this knowledge to guide their research.

Regulations on the conduct of research should govern both the content and method with which research is being conducted. They should help maintain the highest moral and ethical values within research and scholarship; they should be committed to transparency that enriches the reporting of research; and they should ensure that research is neither done in a way nor has outcomes that are directly harmful to society.

Policy

The PGSS supports:
1. A policy that explicitly acknowledges the central role of graduate students in research at the University.
2. Regulations that ensure research cannot be conducted if implicit or explicit conditions of the funding purport or recommend any conclusion.
   a. Transparency in reporting sources of funding, with no anonymous funding directed at specific research efforts.
3. That any contract or binding agreement, including military and private industry partnerships, should allow students and researchers to publicly present their research findings in a timely fashion.
4. Appropriate recognition of student contributions to any scholarly or non-scholarly publication.
5. Regulations that urge researchers to be aware of potentially harmful applications of their research, including obvious uses by supporting agencies and sponsors. Any research deemed harmful by researchers or review committees should be strongly discouraged and subject to strict review and regulation.
6. A clear definition of “harmful applications” of research, in order to guide researchers when weighing the potentially harmful applications of their research against the benefits.
7. Awareness and adherence to the ethical guidelines of applicable research domains, areas or disciplines by all researchers throughout their research.
8. That any policy regulating the conduct of research should be reviewed at the third year of its operation by a working group that includes both graduate and undergraduate representation.
Details about scarves given to McGill Indigenous graduates
By Paige Isaac, Interim Coordinator of First Peoples’ House
July 7, 2010
Excerpt/Revision Sept.2, 2010 LjS

There are several different aspects that go into an honoring ceremony. For most
Indigenous people, it includes respecting the traditional territory you are on by
acknowledging the nation of people and having the welcoming address in their
language (Toulouse 2008). First Nations also value the importance of recognizing
people for their accomplishments (Boggs 2003). Sharing, respect and cultural pride
are essential to First Nations culture and philosophies (Hanson 2000). This is why
the First Peoples’ House organizes a luncheon to honor our Indigenous graduates so
this moment can be shared with friends, family, teachers and partners over a
delicious meal. We would like to further honor the graduates by permitting them to
wear their graduation scarf at convocation.

The details of a feather and turtle are sewn onto the scarf. The feather is from an
eagle which is a very important animal to most First Nations. The eagle is
considered to be the animal closest to the Creator as it flies the highest and is
thought to serve as a messenger between First Peoples and the Creator (Liles, n.d.).
As such, eagle feathers are also significant in First Nations culture. Giving an eagle
feather is not done lightly and is a way to symbolize the good work of others (Boggs
2003). The turtle is also an important animal in Indigenous culture and is
represented in many nations’ creation stories, including the Iroquois creation story.
In this story, as in some others, the earth is created on the turtle’s back
(Maracle, n.d.). Emerging from this concept, North America is commonly referred to
as Turtle Island by Indigenous people (Snyder, 1974). In our case, the turtle is
meant to be representative of all the Original people of North America. The
traditional territory is depicted by the Five Nations symbol.

References


DATE: September 2, 2010

TO: PGSS, SSMU, MACES

FROM: Jane Everett and Linda Jacobs Starkey, on behalf of the Aboriginal Affairs Workgroup

SUBJECT: Seeking student consultation regarding a ceremonial request

BACKGROUND: The Aboriginal Affairs Workgroup was created in 2005 to look at programs and services related to Aboriginal students and to determine required improvements. Discussions and initiatives related academic programs, admissions, support services, community liaison etc. are ongoing. Respondents from First Nations contacted as part of our Aboriginal Outreach initiative have raised the matter of visibility of McGill’s commitment to creating an environment welcoming to Aboriginal peoples. The existence of First Peoples’ House (FPH) is becoming more known as a student support. The annual Pow Wow provides a single day of celebration of Aboriginal culture for the McGill community.

ISSUE: What can McGill do, in a public way, to recognize Aboriginal culture and improve the visibility of our commitment to inclusion and respect in University life?

Example: The Hochelaga rock is now included in most Welcome tours.

REQUEST: Members of 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. A specific request at this time is to grant permission for Aboriginal grads to wear their graduation scarves outside their convocation gown, with their hood (see photos).

Background: The scarves were initially designed as a recognition item for McGill Aboriginal grads, given at a brief ceremony at the Pow Wow. Students asked to receive their scarves for convocation. The scarf is red for McGill; Waneek Horn-Miller, Coordinator, First Peoples’ House (on leave) explains that the feather “signifies high respect of a person and marking an amazing/special event”. The Confederacy Belt signifies “the land we are on” (Iroquois) and “also the flag is inclusive of all nations”.

An expanded explanation about the scarf design is attached.

Other universities are much further advanced in recognizing their First Nations communities and the role of Aboriginal culture in the University (for the purposes of this request, examples do not include academic programs).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution/URL</th>
<th>Initiatives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| University of British Columbia  
www.longhouse.ubc.ca  
http://aboriginal.ubc.ca | - Xwi7xwa Library (pronounced whei-wha)  
- Longhouse on main campus  
- Elder-in-residence  
- Senior advisor to university president  
- Bridge through sport program coordinator  
- Coordinator for Aboriginal graduate students  
- Celebration of Musqueam territory  
- UBC Aboriginal strategic plan  
- Faculty level Aboriginal academic advisors  
- First Nations counselor  
- Dedicated daycare |
| University of Calgary  
www.ucalgary.ca/nativecr | - Dedicated academic advisor  
- Aboriginal student access program (transition year)  
- Pipe ceremonies  
- Annual Aboriginal graduation banquet and Pow Wow (2-3 days)  
- Cultural and spiritual advisors |
| University of Manitoba  
http://umanitoba.ca | - Elders-in-residence (3)  
- Access programs  
- Annual Aboriginal graduation and Pow Wow (2-3 days)  
- Sharing circles |
| University of Saskatchewan  
http://students.usask.ca/current/aboriginal | - Special advisor to the president on Aboriginal Affairs  
- Indigenous student council  
- Aboriginal student societies (3)  
- Aboriginal life skills coach  
- Elders council |

**STEPS TAKEN:** The Aboriginal Affairs Workgroup fully endorses this initiative. We request your thoughts on this initiative before forwarding the request to appropriate others for possible approval.
Health & Dental Plan Survey  
By Phone

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information</th>
<th>Interviewer’s name:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quotas</td>
<td>Number of surveys required: 300 respondents since &gt; 1,000 students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Introduction**

Hello, can I speak to _________________?

Hello, my name is __________. I’m calling on behalf of the McGill University Post-Graduate Students’ Society.

I am calling you today in regards to a survey we are conducting. Your participation in answering this confidential questionnaire will help to ensure the PGSS Health & Dental Plan best reflects the needs of McGill graduate and post-graduate students.

The goal is simply to obtain your opinion. There is no right or wrong answer.

Can I take a few minutes of your time?

(IF THE STUDENT ASKS ABOUT LENGTH: The survey will last approximately 8 minutes).
1. **How many years have you been studying at McGill as a graduate or post-graduate student?**

   1 year
   2 years
   3 years
   4 years or more
   Student has recently graduated
   Decline to answer
   \textit{Program a skip to Question 3}
   \textit{Program a skip to end}

2. **Are you a full-time or part-time student?**

   Full-time
   Part-time
   Decline to answer
   \textit{Program a skip to end}

3. **(Data to be provided by PGSS) Indicate if student is:**

   Male
   Female

4. **Are you covered by another private health and dental plan, beyond your provincial health-care (i.e. a parent, spouse, or employee plan)?**

   Yes
   No
   Not sure

5. **Are you aware of the Health & Dental Plan provided to graduate and post-graduate students at McGill University through the PGSS?**

   Yes
   No
   \textit{Program a skip to Question 21}

6. **Have you made any health claims under the PGSS Health Plan in the past year?**

   Yes
   No

7. **Have you made any dental claims under the PGSS Dental Plan in the past year?**

   Yes
   No
8. What were your most important claims in the past year?

9. Did you know that you could opt out of the PGSS Health and/or Dental Plan if otherwise covered?
Yes
No  Program a skip to Question 12

10. Did you opt out of the Health and/or Dental Plan this year?
Yes
No  Program a skip to Question 12
Not sure  Program a skip to Question 12

11. How did you find the opt-out process? Was it:
Very simple and convenient  Program a skip to Question 16
Simple and convenient  Program a skip to Question 16
Fairly simple  Program a skip to Question 16
Difficult and complicated  Program a skip to Question 16
Very difficult and complicated  Program a skip to Question 16

12. On a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being of highest importance and 1 being not at all important), how important are the following health benefits currently covered by the Plan:

Prescription Drugs  _____
Vision Care  _____
Travel Health Coverage  _____
Vaccinations  _____
Chiropractor  _____
Physiotherapist  _____
Naturopath  _____
Osteopath  _____
Dietician  _____
Podiatrist/Chiropodist  _____
Speech Therapist  _____
Athletic Therapist  _____
Licensed psychologist  _____
Dental care  _____
13. Keeping in mind that coverage changes would affect the Plan fee, would you like to increase, decrease, or maintain the $20 per-visit coverage for the following practitioners:

- Chiropractor
- Physiotherapist
- Naturopath
- Osteopath
- Dietician
- Podiatrist/Chiropodist
- Speech Therapist
- Athletic Therapist
- Licensed psychologist

14. Would you like to see coverage added for the following benefits at $20 per visit and up to $400 per policy year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Not sure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Massage therapy for $10-$15 per year</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Massage therapy for $5-$10 per year, but with a referral from an MD</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

15. On a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being of highest importance and 1 being not at all important), how important are the following dental benefits currently covered by the Plan:

- Dental care
- Major restorative surgery

16. Overall, how important do you feel the Health & Dental Plan is to you? Would you say it is:

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not very important
- Not at all important

17. If adjustments are required in the future, what do you think the priority should be for the PGSS Plan:

- Increase the cost of the Plan in order to increase the level of coverage
- Increase the cost of the Plan only as much as necessary to maintain the current coverage
- Maintain the current cost of the Plan, even if it results in a decrease in coverage
- Decrease the cost of the Plan and decrease coverage
18. Do you think the PGSS should continue to provide the Health & Dental Plan?

   Yes
   No
   Not sure

19. Would you like to have the option to opt into specific aspects of the PGSS Health & Dental Plan - like travel coverage – even if it would increase the administrative costs associated with the Plan?

   Yes
   No
   Program a skip to Question 21

20. What surcharge would you be willing to pay to be able to enrol into specific aspects of the Plan?

   $5 per year
   $10 per year
   $15 per year

21. Which age category do you fall under?

   25 and under
   26 to 29
   30 to 35
   36 to 39
   40 and older
   Decline to answer

22. What is your family situation?

   Single
   Single parent
   Common-law partner
   Common-law partner and children
   Married with no children
   Married with children
   Decline to answer
   Program a skip to Question 24
23. How many children do you have?

1
2
3
4
5
Decline to answer
Other (please specify):

24. And finally, do you have any comments or feedback about the Health & Dental Plan that you would like to provide?

Yes
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

No

Thank you very much for your participation!
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APPENDIX A: SURVEY COMMENTS ............................................... 15
1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Rationale

In partnership with the Post-Graduate Students' Society of McGill University (PGSS), ASEQ has conducted a survey of PGSS international students in order to obtain information and feedback on the International Health Insurance Plan for international students.

Survey findings will be presented to the PGSS to assist in determining the level of student satisfaction with the plan, as well as gauging the health and dental care needs and preferences of its members, and to facilitate the future development and growth of the health-care plan for international students.

This report provides an overview of the survey objectives and methodology, presents the key findings of the survey, and makes a number of recommendations for consideration by the PGSS. The report has been prepared by ASEQ’s research staff and is based on survey data collected by telephone in April 2009.

The survey provided international students with an opportunity to comment on a number of key issues with respect to the International Health Insurance Plan, including communications and Plan services.

1.2 Organizational Profile: ASEQ

ASEQ is Canada’s largest provider of student health and dental plans and is the only organization in Canada that specializes exclusively in student health care.

Established in 1996 to serve the health and dental care needs of Canadian post-secondary students, ASEQ now serves more than 440,000 members at 30 post-secondary institutions and 50 student associations.

ASEQ is a full-service health and dental plan provider, delivering a wide range of value-added services to clients, including brokerage and consulting services, Plan management and administration, communications, and research.

The company’s head office is in Montreal, with service offices in Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia.
2.0 OBJECTIVE

2.1 Research Objective

The primary objective of the survey was to obtain feedback from international students who are members of the PGSS on their current level of satisfaction with the International Health Insurance Plan. This feedback will inform future plan related decisions by the PGSS.

2.2 Survey Design

The PGSS was given the opportunity to review and provide input on the survey questions. In consultation with ASEQ, feedback from international students was sought on three main topics: communications, services, and coverage.

1) Communications
   ➢ Are students aware of the International Health Insurance Plan?
   ➢ Do students feel that the insurance plan has been well explained to them?

2) Services
   ➢ Are students satisfied with the claims process?
   ➢ Did students incur any out-of-pocket expenses?
   ➢ Do students use the Quick Payment Service?
   ➢ Are students satisfied with the services they receive when making inquiries about the Plan?
   ➢ Are students satisfied with the Plan and its overall administration?

3) Coverage
   ➢ What coverage changes would students make to the International Health Insurance Plan?
   ➢ Where did students go for their last routine checkup?

Respondents were also given the opportunity to give additional comments at the end of the survey.
3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Sampling Methods

The survey was conducted from April 17 - 28, 2009, in the form of telephone interviews lasting approximately 5-10 minutes, in an effort to obtain responses from a representative sample of international students covered by the International Health Insurance Plan. The objective was to obtain 300 completed surveys. This goal was surpassed, with 350 surveys completed.

A random sample of 1,000 names was generated from a list provided by the PGSS. Students were called at home during the afternoon and the early hours of the evening. This method of collecting data is the most effective way to contact students.

3.2 Representative Sample

The last section of the survey gathered general demographic information.

We have used the most recent enrolment statistics available from the list that the PGSS sent us for comparison with respondent demographic statistics to demonstrate that a representative sample was obtained.

Gender

The following chart compares the gender of respondents vs. actual student statistics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th># of Respondents</th>
<th>% of Total Respondents</th>
<th>% of Actual Enrolment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>42.6%</td>
<td>43.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>57.4%</td>
<td>57.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.3 Margin of Error

With an international student population of 1,272, a sample size of 350 PGSS members gives us a margin of error of +/- 4.5%. Since more than 10% of the student population was surveyed, a correction factor has to be applied. The corrected margin of error is no more than +/-3.8, 19 times out of 20. This is an acceptable margin of error as the objective is to observe general trends (i.e. students’ rate of satisfaction with help received when making inquiries about the plan) and to look for potential areas of concern (i.e. students’ rate of satisfaction with the claims process). In either case, even the most extreme deviation possible (within +/- 3.8%) will not alter the conclusion that would be derived from the data. For example, the difference between whether 76.2% or 83.8% of respondents indicate that they are aware of the plan for international students would not alter the conclusion that there is a high level of awareness of the plan among international students.
4.0 SURVEY FINDINGS

4.1 Key Findings

On a scale of 1-10 (10 being extremely satisfied), 78.4% of respondents rated their satisfaction with the International Health Insurance Plan between a 7 and a 10. Using the same rating scale, where a 10 indicates that the plan is extremely well administered, 49.2% of students rated the administration of the plan as an 8 or higher, while 47.7% gave it a rating of 5 to 7.

Results also show that a large majority of respondents (92.3%) are aware of the International Health Insurance Plan. However, when asked about plan communication, students were fairly split: only a minority (30.7%) felt the plan had been well explained to them. It was mostly the younger students (18-35) who felt more explanation was needed.

About half of the students surveyed submitted a health claim in the past 12 months. Of those, 48.1% were very satisfied with the claims process, while 44.2% were somewhat unsatisfied. A majority of students (76.3%) who had to make a claim had to pay out of pocket for some of the services they received and wait to be reimbursed rather than have the health-care provider bill the insurance directly. Most respondents (44.2%) used the Quick Payment Service, but a fair number of students (29.5%) also indicated not knowing what this service is. Males were less aware than females: 33.7% of males respondents indicated not knowing the service versus 24.7% for females.

Only 24.1% of respondents contacted Blue Cross or a university administrator with a question about a specific claim, but most (80.1%) were either very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the support they provided. However, a small group of students (20%) was unsatisfied with the service received, underlining the need for continued emphasis on providing a high level of service to plan members.

A majority of students (69%) did not get a routine health checkup in the last 12 months. From those who did, 59.3% visited McGill Health Services, 18.5% went to a doctor’s office or medical clinic outside of Montreal or in Montreal (15.7%), and a small number of respondents went to a hospital (3.7%).

When respondents were asked about what changes they would like made to the plan, most often mentioned were increases to the amounts for dental, vision, and prescription drugs. Many students also said that they would like the Plan to cover visits to the doctor of their choice and that the health and dental plan should not be offered separately.
### 4.2 Survey Data

#### 1. Are you aware of the Blue Cross International Health Insurance Plan for international students? *(DO NOT READ)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>92.3%</td>
<td>323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**answered question**: 350

**skipped question**: 0

#### 2. Do you feel that this insurance plan has been well explained to you? *(DO NOT READ)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>30.7%</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>35.9%</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More or less</td>
<td>33.4%</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**answered question**: 323

**skipped question**: 27

#### 3. Did you submit a health claim to Blue Cross in the past 12 months? *(DO NOT READ)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>48.3%</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>51.7%</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**answered question**: 323

**skipped question**: 27
4. Please rate your level of satisfaction with the claims process for the last claim that you submitted. Would you say you were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very satisfied</td>
<td>48.1%</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat satisfied</td>
<td>44.2%</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat unsatisfied</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very unsatisfied</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 156
skipped question 194

5. Did you have to pay out of pocket and then be reimbursed the expense or did the health-care provider bill the insurer directly? (DO NOT READ)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Had to pay out of pocket and then be reimbursed</td>
<td>76.3%</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health-care provider billed the insurance directly</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure/Can’t remember</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 156
skipped question 194

6. Did you use the Blue Cross Quick Payment Service? (DO NOT READ)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>44.2%</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>26.3%</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No, don’t know what that is</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 156
skipped question 194
7. In the past 12 months, have you contacted Blue Cross or a university administrator with a question about the plan or about a specific claim? **(DO NOT READ)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>24.1%</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>74.9%</td>
<td>242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can't remember</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 323

skipped question 27

8. Please rate your level of satisfaction with the help you received. Would you say you were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very satisfied</td>
<td>31.3%</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat satisfied</td>
<td>48.8%</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat unsatisfied</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very unsatisfied</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 80

skipped question 270

9. On a scale of 1-10 (10 being extremely well administered), how would you rank the overall administration of the Blue Cross International Health Insurance Plan?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Count</td>
<td>0.7% (2)</td>
<td>0.4% (1)</td>
<td>1.4% (4)</td>
<td>0.7% (2)</td>
<td>11.4% (32)</td>
<td>12.8% (31)</td>
<td>23.5% (65)</td>
<td>27.8% (78)</td>
<td>12.5% (33)</td>
<td>8.9% (25)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 281

skipped question 69
10. Keeping in mind that there may be a positive or negative cost impact, what coverage changes, if any, would you like made to the Blue Cross International Health Insurance Plan?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>answered question</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>skipped question</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12. Have you had a routine health checkup in the past 12 months? (DO NOT READ)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>31.0%</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>69.0%</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

15. On a scale of 1-10 (10 being extremely satisfied), how satisfied are you, overall, with the Blue Cross International Health Insurance Plan?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>6.3% (1)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>8.7% (2)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>17.3% (4)</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>13.3% (4)</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>7.9% (4)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>9.8% (25)</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>22.4% (86)</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>54.3% (104)</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>12.5% (38)</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>9.2% (25)</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>answered question</td>
<td>348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>skipped question</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
13. Where did you go for your last checkup?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hospital</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McGill Health Services</td>
<td>59.3%</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor’s office or medical clinic in Montreal</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor’s office or medical clinic outside of Montreal</td>
<td>18.5%</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(DO NOT READ) Other (please specify)</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 108
skipped question 242

14. Do you have any personal comments or feedback about the Blue Cross International Health Insurance Plan that you would like to provide?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 100
skipped question 250
### 15. Do you have:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A spouse or common-law partner</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependent children</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both a spouse/common-law partner and dependent children</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of the above</td>
<td>74.9%</td>
<td>259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(DO NOT READ) Decline to answer</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Answered question:** 346

**Skipped question:** 4

### 16. Which age category do you fall under?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Category</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18 to 21</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 to 25</td>
<td>31.9%</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>26 to 29</strong></td>
<td><strong>40.8%</strong></td>
<td><strong>142</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 to 35</td>
<td>23.0%</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 to 39</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 and older</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(DO NOT READ) Decline to answer</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Answered question:** 348

**Skipped question:** 2
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>42.6%</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>57.4%</td>
<td>201</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- answered question: 350
- skipped question: 0
ASEQ presents the following recommendations to the PGSS for consideration:

1. Although there is a high percentage of student awareness for the International Health Insurance Plan, specific attention should be paid to improving communications about the specific plan benefits and services.

2. Continued attention should also be paid to improving the level of service received by students when contacting Blue Cross or a university administrator. Focus should also be placed on improving the claims process to reduce students' out-of-pocket costs, as well as improving awareness of the Quick Payment Service.

3. If changes to the plan are considered, respondent priorities on both existing and potential new benefits should be consulted. For example, respondents felt that additional health, dental, and vision coverage would be beneficial. The ability to visit the doctor of their choice was also very important to this group of students.

4. The last word is given to international students. Many respondents chose to leave comments at the end of the survey and they are included in Appendix A. Clearly, international students support the need for a health insurance plan, yet many comments suggest some work is needed in adjusting the plan to best meet students' needs and wishes. In particular, there seems to be a certain level of confusion with finding Plan information. Some students suggested that they would like information to be more accessible, possibly on a website. Students also expressed an interest in having a Plan with added benefits and increased coverage for preventive care.
5. Did you have to pay out of pocket and then be reimbursed the expense or did the health-care provider bill the insurer directly?

Other answers given were “both” and “paid out of pocket, but did not get fully reimbursed”.

10. Keeping in mind that there may be a positive or negative cost impact, what coverage changes, if any, would you like made to the International Health Insurance Plan?

Would like vision coverage.
Add vision coverage for eyeglasses/contact lenses, eye exam. Preventative vaccinations should be covered (student believes these should be covered under good health plans.)
More extensive dental coverage.
Increase all general coverage - especially more orthotic coverage.
Vaccines should be covered
No change
Eye coverage
More explanation on how to use the insurance
Doesn't want the fees to increase
Would prefer insurance that he doesn't need to get reimbursed for when you pay , just pay the difference
More vision coverage
More clarity, more explanations on a website
More dental coverage
More explanations in terms of use, not fair to pay all the expenses and then have to pay out of pocket and then wait until you get reimbursed
Increased general coverage.
More vision coverage
Dental coverage should be improved, as well as vision coverage.
Increase vision coverage.
More dental
More dental
Explain to students how much the coverage costs/worth what expenses are covered
Need more explanations for the plan, need more vision/dental coverage, more flexibility in the plan - if students could pick which coverage they want
Would like spousal coverage to cover more. Add dental as well.
McGill health clinic is too crowded / under staffed, wants more options for clinics
Increase the dental care for plan.
More dental coverage

Would like a more comprehensive plan available to students - like vision coverage.

More coverage for vision

More alternative medicine

Would like to know if there is or can be coverage overseas

Extending the coverage for extreme sports

There should be an easy-to-use website for the plan, with a list of the doctors who are covered under the plan. Students should know which doctors will be reimbursed 100%. Let the university handle all the plans - submit the claims to the school themselves. Something like a third-party liaison (like an on-campus office, perhaps). Make sure students know where to go - inform them well.

More coverage for alternative medicine, dental and vision

Coverage should be more comprehensive in general, especially for hospital needs like MRIs, catscans, etc.

Doesn't cover fees for all medicine, more prescription coverage

There aren't too many people who know that this is insurance, need more exposure, doesn't like paying first, wants to be reimbursed directly

More explanation about the basics

Many prescribed medications are not covered by the plan; they should be. Nearby hospitals should have some sort of relationship with this plan so reimbursement/claims can be done more quickly and efficiently, without students being forced to pay out of pocket.

Extended vision coverage. Increase coverage for all specialists, if students have a referral.

It would good to have 100% prescription drug coverage.

Would like to have all medications covered that have been prescribed.

Increase vision coverage.

Add more vision coverage.

More dental coverage, more vision coverage for new users

Not clear what kind of services that the plan offers

Dental coverage should be expanded.

When you sign up, explain the plan more

More explanation for what you’re paying for

More travel coverage for travelling internationally.

Wants more options / flexibility

Perhaps the dental plan could be more student-friendly - expanded.

There should be a longer period of time given to claim for expenses - thinks, if you are still on the plan, there should be one year.

Faster reimbursement, at present it takes 2-3 weeks

More coverage

Would like to know what kind of emergency coverage if any is available worldwide
More dental coverage
Prescription drug coverage dropped from 100% to 80% within the last few years; would like it to be increased again.
Would like the option to go to any Montreal clinic without a penalty to the amount of reimbursement.
Would like to have vision coverage for both eye exams & eyeglasses/contact lenses.
Only covered at the McGill health clinic and at the clinic they have very restrictive hours and limitations Should have coverage at other clinics
Dental should be covered more extensively.
Dental specialists should be covered for students who have serious problems - you can never know what amount of a reimbursement you will receive if you need a specialist/surgeon.
Increase vision coverage.
More coverage for dental and vision
Inclusion of massages
More dental / vision coverage
More vision coverage
There should be referrals to clinics/doctors who can take emergency patients right away and who can pay direct.
Different standards for grad / non grads, should be even
Would add comprehensive coverage for eye exams, eyeglasses, etc.
Make the plan more clear, more explanations and go into more detail about what kind of reimbursements you can get
Dental portion could be cheaper for what it is worth.
Direct reimbursement for prescriptions
No changes.
Add or extend dental coverage.
More chiro coverage
Would like it to cover vision.
Plan is very complicated for international students
It would be more efficient/convenient to combine the health & dental plans.
Dental should be included; vision coverage as well.
Thinks the current coverage is unsatisfactory. Thinks other things should be added - vision coverage must be extended, dental care as well.
None
Prescription drug should be expanded upon.
Vision coverage should be added to the plan.
Increase the coverage for regular physicians visits - student was very irritated when he had to pay to cover a physician's visit. He thought it was supposed to be covered.
Would like to not pay out of pocket.
More vision care replacement of glasses and contacts
More explanation about the plan
More dental coverage
Just enough to be competitive
Could only use her card in Quebec, not in other places would be good if they expanded coverage all over Canada
More coverage for dental and vision
Vitamins and iron tablets to palliate chronic anemia should be covered, psychologists and counselors should also be covered in addition to psychiatrists
Increase the maximum
Make it cheaper, but the coverage is fine
More for contact lenses and glasses
I think lab tests or anything the doctor asks should be covered
Cost of eyeglasses and anything related to eyes
Coverage for glasses and contacts
More coverage for prescription drugs
Regular physical examination should be covered
More dental coverage
More coverage for eye problems, glasses...
Some medications are not covered - for example over the counter medications that are prescribed by a doctor
Not much is known about the plan on graduate level
None
Dental - more coverage
Increase the coverage, more dental coverage, more vision coverage
Eye examination should be covered at 100%
Not happy with what is covered
Ambulance service coverage should be increased
Nothing, very satisfied. Better than what is used to. Glasses - should be additional coverage.
Some of the doctors don't have contracts with the insurance
None
Something more for eye care, there could be more coverage for contacts and glasses
Suffers from chronic anemia, complex to help absorb iron is not covered, not happy with that
More coverage for things like psychotherapy
Would like to have hospital services fully reimbursed, and also would prefer to have direct payment for such services.
Not sure
Thinks it's already very comprehensive, and wouldn't want to increase the cost.

Not aware enough of the plan

Not sure what is covered

Different levels of coverage, so someone could choose the level of coverage that is more suitable to their budget and needs

Student has heard that the dental plan is not included, and it has been very problematic for students - would like the plan to cover dental to some degree.

Would like to have vision coverage.

Would like 100% dental coverage.

Extend prescription drug coverage.

More dental coverage

More dental

Has had drugs that weren't covered by the plan; would like to expand the drug coverage to cover more. Would also like if smoking cessation therapies could be covered. Vision coverage should be increased.

Would like to see the dental coverage added to the Blue Cross coverage instead of being separate; this makes it more complicated.

None

Increase prescription drug coverage.

Blue Cross made exclusive to McGill clinic information about other clinics is limited, need to be explained more, feeling like has to go to McGill clinic. Wants the opportunity to visit other clinics

Difficult to understand where to get covered, only goes to McGill, clarify the dental plan, needs to be explained in more detail and be more accessible

Reimbursement for education should be automatic instead of giving receipts

N/A.

Prescription drugs should be available in a pay direct form, instead of paying upfront.

Thinks it's important to decrease the fees.

Would like there to be increased dental coverage; student believes there is no dental coverage. Should be increased coverage overall with more options for int'l students.

Too expensive for family, include dental

Expanded dental coverage; would also increase vision coverage.

Would like more coverage for vision.

Believes most insurance plans cover more than Blue Cross does; would like it to cover a larger percentage of services.

Provide more dental coverage.

More prescription drug coverage.

Vision coverage should be increased.

Increased coverage for dental care.
Add further coverage for dental and vision.
Add x-rays to coverage.
Should add coverage for prescription drugs; should add administrative services on-campus so students can find info.
Increase the dental coverage, eyeglasses. Also pay direct would be far more convenient.
None.
May add more coverage for prescription drugs.
Doesn't know the coverage.
None, doesn't know the coverage.
No idea because doesn't know the exact coverage. Needs more info.
Arrange direct payment so can get reimbursed quicker
Blue cross with PGSS should be made to apply for all graduate students rather than just eligible students, also different levels of insurance made to include partners
Eye exam, contacts
Would like it if doesn't have to submit any paper claims and all would be done electronically

13. Where did you go for your last checkup?

Not in Canada
Outside Canada
Not in Canada
TABLE OF CONTENTS

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Rationale

In partnership with the Post-Graduate Students’ Society, ASEQ has conducted a survey of PGSS members who are covered by the Plan, in order to obtain information and feedback on the PGSS Health & Dental Plan.

Survey findings will be presented to the PGSS Executive to assist in determining the level of student satisfaction with the Plan, as well as in continuing to gauge the health and dental care needs and preferences of its members, in order to inform the future development and growth of the PGSS Health & Dental Plan.

This report provides an overview of the survey objectives and methodology, presents the key findings of the survey, and makes a number of recommendations for consideration by the PGSS. The report has been prepared by ASEQ’s research staff and is based on survey data collected over the phone in May 2008.

The survey provided students with an opportunity to comment on a number of key issues with respect to the PGSS Health & Dental Plan, including communications and Plan coverage.

1.2 Organizational Profile: ASEQ

ASEQ is Canada’s largest provider of student health and dental plans and is the only organization in Canada that specializes exclusively in student health care.

Established in 1996 to serve the health and dental care needs of Canadian post-secondary students, ASEQ now serves more than 385,000 members at 30 post-secondary institutions and 52 student associations.

ASEQ is a full-service health and dental plan provider, delivering a wide range of value-added services to clients, including brokerage services, Plan management and administration, communications and consulting, and research.

The company’s head office is in Montreal, with service offices throughout Quebec, Ontario, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan.
2.0 OBJECTIVE

2.1 Research Objective

The primary objective of the survey was to obtain feedback from the Post-Graduate Students’ Society members on their current level of satisfaction with the PGSS Health & Dental Plan, as well as their preferences in regards to specific Plan components. This feedback will inform future Health & Dental Plan related decisions by the Post-Graduate Students’ Society.

At the request of PGSS, respondents were also asked to respond to additional questions related to other PGSS issues.

As a secondary objective, in conjunction with the Young Adults Working Group (YAWG), we have included targeted questions to help identify health and learning challenges pertaining to post-secondary students.

2.2 Survey Design

The Students’ Society Executive was given the opportunity to review and provide input on the survey questions. In consultation with ASEQ, feedback from members was sought on four main topics: communications, coverage, and opt outs.

1) Communications
   ➢ Are students aware of their Health & Dental Plan?

2) Coverage
   ➢ How satisfied are students with the PGSS Plan?
   ➢ What changes would students like made to the Plan?
   ➢ Are students interested in maintaining their Health & Dental Plan coverage after graduation?
   ➢ Are students interested in purchasing Life Insurance at a reduced cost?

3) Opt Outs
   ➢ How many students are already covered by private health and dental plans?

Respondents were also given the opportunity to give additional comments at the end of the survey.
3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Sampling Methods

The survey was conducted from May 9 until May 16, 2008, in the form of telephone interviews lasting approximately 6-8 minutes, in an effort to obtain responses from a representative sample of students covered by the Plan. The objective was to obtain 150 completed surveys. This goal was surpassed, with 155 surveys completed.

A random sample of 1,500 names was generated by the PGSS from a list of students enrolled into the Plan. Students were called at home during the afternoon and the early hours of the evening. This method of collecting data is the most effective way to contact students.

3.2 Representative Sample

Currently, enrolment statistics by gender and age are not publicly available for comparison with respondent demographic statistics; therefore, we are unable to demonstrate that a representative sample was obtained at this time.

3.3 Margin of Error

With a student population of approximately 5,000, a sample size of 155 PGSS members gives us a margin of error of no more than +/- 7.8%, 19 times out of 20. This is an acceptable margin of error as the objective is to observe general trends and to look for potential areas of concern (i.e. Health & Dental Plan awareness). In either case, even the most extreme deviation possible (within +/- 7.8%) will not alter the conclusion that would be derived from the data. For example, the difference between whether 72.2% or 87.8% of respondents show a strong preference for life insurance would not alter the conclusion that a reasonable majority of students consider life insurance to be an important benefit.

Finally, in order to decrease the margin of error, say to +/- 4%, we would need to increase the sample size to 535 respondents, and our conclusions would be the same.
4.0 SURVEY FINDINGS

4.1 Key Findings

Results show a high sense of awareness of the PGSS Health & Dental Plan: 92.9% of respondents were aware of the Plan. 68.8% of students are either satisfied or very satisfied by the PGSS Plan, while 26.2% of respondents are undecided, indicating that there is room for improvement. Almost a quarter of respondents (24.3%) are covered by another private health and dental plan.

Of the students surveyed, 54.5% did not have a routine health checkup in the last year. The most common reasons given for delaying the checkup were feeling healthy, not having the time, or not having a family doctor.

70.3% of students think that the priority for the PGSS Plan should be to increase the cost of the Plan only as much as necessary to maintain the current coverage. It is also interesting to note that 32.9% would be interested in maintaining their Health & Dental Plan coverage after graduation and that 22.4% would be interested in purchasing Life insurance at a reduced cost.

29.8% of students made suggestions of what they would like to see added to the PGSS Plan. A majority of respondents mentioned an increase in the dental coverage while other suggestions included an increase in vision and health practitioner benefits.
### 4.2 Survey Data

#### 1. What is your age?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
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<td>27</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
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<td>28</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>39</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decline to answer</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
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</table>

*answered question* 155

*skipped question* 0
2. What is your family situation?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Situation</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>64.5%</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single parent</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common-law partner</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common-law partner and children</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married with no children</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married with children</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decline to answer</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 155

skipped question 0

3. How many children do you have?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Children</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>60.9%</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>26.1%</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decline to answer</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 23

skipped question 132
4. Have you had a routine health checkup in the last year?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>45.5%</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>54.5%</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 154
skipped question 1

5. Why haven’t you had a routine checkup in the last year?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 61
skipped question 94

6. Are you aware of the Health & Dental Plan provided to graduate students and post-docs at McGill University through the PGSS?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>92.9%</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 155
skipped question 0
7. Are you covered by another private health and/or dental plan, beyond your provincial health-care (i.e. a parent, spouse, or employee plan)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>24.3%</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>75.7%</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 144

skipped question 11

8. Given that adding services to the PGSS Health & Dental Plan typically increases the cost of the Plan, and removing services decreases the cost of the Plan, are there changes that you would like made to the PGSS Health & Dental Plan?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Satisfied with current coverage</td>
<td>67.4%</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would like to see (please specify)</td>
<td>29.8%</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 141

skipped question 14

9. How satisfied are you with the PGSS Health & Dental Plan?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very satisfied</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfied</td>
<td>52.5%</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>26.2%</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat dissatisfied</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all satisfied</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 141

skipped question 14
10. In general, the cost of certain services, such as dental fees or prescription drugs, increase over time with inflation. This can affect the long-term cost of the Plan. If adjustments are required in the future, what do you think the priority should be for the PGSS Plan:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increase the cost of the Plan in order to increase the level of coverage</td>
<td>19.6%</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase the cost of the Plan only as much as necessary to maintain the current coverage</td>
<td>70.3%</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintain the current cost of the Plan, even if that requires a decrease in coverage</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease the cost of the Plan and decrease coverage</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Answered question: 138
Skipped question: 17

11. Would you be interested in maintaining your Health & Dental Plan coverage after you graduate?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>32.9%</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>39.2%</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure/depends</td>
<td>28.0%</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Answered question: 143
Skipped question: 12
12. Would you be interested in purchasing Life Insurance at a reduced cost?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>61.5%</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure/depends</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 143
skipped question 12

13. Have you travelled by airplane (anywhere) or outside of Canada in the past 12 months?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>76.2%</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>23.8%</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 143
skipped question 12

14. Do you have any personal comments or feedback about the Health & Dental Plan that you would like to provide?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 36
skipped question 119
15. Had you heard about Flu Shot Day that occurred on Nov. 14 at Thompson House?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>48.7%</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>51.3%</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 154

skipped question 1

16. How did you hear about it? Please select all that apply:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td>49.3%</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGSS website</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Posters</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word of mouth</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
<td>11</td>
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</table>

answered question 73

skipped question 82

17. Would you be more interested in participating in PGSS related activities if daycare was available?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>32.0%</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>64.1%</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maybe</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 153

skipped question 2
18. How often do you come to the post-graduate student building, Thompson House?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Once a year</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A couple of times a year</td>
<td>30.9%</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once a month</td>
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<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once a week</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twice a week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Everyday</td>
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answered question 152
skipped question 3

19. In what building do you spend the hours of 9 am – 5 pm?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
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</table>

122

answered question 122
skipped question 33

20. How much did you pay for RAMQ in your 2007-2008 taxes?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Payment Amount</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
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</thead>
</table>

27

answered question 27
skipped question 128
Within the last school year, have any of the following challenges affected your academic performance? Please select all that apply:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenge</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chronic illness (diabetes, asthma, etc.)</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anxiety and/or depression</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabilities (physical and/or learning)</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
<td>33.9%</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stress/feeling overwhelmed (school/work/family balance)</td>
<td>68.8%</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial concerns</td>
<td>45.9%</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of physical exercise</td>
<td>35.8%</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor nutrition</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sleep difficulties</td>
<td>25.7%</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cold/flu</td>
<td>44.0%</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental health issues</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance abuse (alcohol, drugs)</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unplanned pregnancy (yours or your partner’s)</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low self-esteem</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
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</table>

answered question 109

skipped question 46
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Very beneficial</th>
<th>Beneficial</th>
<th>Not beneficial</th>
<th>Not applicable</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accommodations for learning or physical disabilities</td>
<td>2.8% (3)</td>
<td>18.5% (20)</td>
<td>4.6% (5)</td>
<td>74.1% (80)</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Awareness workshops and brochures (sexual health, nutrition,</td>
<td>5.3% (6)</td>
<td>47.8% (54)</td>
<td>17.7% (20)</td>
<td>29.2% (33)</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stress management, study skills, time management, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More communication of services available to students</td>
<td>19.1% (22)</td>
<td>64.3% (74)</td>
<td>7.0% (8)</td>
<td>9.6% (11)</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contraceptives free of charge or at reduced cost</td>
<td>12.7% (14)</td>
<td>63.6% (70)</td>
<td>7.3% (8)</td>
<td>16.4% (18)</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitness centre and intramural activities</td>
<td>21.1% (24)</td>
<td>65.8% (75)</td>
<td>3.5% (4)</td>
<td>9.6% (11)</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthy food choices available (cafeteria and vending machines)</td>
<td>46.0% (52)</td>
<td>38.9% (44)</td>
<td>6.2% (7)</td>
<td>8.8% (10)</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health services, including doctors and nurses</td>
<td>42.1% (48)</td>
<td>48.2% (55)</td>
<td>2.6% (3)</td>
<td>7.0% (8)</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other health practitioners: dietician, psychologist, social worker, etc.</td>
<td>31.3% (35)</td>
<td>54.5% (61)</td>
<td>4.5% (5)</td>
<td>9.8% (11)</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial aid and counselling</td>
<td>28.1% (32)</td>
<td>54.4% (62)</td>
<td>5.3% (6)</td>
<td>12.3% (14)</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal counselling</td>
<td>11.3% (13)</td>
<td>68.7% (79)</td>
<td>6.1% (7)</td>
<td>13.9% (16)</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other (please specify)** 2 answered question 117

**skipped question** 38
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>23. Would you agree to participate in future surveys?</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>84.9%</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 152

skipped question 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>24. Please indicate the student’s gender:</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>52.6%</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>47.4%</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transgendered</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decline to answer</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 154

skipped question 1
5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

ASEQ presents the following recommendations to the Post-Graduate Students’ Society Executive for consideration:

1. If changes to the Plan are considered, respondent priorities on benefits should be consulted. For example, respondents felt that the Plan costs should be increased only as much as necessary in order to maintain the current coverage. In regards to benefits, respondents showed an interest in increasing dental, vision, and health practitioners coverage.

2. Specific attention should be paid to improving student awareness regarding the changes that are made to the Plan every year.

3. Considering that a third of students surveyed would be interested in continuing their Health & Dental Plan coverage after graduation, implementing a plan for students once their studies are complete would be beneficial for both the PGSS and its members.

4. The last word is given to students. All comments can be found in Appendix A.
APPENDIX A – SURVEY COMMENTS

1. What is your age?  
   Other answers included 22, 23, 42, 45, and 47

5. Why haven't you had a routine checkup in the last year?

   1. Not doctor available
   2. no time
   3. No family doctor
   4. Felt healthy
   5. forgotten about it
   6. No time
   7. forgot
   8. Doesn't think about it
   9. Not used to having one
   10. No time
   11. Felt healthy
   12. Felt Healthy
   13. no time for it
   14. Doesn't use standard medicine system
   15. Family doctor was unavailable
   16. felt healthy
   17. felt healthy
   18. Can't find doctor in reasonable delay
   19. no time
   20. felt healthy
   21. Too hard to find a doctor in reasonable delays
   22. lack of time
   23. Felt Healthy
   24. didn’t take the time
25. Felt Healthy
26. No reason
27. i feel great
28. healthy enough
29. i have one in france before coming here
30. Feel healthy
31. No family doctor
32. Not used to having one / no family doctor
33. Felt Healthy
34. No time for it
35. Too complicated without family doctor
36. Felt healthy
37. i want to go the mcgill but its to full and in other province its to expensive
38. Just arrived in canada
39. its not my priority
40. Procrastination
41. Felt healthy
42. no clue
43. Does not have a doctor here
44. Missed appointment
45. usually d<ont
46. no particular reason
47. Not used to having one
48. i saw another doctors for another conditions
49. no reason
50. no reason
51. too busy
52. Feels great
53. Takes too long to get this service
54. doesn't need a visit (she is physician)
55. Was international student last year, too expensive
56. not used to having one
57. Didn’t need it
58. Thinks not important
59. Too busy
60. Believes himself healthy
61. Felt healthy

8. Given that adding services to the PGSS Health & Dental Plan typically increases the cost of the Plan, and removing services decreases the cost of the Plan, are there changes that you would like made to the PGSS Health & Dental Plan?
The most common answers are more dental coverage, more vision coverage, and more coverage for health practitioners (massage, acupuncture).

1. massotherapy
2. Full coverage on dental plan
3. Would like opt-out
4. Family enrolment feature is not competitive
5. Dental plan should offer more coverage
6. Better dental coverage
7. more coverage for the dental plan
8. Better coverage for eyecare, massage therapy, acupuncture
9. more dental coverage
10. Routine dental checkup should be added for international
11. International would like to have full access to it
12. Would like cover for eyeglasses
13. Improve dental coverage
14. Improve delay in mcgill clinic
15. aspectof the the plan improve
16. Would like to have partial opt-out feature (only for dental) 
17. increase the services 
18. More information available 
19. More cover for dental (old formula) 
20. prescription drogs 
21. Personalized plan 
22. increase the services and pay more, exemple the coverage of dental services like a root canal. 
23. availability for international student for the dental plan 
24. precription drugs paid rapiddly (like a card to give to the pharmacist) 
25. Doesn't agree with the plan 
26. More coverage for eyes 
27. More coverage on dental 
28. Dental could have additional coverage 
29. acupuncture sessions or massotherapies. 
30. Shorten delay for appointments 
31. tuitions fees included, add on more. 
32. more dental coverage. 
33. cover more the vaccinations and more dental coverage instead of going down. 
34. Larger portion for alternative care (massage, nutritionists) 
35. Eyes 
36. improve eye care more then the present amount. 
37. Health portion of the plan is too expensive as it is 
38. Improve health coverage for health practionners (psychologists, acupuncts) 
39. Opt-out should be for 1 semester at a time, instead of one year 
40. vision thing 
41. More coverage on the basic dental care (restore old coverage) 
42. Increase in coverage
14. Do you have any personal comments or feedback about the Health & Dental Plan that you would like to provide?

1. Satisfied
2. Would like more information for post-docs
3. Would appreciate electronic link with dentist
4. Coverage should be improved (Diagnosis tests - getting irm or scanners through private health network)
5. Happy with the plan
6. Specific info is not accessible enough
7. More coverage but very satisfied with the efficiency yet
8. Dental coverage should be increased
9. Dental plan cost too much for the the price, would like more coverage or lower cost
10. Would like total coverage
11. Very satisfied with dental cover
12. Very satisfied with wisdom teeth extraction coverage
13. Would like international cover to be the same as canadian
14. Information is not accessible enough
15. Improve coverage / insufficient compared to the price paid
16. Improve website plz
17. Happy about dental network but should be extended (more oral surgeons)
18. Dental networks not enough expend and clear
19. Dealing with sunlife they were very efficient.
20. Maybe more information for those who pay for it.
21. Increase the coverage of the dental plan even if increased the fees, maybe have two visit a year.
22. Like to see more extensive coverage for our psychological services.
23. Finds the plan unuseful
24. Satisfied with the plan
25. Would like international students to have access to daycare
26. Shorten Black-out period
27. Delay is too long for doctor appointment (foreign student)

28. 1. my partner wasn’t allowed to my plan cause she doesn’t have her citizenship. I was never told about it. The administration didn’t advise me. The partners should be able to get on to the plan even without citizenship.

29. (Foreign) There should be free checkups, delay for appointments should be minimized

30. Student suggests that insurance could pay everything in case of emergency and then get customer’s refund.

31. happy to be covered for unexpected problem.

32. more information for international student

33. Should specify what is not covered on the dental plan

34. Include the cost of glasses

35. Price of family enrollment is too high

36. Would like to have eye exams and glasses reparation covered

16. How did you hear about it? Please select all that apply:

1. pgss
2. departement (nursing)
3. Department informal communication
4. medical net
5. news
6. through program
7. newsletter
8. Works at resource center
9. Just happened to be there at the right time
10. e.g.s.s
11. Works for mcgill counselling service
19. In what building do you spend the hours of 9 am – 5 pm?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SH688</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts Building</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beatty Hall</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronfman</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronfman</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burnside Hall</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chancellor Day Hall</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry Department</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas Hall</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education building</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law building</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leacock</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linguistic Building</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyman Duff</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macdonald</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macdonald - Harrington</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macdonald - Stewart</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mc Connell</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.H. Wong</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McIntyre</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McLennan</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine Buildings</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montreal Neurological Institute</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morrice Hall</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nahumgelber</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Music Building</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peterson Hall</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purvis Hall</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raymond</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redpath</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rutherford</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Victoria Hospital</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rutherford Physics Building</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stewart Biological Sciences Building</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strathcona</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strathcona music building</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomson House</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William &amp; Henry Birks Building</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilson Hall</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (gym, hospital)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
20. How much did you pay for RAMQ in your 2007-2008 taxes?

1. 500
2. 60.00
3. 60.00
4. 100.00
5. 500.00
6. 500.00
7. nothing
8. 300-400$
9. 130.00
10. 00.00
11. 1900
12. 400.00
13. nothing
14. 00.00
15. 500.00
16. 600.00
17. 250
18. 00.00
19. 890.00
20. 00.00
21. 0
22. 00.00
23. 500.00
24. 00.00
25. 500.00
26. 200.00
27. 547,00
22. What on-campus services would you benefit most from to address these challenges?

1. Put an emphasis on student-organized services like cafeteria
2. naturopaths and vegetarian/ allergy free food
ihaveaplan.ca
DON’T MISS SMH DAY
AT MCGILL UNIVERSITY

Featuring the Fabulous
DAVID GRANIRER
Comic, Counselor, Author of The Happy Neurotic
Plus the Comics of Stand Up
For Mental Health Montreal
In Partnership with AMI-Quebec

Visit standupformentalhealth.com for more information

WHEN
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7TH, 2010
SHOWS
Lunchtime Show: 12:30 – 1:30 PM at SSMU Clubs Lounge
Evening Show: 7:00 – 9:00 PM at SSMU Cafeteria
University Centre, 3480 rue McTavish – Montreal, QC
TICKETS:
Free for students, faculty, staff, Alumni & Montreal Community. General Seating.
For Further Info Contact studentservices@mcgill.ca

PRESENTED BY:

Changing Hearts and Minds One Laugh at a Time – SMH Comics use stand-up comedy to break down mental illness stigma and get a national discussion going on Campus.
C11-09-#02
TO BE APPROVED

POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS’ SOCIETY OF McGINL UNIVERSITY
Minutes for the Council Meeting of
Wednesday, September 8th, 2010, 18h30
C11-09-#02

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 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
- $800.00
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
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- 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 become 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.

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.
AGENDA

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

2. SPEAKER’S REPORT

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

4.1 C11-10-#03

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES AND STANDING ORDERS ......................................................... 2

5.1 MOTION R11-10-#39 - TO ACCEPT NOMINATING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS ........................................... 2

5.2 MOTION R11-10-#40 - TO ELECT CANDIDATES TO THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE ........................................ 3

5.3 MOTION R11-10-#41 – PGSS-GPS GRANTS PROGRAMME .................................................................................. 3

5.4 MOTION R11-10-#33 – PETITION PERCENTAGES (ARTICLE) ................................................................. 4

5.5 MOTION R11-10-#34 PETITION PERCENTAGES (BYLAW) ........................................................................ 4

5.6 MOTION R11-10-#35 EXECUTIVE ATTENDANCE AT COUNCIL ............................................................... 4

5.7 MOTION R11-10-#36 REMOVAL FROM OFFICE ......................................................................................... 5

5.8 MOTION R11-10-#37 COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE ......................................................................................... 6

6. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

6.1 VP External

6.2 VP Academic

6.3 VP Finance

6.4 VP Internal

6.5 President

7. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

7.1 ELECTIONS COMMISSIONER

7.2 EQUITY COMMISSIONER

7.3 SENATE COMMISSIONER

7.4 ENVIRONMENT COMMISSIONER

7.5 HEALTH COMMISSIONER

7.6 SOCIAL COMMISSIONER

7.7 STUDENT SUPPORT COMMISSIONER

7.8 FAMILY CARE COMMISSIONER
8. OTHER REPORTS

8.1 STEERING COMMITTEE
8.2 CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

9. QUESTION PERIOD (15 MIN)

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.1. MOTION R11-10-#42 STUDENT SERVICES FEE REFERENDUM
10.2. MOTION R11-10-#43 RELIGIOUS STUDIES GRADUATE STUDENT SOCIETY (RSGS)
10.3. MOTION R11-10-#44 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RESPECTING LANGUAGE COURSES
10.4. MOTION R11-10-#45 A BYLAW AMENDMENT REGARDING THE STEERING COMMITTEE
10.5. MOTION R11-10-#46 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RESPECTING EXECUTIVE AND COMMISSIONER TRANSITION PERIOD
10.6. MOTION R11-10-#47 A BYLAW AMENDMENT CONCERNING IN-COUNCIL ELECTIONS
10.7. MOTION R11-10-#48 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RESPECTING VP-EXTERNAL LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS
10.8. MOTION R11-10-#49 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RESPECTING THE STRATEGIC ENROLMENT PLAN
10.9. MOTION R11-10-#50 TO ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

5. Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders

5.1. Motion R11-10-#39 - 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;

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

NOTE: Report of the Nominating Committee Will be forthcoming. This document will be updated over the weekend when it is ready.
5.2. Motion R11-10-#40 - To elect candidates to the Nominating Committee

(... / ...)

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 (1) members at-large

5.3. Motion R11-10-#41 – PGSS-GPS Grants Programme

(VP-Finance / ..)

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
5.4. **Motion R11-10-#33 – Petition Percentages (Article)**

(J. Mooney/...)

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.”

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 /...)

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.

5.7. **Motion R11-10-#36 Removal from Office**
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.

5.8. Motion R11-10-#37 Complaints Committee

(M. Krause / ..)

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.

10. New Business

10.1. Motion R11-10-#42 Student Services Fee Referendum

(E. Cawley/..)

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.

10.2. Motion R11-10-#43 Religious Studies Graduate Student Society (RSGS)

(President /..)

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.

10.3. Motion R11-10-#44 Committee of the Whole Respecting Language Courses

(VP-External /..)

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.

10.4. Motion R11-10-#45 A Bylaw Amendment Regarding the Steering Committee

(J. Mooney/..)

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.
### 10.5. Motion R11-10-#46 Committee of the Whole Respecting Executive and Commissioner Transition Period

(VP-External /..)

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.

### 10.6. Motion R11-10-#47 A Bylaw Amendment Concerning In-Council Elections

(J. Mooney /..)

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".

### 10.7. Motion R11-10-#48 Committee of the Whole Respecting VP-External Language Requirements

(VP-External /..)

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.

### 10.8. Motion R11-10-#49 Committee of the Whole Respecting the Strategic Enrolment Plan

(President/..)

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.

### 10.9. Motion R11-10-#50 To Adopt the Recommendations of the Constitution Committee

(../..)

BIRT the recommendations of the Constitution Committee, contained in the report of the Constitution Committee, be adopted.
Society:
1. Executive meeting. (October 5)
2. Meeting with M. Kreiswirth (Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies). (October 6)
3. Council. (October 6)
4. Executive-Commissioner caucus. (October 12)
5. Executive e-meeting. (October 18 to 22)
6. Executive e-meeting. (October 23 to 25)
7. Meeting with members of the McGill administration regarding the strategic enrolment plan. (October 26)

Upcoming:
1. Executive Retreat. (November)

Provincial Representation:
1. Meeting with representatives from CADEUL (undergraduate student union of Laval), AÉLIÉS (graduate student union of Laval), SSMU and the CGSA (graduate student union of Concordia) regarding a proposal for a university funding model. (October 8)
2. Meeting of the Rassemblement des associations étudiantes (RAE) regarding updates and examination. (October 4)
3. Email exchange with L-P. Savoie (President of FEUQ) regarding language courses at McGill. (October 13)
4. Meeting of the Rassemblement des associations étudiantes (RAE) regarding examination. (October 15)
5. Email exchange with P-V. Khuong (Research Coordinator of FAÉCUM, the student association of the University of Montreal) regarding bill C-32. (October 19)
6. Meeting of the Rassemblement des associations étudiantes (RAE) regarding examination. (October 20)
7. Telephone conversation and email exchange with L-P. Savoie (President of FEUQ) and L. Viau (President of CNCS) regarding the McGill MBA program and family care. (October 26)

Upcoming:
1. CÁGS conference in Toronto. (November 3 to 6)
2. FEUQ Congress in Lévis, Quebec. (November 13 and 14)

Public Relations:
1. Attendance at a panel discussion at Concordia regarding student unions in Quebec. (October 13)
2. Meeting of the SSMU Executive and PGSS Executive. (October 15)
3. Telephone conversation with P. Jelinski (Assistant General Manager of URSU the University of Regina Student Union) regarding their referendum and our experiences. (October 19)
Initiatives:
1. Meeting with T. Fabian (VP Internal of the SSMU) regarding the Science & Policy Exchange. (October 4)
2. Meeting of the organizing committee for the Science & Policy Exchange. (October 5)
3. Attended and organized the Science & Policy Exchange and the following mixer. (October 7)
4. Meeting with M. Zaidi (VP External of the SSMU) and M. Rozworski (VP External of AGSEM) regarding “McGill at a Crossroads” conference. (October 12)
5. Meeting with M. Zaidi (VP External of the SSMU) and M. Rozworski (VP External of AGSEM) regarding “McGill at a Crossroads” conference. (October 19)
6. Email exchange with J. Larsen and telephone conversations with S. Aberman regarding McGill involvement with the “McGill at a Crossroads” conference. (October 20)
7. Attended and participated in the “McGill at a Crossroads” conference. (October 22)
8. Meeting of the organizing committee for the Science & Policy Exchange. (October 25)
9. Meeting with M. Isabel regarding Board of Trade report. (October 25)
10. Became the representative for the PGSS to the Montreal Board of Trade. (October)
11. Launched a web survey to sample PGSS students and Postdoctoral fellows regarding tuition fees. (October)

Upcoming:
1. Tax seminar given by the Canadian Revenue Agency at Thomson House. (November 16)

Campaigns:
1. Email exchange with M-H. Renaud regarding the exchange of materials and promotion. (October 7)
2. Email exchange with J. Nicell regarding STM and an update on the status of negotiations. (October 8)
3. Email exchange with K. Ng regarding carpooling via AMT. (October 14)

Further Information:
The Science & Policy Exchange was well received by those who attended and participated in the event. I would like to thank all of the volunteers who made the Exchange possible and I look forward to the next one in 2011.

The “McGill at a Crossroads” conference was another excellent event that offered dynamic perspectives about our academic world. I would like to thank Adrian Kaats and Mariève Isabel for their help.
Introduction

First of all, I would like to thank you for giving me a chance to serve on the PGSS executive for the remainder of the year. I will commit my 100% to serving the general membership of the PGSS and provide support to the rest of the executive so that we can best run the society.

Having worked with the administration and the PGSS in the past, my learning curve as promised, was not that steep. So far, I was able to acquaint myself with many of the projects that are currently underway.

I will try to maintain a concise reporting system and I encourage you to ask any questions that come to mind.

Committee Meetings

October 8th, 2010: Meeting with the PGSS President

I met with Alexandra to go over the portfolio and learn a little bit about what is going on with the PGSS. Topics briefly discussed included: The Architecture Café issue, senate, the PGSS caucuses, the executive, CGS related issues (time to completion, CGS council, etc...).

October 12th, 2010: PGSS Executive-Commissioner meeting

Attended the meeting of the PGSS Exec-Commissioner caucus. Agenda items are reported in the respective executive and commissioner’s report.

October 18th, 2010: Meeting with the McGill Ombudsperson

The PGSS Equity commissioner and I met with Dr. Boudreau in his office. The meeting focused first on introducing the services that the office provides to students and we compared their offerings to the ones of the PGSS. We made a commitment to introduce our respective support mechanisms to the students that come forward directly to the PGSS or to the office of the Ombudsperson. More importantly, Dr. Boudreau noted that they have seen an increase in the number of students with time to completion issues. This prompted us to ask for more information, because an increase in such cases might indicate either a lack of information regarding the guidelines on behalf of the students, or a failure by the departments in communicating this information properly. This could also be an indication of other problems related to supervision and progress monitoring. We asked Dr. Boudreau for more data information on the matter but we were told that their office does not
keep these numbers. We were referred to the Senate report that will be submitted in December.

**Recommendation: the PGSS should be maintaining close communication channels with the Office of the Ombudsperson as we undergo any work on the time to completion issue.**

*October 20th, 2010: Meeting with members of the Geography GSA*

I met with two graduate students from the Geography GSA who are proposing a collaborative event focusing on sustainability in the various disciplines. I highlighted the various options that the PGSS can assist in.

*October 20th, 2010: MAUT pre-senate meeting*

I attended the MAUT pre-senate meeting during which the senate agenda was discussed with particular focus on the Senate Steering’s decision to remove the item pertaining to the Arch Café from the senate agenda and submit it to the board of directors. A brief discussion on the financial report to senate was discussed.

*October 20th, 2010: October Senate*

I attended the meeting of senate. Items relevant for reporting include:

- The white paper presented by the Provost, Anthony Masi
  - More on the white paper in the December council after our meeting with the provost and thorough study on the paper.
- The McGill residences
  - Went over the situation of the McGill residences and the shortage in suffers, in capacity and in funds for deferred maintenance.
- Financial report: more detailed reporting from the BoG.
- APC report: nothing striking to report
- Annual report on Student Services: nothing striking to report.

NOTE: reports are available for the public, and I can provide them to you if requested.

*October 25th, 2010: Joint Senate-Board Meeting*

I attended this interesting session that focused on graduate education at McGill. The session was meant to bringing together Senate and Board members to discuss, in a workshop mode, how to improve the graduate experience at McGill. The discussion was divided in a few main topics: how to improve funding for graduate students and how to improve the diversity of graduate students along with the whole graduate experience.

This was a very good and productive brainstorming exercise that will certainly provide avenues for the CGS to explore in driving graduate studies forward. Almost
all the suggestions involved improving funding and more training for supervisors and students, as well as better faculty management.

*October 26th, 2010: Meeting and Orientation with ASEQ*

Along with other executives and commissioners, I attended an orientation session and a meeting with our broker, ASEQ. More details are available in the Health Commissioner’s report.

*October 27th, 2010: Equity and Diversity Workshop*

Along with other members of the executive, commissioners and council, I attended a workshop organized by SEDE at PGSS focusing on Equity and Diversity at McGill. More details are available in the Equity Commissioner’s report. This type of event should be encouraged at PGSS because it reinforces our commitment to Equity and Diversity within the university system.

**Events Attended**

*October 15th, 2010: PGSS – SSMU Executive Dinner*

I was very happy to meet our undergraduate counterparts and interact with them outside of formal meetings. I personally see great value in making sure that our relationship with other campus student groups are always positive, enabling us to form effective student coalitions. After all, we do share a campus together. During the dinner, I was able to know the SSMU and some of the PGSS executive on a more personal level as well as being able to create more direct and invaluable communication channels.

**Activities**

**Upcoming events**

*Meetings that are confirmed so far for the month of November:*

- PGSS Executive Meeting
- Meeting with the Director of Residences
- Meeting with the Provost
- Meeting with the Director of Student Services
- Canadian Association of Graduate Studies
- PGSS Executive-Commissioner Meeting
- Meeting with Dean of Graduate Studies
- November Senate
**Further information/recommendations**

*MAT/PAT project*

I am still trying to understand all the elements of the project. I am also in constant discussion with other executive on the topic. I will be making recommendations to the Family Care Committee soon on the topic. Unfortunately, a meeting with Dahlia has yet to materialize due to busy schedules on both parts.

*Extra Course Fee*

Various groups and individuals brought up this issue to my attention. It involves charging students extra fees for taking courses outside of their faculty. This item will be brought up with Dean Krieswirth.

*Committee recruitment*

Going well. Most committees are filled.
VP Internal
Magnus Bein

Oct.27, 2010

Portfolio: Duties of the Vice-President (Internal)

Acronyms: IAC = Internal Affairs Committee; SC = Social Commissioner; BoD = Board of Directors; GSA = graduate student association

Activities
- Planning of Halloween celebration preparations with staff and SC (Oct.12, 17, 18, 22); meeting with SC and volunteers (Oct.18); coordinating (Oct.22)
- Planning orientation debrief and Jan 2011 orientation meeting (Oct.18)
- Planning Nov-outing to Mt. St. Hilaire with IAC volunteer, in consultation with staff and SC (Oct.14-17)
- Selection of candidate charities for proceeds from Halloween party (Oct.15-17)
- Development of promotions/multimedia assistant job description (Oct.7, 18)
- Communication with Quebec Public Interest Research Group to plan a joint event (Oct.17) and discussion with Interdisciplinary Research Symposium organizers for possible related joint event (Oct.24)
- Communication with Enviro-Committee on Sustainability proposal and committee liaison (Oct.17, 19, 20)
- IAC committee meeting (Oct.21)
- Assistance with Trivia and Karaoke regular events (Oct.22)

Communication
- Planning GSA event in November (Oct.22, 24)
- Handling of Newswire submissions and general inquiries (over a dozen at various times/dates throughout Oct.)
- Consulting with IAC members on regular meeting schedule (Oct.12) and activities carried out (Oct.16)
- Exec-Commissioner Caucus meeting (Oct.12)
- Executive meeting (Oct.5) and several email exchanges incl. e-meetings (Oct.23)
- Development of IAC recruitment posting (Oct.17)
- IAC meeting (Oct.21)
- Volunteer postings for IA events and Halloween party (Oct.18)
- Meeting with Services Coordinator to manage PGSS listervs (Oct.18)

Other duties
- Development of roles and responsibilities in Internal Affairs and event planning (Oct.1-7)
- Communication with SC regarding schedule of meetings, responsibilities, and event planning process (Oct.13, 14, 18, 26), structure of IAC (Oct.16); meetings about need for schedule & role clarification (Oct.6, 12, 25)
- Collective meeting with Executives and Council Commissioner to address
working relationship between SC and VP Internal; feedback on constitutional duties and proposed event workflow (#1 above) (Oct.14)

- Working with Business Manager and President to resolve problems arising in relationship between SC and VP Internal (Oct.18, 26); meeting (Oct.21)
- Development of planned budget and clarification of financial system (Oct.20, 22)
- PGSS BoD meetings (Oct.13, 27)
- Equity workshop (Oct.27)
- Development of Promotions/Multimedia Assistant job description (Oct.18, 25)

**Upcoming tasks anticipated before the next Council meeting**

- Preparation of outing waiver and handout
- Halloween volunteer meeting
- Prepare and coordinate Halloween volunteers (Pumpkin and costume contests)
- GSA Forum announcement
- Karaoke organizing
- Wrap up management plan for departure during Nov.3-17
- Circulate Internal Affairs planned budget and goals
- Initiate Promotions and Multi-media Assistant hiring process (occurs during Nov)
- Review and feedback on BoD goals and background materials
- Executive and other meetings

**Notes and other considerations**

There has been an ongoing process of clarifying Internal Affairs terms of reference to alleviate unreasonable and challenging expectations and relationships between multiple positions and improve the management of events and programming. Details of working copy (draft) of these documents are available from internal.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca.

In November, I will be doing research away from Montreal and have put a management plan in place and made extra effort to prepare for tasks and events that will occur during this trip. Details are being confirmed with the Executive, and can be obtained from internal.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca.
President’s Report November 2010

Submitted to Council by Alexandra Bishop

Meetings Attended in October:

University Representation

• Meeting with Isabelle Daoust Ph.D., Director, Recruitment and Retention, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies October 5th
  o Graduate student experience at McGill and what can be done to enhance it.
• Meeting with Dean Kreiswirth October 6th & 28th
  o Time to Completion requirement
• Attended Life as an Astronaut Event by McGill Alumni: Oct. 24th
• Graduate Advisory Committee October 26th
  o Funding mechanisms
• Strategic Enrollment Management Draft Plan Consultation meeting with DPSLL: Oct 26th
• Meeting with MUNASA President and SSMU president regarding policy on safe disclosure: Oct 27th
• Graduate Skills Development Advisory Meeting: Oct 27th
• Meeting with Principal Monroe Blum: October 27th (note: was postponed until Nov 11th )

Committee for the Coordination of Student Services

• First meeting: October 4th

Senate

• Senate Steering October 15th
• Senate: October 20th
• Joint Senate and Board of Governors Meeting: October 25th
  o Topic: Graduate Studies

Board of Governors

o Executive Committee: October 25th

Policy

• Policy and Structure Advisory Committee: Oct 18th
Executive
- Executive meetings October 5th
- Executive Commissioner Caucus: Oct 12th
- Board of Directors: Oct 13th and Oct 27th

PGSS Activities
- Meeting with GSA regarding fee levy collection policy changes: October 5th
- Attended Science and Policy Exchange: Oct 7th
- Meeting with Family Care Commissioner: Oct 14th
- Meeting to discuss IAC and the roles of the Social Commissioner and VP Internal: Oct 14th
- Orientation with ASEQ: Oct 26th

Other
- ICIMS Talent Platform Demonstration: Oct 14th
  - Possible committee recruitment and management software

Important Upcoming Dates
I have listed the following important meetings that I will be attending in September. If you have any issues that you would like me to address at these meetings please don’t hesitate to contact me.

University Representation
- Meeting with DPSLL: Nov. 1st, Nov 16th
- Meeting with SSMU president on a bi-weekly basis
- Meeting with Executive Director of Services for Students and PGSS Executives: Nov. 2nd
- Graduate Advisory Committee meeting: Nov 3rd
- Bi-yearly meeting with the Principle, Provost, Deputy Provost Student life and learning and Dean of Graduate Studies: Nov 11th
- Meeting with Dean Kreiswirth: Nov 24th

Committee for the Coordination of Student Services
- Regular meeting: Oct 15th

Senate
- Senate Steering Committee: Nov 8th
- Senate: Nov 16th
Board of Governors
• Building and Property Committee: Nov 22nd
• Board of Governors: Nov 30th

Executive
• Executive meetings: Oct 27th, Nov 16th
• Executive Commissioner Caucus: Nov 15th
• Board of Directors: Nov 17th

PGSS Activities
• Meeting with Director of Residence and Family Care Commissioner to discuss possible day care locations: Nov 1st
• Canadian Association of Graduate Studies Conference: Nov 3rd – Nov 6th
• GSA Town Hall and Discussion Session: Nov. 26th

Other
• Annual Meeting of the Metropolitan Montreal Board of Trade: Nov. 2nd
Tarek Hamade

PGSS Elections Commissioner Report

During the October 6th 2010 council meeting, Mr. Roland Nassim was elected in council for the position of VP Academic.
1. I met with the Ombudsperson, Dr. Spencer Boudreau, along with his administrative assistant Carmela and the VP-Academic, in order to share information on the types of work their office and PGSS does, and where these overlap or coincide. Boudreau commented on the overrepresentation of graduate students who see him, in comparison to undergraduate students and he thinks this is due to the longer-term nature of graduate student relationships (with supervisors, instructors, employers etc.). Also discussed was the new time to completion policies in effect and their negative impacts on grad students. The VP-Academic seems interested in taking this issue up with McGill Administration.

2. We had two successful events:
   (1) **Equity Community Social on Wednesday, October 20th** had a good turnout of just fewer than 40 people, all of whom work on equity on-campus in some way or another. Informal feedback was good; most people told me that they enjoyed the opportunity to meet others working on the same or similar issues and to network. I suggest making this an annual Equity Committee event.
   (2) **Equity & Diversity workshop facilitated by SEDE on Wednesday, October 27th**. The workshop had 15 attendees. I will send out a feedback form after the workshop to get participants comments.
Hello Councillors,

The past month was a particularly busy one, as there were a number of special events which took place. Most important was the Joint Board Senate meeting which was held on October 25th. The theme for the meeting was “Strategic Initiatives in Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies in the Context of Academic Planning and the White Paper,” which I believe exemplifies the commitment on the part of the administration to continue to improve graduate education at this university. Over the course of the next year or two, we will witness many positive changes taking place, one of the foremost of which will be the move to online progress-tracking. This will simplify procedures and ensure that we are all on track to meet the milestones required by our respective departments, and will provide protections in the event of a dispute with our supervisors. There are also a number of other initiatives in the pipeline that I will provide information about as it becomes available. Another important event that took place this month was the official opening of the Service Point (situated on the corner of McTavish and Sherbrooke, in the basement of the Mclennan library building). The Service Point gathers together various administrative services for students (i.e. Students Accounts, the office of the Registrar, etc) in order to reduce wait times and eliminate the need to visit different offices located around the downtown campus. Anyone whose been at McGill for a couple of years will definitely agree that this is a welcome development. As for the issue of the Architecture Café, while the question proposed by the undergraduate senators did not come back to the Senate, the matter was referred to the Board of Governors. It will be interesting to see how they respond. Finally, on October 26th, our President, VP External and myself attended a meeting on the University's plan to establish a Strategic Enrollment Management plan. The essential aim of the plan is to rationalize enrollment management at McGill and develop a comprehensive long-term vision about the Univeristy's composition (i.e. ratio of grad students to undergrads, diversity of the student body, etc). The Deputy Provost Student Life and Learning Morton Mendelson is asking for feedback, so if you are interested in perusing the document, please contact me and I will forward it along.

So that's the scope this month. If you have any questions on these, or any other, matters please do not hesitate to contact me (alexander.deguise(at)mail.mcgill.ca).

p.s. You may have noticed we have appointed a new Dean of Libraries, Dr. Colleen Cook. She comes to us from Texas A&M and brings a wealth of experience, particularly in the evaluation of user needs (she was a key player in the development of LibQual).
Green Drinks Montreal

The United Nations designated the year 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity. To celebrate this, the PGSS environment committee screened the film “Lake Invaders: the fight for Lake Huron.” The film detailed some of the invasive species that have come into Lake Huron as well as other Great Lakes, how they have upset the water ecosystem of the lake, and what scientists are doing to combat such infestations. The audience response to the film was excellent. Green Drinks provides an opportunity to network with like-minded people and exchange ideas on projects. A student from Concordia has referred the PGSS environment committee to a contact within the Concordia University greenhouse project who may give a future talk on the latest techniques in hydroponics. In the new year, speakers have been booked who will talk on a variety of topics such as the world water crisis, a McGill student led initiative to introduce bamboo plantations in Haiti, and the Campus Crops project at McGill.

Greening Thomson House

Some preliminary work has started on a Sustainability Projects Fund (SPF) application to green Thomson House. So far, two proposals have been put forth by the PGSS environment committee – to put a permaculture garden and a container garden area outside Thomson House. These subprojects are still subject to final approval and the PGSS membership will be invited to submit further ideas. However, as a preliminary step, David Wees who teaches an urban design agriculture course at the Macdonald campus, as well as the student group Campus Crops have been invited to come to Thomson House and submit designs on a permaculture garden and container garden, respectively. For an application to the SPF, one of the criteria is the involvement of several stakeholders as well as the maximization of a project’s impact across McGill. Involving these two stakeholders would well fulfill these two requirements. The submissions by these two groups will be preliminary and subject approval. Other avenues will also be explored.

Organic Farming Presentation at the Macdonald Campus

- Mr. Michael Rossy of Runaway Creek farm in Arundel – farming for close to 25 years has agreed to come and give a presentation in the beginning of December at the MacDonal d campus.
- PGSSec involvement with Gorilla Compost, the Macdonald Campus Student Society, the Macdonald Student Ecological Garden Project to help organize the event
- The head of the Farm Technology Program at Macdonald campus invited – Peter Enright
- Hopefully set up a stage program to train students interested in starting their own organic farm

PGSS Environment Website

The PGSS Environment website has been revamped to allow for ideas/events/activities from others outside the environment committee. We are always searching for new wonderful ideas for better graduate student involvement in environmental issues and new ideas to green our campus and graduate facilities.
Submit your comments under “Your Ideas”: http://pgss-environment.mcgill.ca/
Health Commissioner

Jonathan Mooney

28 October 2010

October events focused on the logistics of holding the mental health fee increase referendum, planning for the 17 November 2010 flu shot clinic, and discussion of the insurance renewal process and the related survey with the insurance broker, ASEQ.

Meetings

15 October 2010 – Meeting with Elections Commissioner regarding referendum question logistics

26 October 2010 – Meeting with insurance broker (ASEQ) president and account handler

• Insurance coverage survey discussed
• Discussion of coverage changes procedure for 2011
• Questions raised and answered about ASEQ’s role in the health plan
• Flu shot clinic support offered by broker

26 October 2010 – PGSS Health and Wellness Committee (HAWC) meeting

• Committee approved final version of survey
• Discussion of mental health referendum including issues of timing and publicity
• Issue of insurance fee surplus brought up
• Committee approved policy for dealing with absences
• Representation to university health-related committees reviewed
• Flu shot day (17 November 2010) announced

Communication

1 October 2010 – Response sent to student questioning the legitimacy of the health and dental plan

Early October 2010 – E-mails exchanged with PGSS Services Desk and Nursing Coordinator at McGill Student Health Services regarding 17 November 2010 Flu Shot Clinic

Early October 2010 – Commutation with Jana Luker (Student Services) and Mary Jo McCullogh (Student Accounts) regarding wording of referendum question

6 October 2010 – Information regarding access to Mental Health Services sent to former Health Commissioner (Bonniee Barnett) and Professor Doreen Starke-Meyerring in Department of Integrated Studies in Education

10 October 2010 – Communication with Health Committee regarding attendance at meetings
13 October 2010 – Response sent to McGill Daily reporter Stephen Eldon Kerr regarding Mental Health fee referendum

14 October 2010 – Communication with PGSS President and Elections Commissioner regarding referendum logistics

20 October 2010 – Communication with Jana Luker (Student Services) and PGSS President regarding meeting to discuss referendum and other issues

23 October 2010 – Discourse with Elections Commissioner regarding changes to referendum question wording and exclusion of post-doctoral students

28 October 2010 – Communication with broker about paperless insurance claims processing for flu shot clinic

28 October 2010 – Communication with PGSS representative to MSHAB regarding referendum logistics and reconsidering date of referendum at council
Social Commissioner Council Report : October-November
Submitted on October 27th, 2010  by Pooja Tyagi

Promotion via facebook

1. Halloween Party
2. Pumpkin Carving
3. Q-Bar
4. Trip to Mont St Hilaire
5. Craig Cardiff Performance
6. Karaoke
7. Trivia Night

Meetings/Events attended

1. Attended the IAC meeting.
2. Attended the Exec-Commissioner Caucus.
3. Met with the VP Internal to discuss the agenda of the upcoming meetings.
4. Met with the staff regarding halloween party planning.
5. Organized and attended a meeting with the IAC to discuss the halloween party and pumpkin carving.
6. Organized and attended a meeting with the volunteers for the halloween party.
8. Attend the Equity workshop today.

Management/Organization

1. roped in volunteers for the halloween party.
2. Planned decorations and made a list of items required for decoration purposes. Almost all the material required will be provided by the staff. Two items will be provided by the volunteers. They'll then be reimbursed upon presenting the receipts for their purchases.
3. Proposed charities for the halloween party.
4. Made the poster for Mont St Hilaire trip.
5. Secondary contact for the Mont St. Hilaire Trip.

Upcoming:
6. Along with the volunteers, I'll be decorating Thomson House starting 11AM on Oct. 30th.
7. Host for the trivia night on Nov. 9th.
The application period for financial assistance under the Family Care Programme (FCP) began on November 1st, and will close on December 3rd, 2010, at 5:00PM. Applicants are now able to fill out the application and submit it electronically. However, hard-copies of attachments, such as tax information and proof of expenses, must be physically submitted to Thomson House (room 401) before the close of the application period in order for the application to be complete (incomplete applications will not be considered). The Family Care Committee will evaluate the applications in December, and all applicants will be notified as to the status of their application in the second week of January.

One major difference from the Winter 2010 FCP is that individuals who are expecting a child between December 1st 2010 and February 1st 2011 will be eligible to apply for assistance. In these cases, a proof of pregnancy or a certificate of adoption with the expected delivery date must be included among the attachments. Those expecting a child after February 1st will have to wait to apply in Winter 2011. Part of the reason for this change is to accommodate those who have benefited from the Maternity/Paternity project. Work has begun to lobby the provincial government to provide maternity/paternity support for graduate students. If this materializes, and we hope it will, it will render the PGSS mat/pat project redundant. However, it will likely take some time to materialize, and those who are expecting now are unlikely to benefit. It was in that spirit that the Mat/Pat project was devised; it was meant to serve as a temporary measure until a funding program from another source becomes available. The Family Care Committee is currently weighing its options for the Mat/Pat project against other initiatives that may benefit more parents, specifically the new PGSS daycare. If space is found and it becomes possible to open the daycare this year, then the PGSS community may be better served if the $40,000 allocated for the Mat/Pat project were diverted for this purpose. However, if the daycare project is delayed or encounters too many obstacles, then the reallocation of funds intended for the Mat/Pat project for 2010-2011 will be reevaluated.

The Family Care Committee also held its first event ever, apple picking. Approximately 25 people attended. The first part of the day was spent picking apples and having lunch, and then we went to a pumpkin farm with a petting zoo. The weather cooperated, and a good time was had by all. More events will be planned for the coming months.

Finally, the committee would like to welcome its newest members, Brock Rutter and Katia El Jurdi.

**Hadley Myers, Family Care Commissioner**
**November 3, 2010**
Report of the Steering Committee

Present: President (Chair), VP-External, VP-Internal, Council Commissioner (Non-Voting)
Regrets: VP-Academic, VP Finance
Guest: Health Commissioner

The Steering Committee would like to draw Council’s attention to motion 6.4 in the Council Package, concerning *A Bylaw Amendment Regarding the Steering Committee*.

With respect to the issues raised in the motion brought forward by the Councillor, the Steering Committee is of the opinion that the issues implicitly brought forward in the motion are issues that deserve discussion, and carry an element of needed critique of Society practice. Nevertheless, the Steering Committee is troubled by the motion as it presently stands.

Firstly, the Steering Committee thinks that it would have been appropriate for the motion to have been brought to its attention for discussion, fine-tuning, and suggestions before it went forward to Council. This did not occur. As the committee to be affected by this drastic restructuring of its composition, it would perhaps have been wise for the committee itself to have the opportunity to discuss possible changes.

Secondly, the motion as crafted continues serious errors. The first of the several parts of the resolution in fact removes the purpose of the steering committee from the constitution, a change that, frankly, confused the committee.

Furthermore, the plan to remove the majority of the Executive from the Steering Committee would only serve to distance the Executive from the functioning of Council, and sever an important link in the Executive-Council relationship. It is fundamental that the Executive be seen as the Executive Committee of Council, and not as a fundamentally separate body, despite the differential electoral procedures.

It is not even clear what the valued-added to the Society would be to add seven (7) volunteer Councillor positions to the Steering Committee. The Committee wields little authority, and, basically, meets for about 15 minutes once a month to put the Council package together in some sort of order. It would be an unwise usage of important volunteer hours.

In light of this, the following motion passed unanimously at the meeting of Steering:

**BIRT the Steering Committee of Council request Council to commit the Bylaw Amendment Regarding the Steering Committee to the Steering Committee, and that if Council so commits the motion to Steering, that Steering provide a report regarding the motion for the December 8, 2010 Council meeting.**
Motion R11-06-#6 - Permanent Family Care Commissioner and Committee (text to remove is identified in italics):

BIRT Bylaw 5.1.2 be amended by the addition of:

i. Family Care

BIFRT Bylaw 5.13 be created 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 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 Constitution Committee recommends the proposed amendments be revised before being re-considered (possible changes emphasized with italics):

BIRT Bylaw 5.1.2 be amended by the addition of:

i. Family Care

BIFRT Bylaw 5.13 be created 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 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 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 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.

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.*
Notes

The proposed Bylaw on the Family Care Committee contains items that are unclear, or need editing. Item 6.6.18.3.4 was added for consistence with similar existing Bylaws. These proposed changes should be approved by the original movers before being accepted.

Furthermore, the proposed Bylaw 6.6.18.1.9 is extremely vague: “ensure and maintain confidentiality” of what? Of materials pertaining to its business and activities? The Family Programme?

Proposed Bylaw 5.13.1 is also somewhat vague: “issues pertaining to families” is very broad. It would be reasonable for the mandate of the Family Care Commissioner to somewhat broader than the Family Care Committee, but this text could be clarified. “family issues” may not be appropriate language, but we could not decide on a suitable change consistent with the intent of the amendment.

Motion R11-09-#18 - Sustainable Projects Fund Rep. To Environment Committee

BIRT Bylaw 6.6.14.2.7 be created to read as follows:

The Society representative to the Sustainability Projects Fund.

BIFRT current Bylaw 6.6.14.2.7 be re-numbered to be Bylaw 6.6.14.2.8

The Constitution Committee recommends accepting this Bylaw amendment, with the following minor change to correct an apparent typo (changes emphasized with underlined italics):

BIRT Bylaw 6.6.14.2.7 be created to read as follows:

The Society representative to the Sustainability Projects Fund.

BIFRT current Bylaw 6.6.14.2.7 be re-numbered to be Bylaw 6.6.14.2.8

Motion R11-10-#31 – Suspension of Privileges

BIRT Society Article 2.5.1 be amended 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”
This motion essentially seeks to shift the authority to revoke or suspend the privileges of membership in the Society from the Executive to the Board of Directors. These two bodies overlap somewhat in membership, but with subtle differences, areas of responsibility, and implications.

- The Board of Directors is responsible for governance & business operation (Bylaw 3.1.1). They are responsible for "Policy, Accountability, and Broad Strategy" (Bylaw 3.2.1). Membership is comprised of (Bylaw 3.4.1):
  a. President,
  b. VP(Finance),
  c. VP(Internal),
  d. 2 elected PGSS members-at-large,
  e. 2 elected Montreal community members.

- The Executive, on the other hand, is responsible for the “implementation of the Society's policies and coordination of its activities” (Bylaw 4.1.1). Membership is comprised of (Bylaw 4.3.1):
  a. The President
  b. The Vice-President (External)
  c. The Vice-President (Academic)
  d. The Vice-President (Finance)
  e. The Vice-President (Internal)

The privileges of membership are defined in Article 2.5 as
  a. to hold office within the Society, subject to qualifications as specified by Bylaw;
  b. to use Society facilities and services.

The Board already has responsibility to manage entrance to Thomson House, a facility of the Society (Corporate Regulations 2.4.8, 2.4.9, 2.4.11), as well as jurisdiction over services of the Society (e.g. Thomson House bar and restaurant, Health and Dental Insurance plans). Therefore the Board already has jurisdiction over some privileges of membership.

Privileges include more than entrance to Thomson House, including access to Society services (e.g. the Thomson House bar and restaurant, Health and Dental Insurance), and holding office (such as positions on the Executive and Board of Directors). The question remains whether behaviour within Thomson House warrants suspension or revocation of all privileges of membership. Corporate Regulation 2.4.9 grants the Board jurisdiction over actions to take in the event of misconduct, although the scope of appropriate actions is not clear.
The Constitution Committee agrees that the proposed amendment is consistent with other Articles, Bylaws, and Regulations. We recommend it be accepted.

Council may also wish to clarify appropriate actions and consequences of misconduct within Thomson House, which would be within the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors.

Further Notes:

Note that a member whose privileges had been revoked might have difficulty exercising their right “to attend Annual General, General, and Council meetings...”, if such meetings were held within Thomson House or other “facility of the Society”: privileges include the “use [of] Society facilities and services”. Presumably, entering Thomson House for the purposes of attending a Society Meeting outside of the restaurant and bar, would not constitute the use of a Society facility. Thomson House, and the associated parking lot are Society facilities (Corporate Regulation 2.7.2), while the bar and restaurant, located within Thomson House, are services (Society Article 1.3).

**Motion R11-10-#32 - Commissioner Attendance**

BIRT Society Bylaw 5.4.3 be amended 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.*”

The intent of the new text seems to be to allow valid absences from meetings, without resorting to automatic resignation, or a Council motion. It should be noted, however, that the current text already allows Council to approve “a motion for the commissioner to retain his or her position”. Therefore, in the event of missing three (3) meetings, the Commissioner may explain their absences to Council, provide valid reasons or other reasons acceptable to Council, and seek a motion to retain their position. Furthermore, if valid reasons can be anticipated,
such as Society business, such a motion may be sought in advance of the absence, thus avoiding automatic resignation.

The proposed amendment is unclear regarding who would be responsible for accepting “valid reasons”, and what documentation or support would be required. Commissioners are responsible to Council, according to Bylaw 5.4.3. If the responsible body is Council, then the proposed amendment is unnecessary and could complicate, rather than simplify procedures: *Every* missed meeting may be justified and validated by Council, rather than reviewing a Commissioner’s attendance *only* after missing three (3) meetings. If a body other than Council has the authority to validate missed meetings, then the proposed amendment would have the effect of reducing Council’s ability to hold Commissioners accountable.

Note that other Bylaws regarding attendance are currently worded to provide similar consequences of missed meetings, such as Bylaw 2.5.5.2 (Councillor Attendance). The proposed amendment would create inconsistent consequences of missed meetings for Commissioners and Councillors.

**Recommendation:** The Constitution Committee recommends the withdrawal of this Bylaw amendment.
Strategic Enrolment Management Plan

2011 - 2016

Consultation Draft

October 14, 2010
I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2007, steps were taken by the University to advance strategic enrolment management (SEM) and to establish the foundation for creating a graduate and undergraduate strategic enrolment plan. In addition to initiating a more proactive and integrated approach to planning, there is a need to identify and address several emerging regional and international trends in post-secondary education.

This plan, which is based on extensive consultation across our campuses, articulates five strategic imperatives through which enrolment planning will be conducted:

I. Research Intensity and Academic Excellence

McGill will align enrolment management strategies and activities with its focus on research intensity and academic distinction.

II. Engaged Community of Scholars and Alumni

McGill will provide outstanding teaching, learning and service experiences as well as other opportunities for involvement to create an engaged community of students, professors and alumni.

III. International Stature

McGill will encourage an enrolment profile and a learning experience that aligns with its distinguished international stature and its unique position in Quebec and Canada.

IV. Diversity and Accessibility

McGill will align its resources to enhance accessibility and to encourage diverse populations of students, professors, and administrative and support staff.

V. Financial Sustainability

McGill will ensure that enrolment strategies and activities support the financial vigor of the University.

Each imperative is linked to several performance indicators and then disaggregated into goals and actions. Some of the fundamental goals in this overarching framework include:

- Continue to increase the number of doctoral, research and professional master’s students, ensuring McGill’s place as first in Canada in terms of graduate-student intensiveness.
- Secure McGill’s position as the university enrolling the best students in Canada (defined by academic standing and additional criteria specific to certain faculties and levels of study).
- Stabilize undergraduate enrolment except for increases targeted in specific programs.
- Increase the number of Continuing Education registrations by 5% per year from 2010 to 2013.
- Enrol an increasing number of students who represent the rich diversity of our country and the world.
- Enhance teaching and learning environments to advance student engagement.
- Prioritize financial need for all qualified students to ensure that the best and most qualified may benefit from a high-quality education, regardless of their financial position.
- Ensure that enrolment strategies and activities are aligned with budgetary, academic and resource considerations.

Timelines, assignment of responsibility for follow-up, evaluation and reporting will follow in the implementation process.
II. INTRODUCTION

“The Mission of McGill University is the advancement of learning through teaching, scholarship and service to society: by offering to outstanding undergraduate and graduate students the best education available; by carrying out scholarly activities judged to be excellent when measured against the highest international standards; and by providing service to society in those ways for which we are well-suited by virtue of our academic strengths.” ([http://www.mcgill.ca/secretariat/mission/](http://www.mcgill.ca/secretariat/mission/)).

McGill benefits from having a consistently robust pool of qualified applicants from around the world, the highest undergraduate admission standards in Canada and an enviable position in important world rankings. The University does not share many of the standard and short-term enrolment concerns currently experienced by other universities. However, we cannot afford to be complacent. Looming demographic changes, increased competition for the best students and the challenges of under-funding and low tuition fees in Quebec necessitate deliberate planning and action to shape our future.

Although McGill has always engaged in enrolment management activities, our actions have not always been mindfully aligned with an explicit strategy. In 2007, steps were taken to advance strategic enrolment management (SEM) and to establish the foundation for creating an overarching enrolment plan. Our planning attempted to organize a wide range of processes related to enrolment. We were guided to a large extent by Kalsbeek’s definition of SEM and by many of the principles he advanced. These included:

- Decision-making that upholds and advances the University’s mission.
- The need to be strategic in order to optimize our financial position so that we have the resources to serve our students and professors.
- A systematic and comprehensive evaluation of the University’s competitive position.
- The development of an evidence-based definition of the University’s target position relative to key competitors.
- Consideration of institutional plans, priorities, processes, and resources to strengthen or shift that target position in pursuit of the desired enrolment, academic, and financial profile.
- A commitment to the view that strategies and decisions should be based on integrated and cooperative strategic and budget planning across the University’s various constituencies (viz., campuses, faculties and units, academic programs) and relevant to various student subgroups (e.g., undergraduate, graduate, and professional; those pursuing degrees, diplomas, and certificates or not; continuing-education students; special, visiting, and exchange students; etc.).
- A multifaceted approach that incorporates administrative, academic, student, and marketing perspectives.

To benefit from the experience and perspectives of the whole campus community, the final SEM plan has been informed by broad consultation with individuals in programs, departments, schools, faculties, and with students and central administrative units. The goal is to develop a shared vision of the overall enrolment shape of the University that is consistent with our high academic aspirations and that is not only financially sustainable, but that, indeed, optimizes the resources available for achieving those aspirations. We must also attain a shared understanding of the threats and opportunities that we confront in shaping the University and a shared call to action. However, although the enrolment aspirations and needs of specific academic programs or units will benefit from an awareness of an overall University plan, the plan will have to be adapted to local circumstances to find local expression.

The plan has been aligned with the overall vision of the University and is framed by McGill’s mission, the Provost’s White Paper, the Principal’s Task Force on Student Life and Learning, and the Principal’s Task Force on Diversity, Excellence, and Community Engagement.

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III. ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN - INTERNAL

**Strengths**

**Market Positioning**

McGill benefits from having a clear mission and vision as well as stable and strong branding. We are a research-intensive university that features a world-class reputation and teaching faculty, academically high-caliber students and an enviable location with beautiful campuses. McGill is a highly desirable university for undergraduate, professional and graduate studies and research. It boasts among its alumni former prime ministers of Canada and abroad, Nobel Prize winners, Academy Award winners, Olympic medalists, inventors and distinguished scholars.

**Superior Ranking**

McGill has succeeded in maintaining a strong academic reputation in Canada and around the world. Positive outcomes on the Maclean’s rankings reinforce the University’s nationally, and our consistent place in the top 25 of the QS World University Rankings (formerly QS-Times Higher Education Rankings) has resulted in a high level of international appeal.

**McGill’s Historical and Current Enrolment Numbers**

Our enrolment numbers have overall been healthy and robust. As indicated in the table below, in the six-year period between 2003 and 2009:

- Total student enrolment has increased 9.8%.
- Undergraduate enrolment has increased 13.6%.
- Graduate enrolment (research and professional master’s; doctoral) has increased 4.3%.

**University Enrolment - Summary Comparative 2003 - 2009**

*Includes Full Time and Part Time Students*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University Total Enrolment</th>
<th>Trend 2003 to 2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate Degrees</td>
<td>21,494</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificates, Diplomas</td>
<td>1448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special, Visiting, Other</td>
<td>1,709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Undergraduate</td>
<td>24,731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Masters</td>
<td>3,727</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral</td>
<td>2,976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s and Doctoral</td>
<td>6,503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other, Certificates, Diploma</td>
<td>1,085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other, Special, Visiting, Other</td>
<td>357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Graduate</td>
<td>7,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postdoctoral Total</td>
<td>618</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Residents &amp; Fellows</td>
<td>1,083</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Total Other (Farm Mgmt &amp; Cont Ed)</td>
<td>901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Levels Total All Levels</td>
<td>35,300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: SZRFRGS1 enrolment reports on Enrolment Services web site and archived reports

McGill’s Historical and Current Enrolment Mix

There are many ways to view enrolment mix and, in the absence of a standardized norm, universities will report numbers based on dissimilar standards. For this reason, the table below (full- and part-time students) includes several perspectives of the enrolment mix at McGill:

- Percentage of master’s and doctoral students to the sum of undergraduate degree students and master’s and doctoral students: declined from 2003 to 2009 (24.5% to 23.2%).
Percentage of master’s and doctoral students to the sum of all undergraduate and graduate students: essentially stable (20.0% to 19.9%).

Percentage of master’s and doctoral students to the sum of all students at all levels: declined (19.2% vs. 18.4%).

Percentage of all graduate students to the total of all students at all levels: declined (23.8% to 22.6%). Although McGill still benefits from a high proportion of research master’s and doctoral students, it is clear that the percentages have dropped slightly, even during a period in which our goal was to increase it. At the same time, other universities have taken strides in research student intensiveness, which highlights the challenges we face in maintaining our competitive edge.

**University Enrolment Mix Comparative 2003 - 2009**

*Includes Full Time and Part Time Students*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Row</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2003</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Degree Students</td>
<td>21,494</td>
<td>19,051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Total - All Undergraduate Students</td>
<td>24,731</td>
<td>21,765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Masters - Includes Research and Professional Masters</td>
<td>3,527</td>
<td>3,848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Doctoral</td>
<td>2,976</td>
<td>2,327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Total - Master's and Doctoral Students</td>
<td>6,503</td>
<td>6,175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Total - All Graduate Students</td>
<td>7,975</td>
<td>7,649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Total - Degree Students &amp; Masters/Doctoral Students</td>
<td>27,997</td>
<td>25,226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Total - All Undergraduates and All Graduates</td>
<td>32,706</td>
<td>29,414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Total - All Students - All Levels</td>
<td>35,300</td>
<td>32,143</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: SZRFRGS1

**Undergraduate Quality**

McGill’s undergraduate entering class has the highest CEGEP and high-school admission average in the country. Students are academically well prepared for success and report being attracted to McGill’s uniquely challenging academic milieu, including participating in classes with similarly academically strong students.

**CEGEP Selectivity / Yield / CRC - Fall 2009**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Selectivity</th>
<th>Yield</th>
<th>Average CRC of Registrants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bishop's</td>
<td>92.12%</td>
<td>60.97%</td>
<td>25.612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concordia</td>
<td>87.57%</td>
<td>59.96%</td>
<td>25.870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laval</td>
<td>87.96%</td>
<td>61.67%</td>
<td>27.706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McGill</td>
<td>65.74%</td>
<td>64.18%</td>
<td>30.339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montréal+</td>
<td>82.96%</td>
<td>61.38%</td>
<td>28.370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sherbrooke</td>
<td>84.57%</td>
<td>52.22%</td>
<td>28.027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U du Québec+</td>
<td>92.25%</td>
<td>63.86%</td>
<td>25.813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>93.42%</td>
<td>85.01%</td>
<td>27.335</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: CREPUQ Fall 2009 Statistiques Admissions

In Maclean’s 2009 Canadian University Rankings, McGill undergraduate students garnered top rankings for having the highest average entrance grades (89.7 per cent). Listed here are the top ten Canadian universities (full time, first year students entering from a high school or CEGEP):

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However, after running second to Queen’s in student graduation rates (when comparing the six-year graduation rate for the 2001 and 2002 cohorts), McGill slipped to fourth when comparing the six year graduation rate of the 2003 cohort (i.e., four-year students in the Fall of 2003 who graduated by 2009).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Ave. Entering Grade</th>
<th>&lt; 70%</th>
<th>70 to 74%</th>
<th>75 to 79%</th>
<th>80 to 84%</th>
<th>85 to 89%</th>
<th>90 to 94%</th>
<th>95% +</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>McGill</td>
<td>89.7%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>45.9</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montreal *</td>
<td>87.9%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>20.6</td>
<td>33.5</td>
<td>35.5</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saskatchewan</td>
<td>87.7%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>16.4</td>
<td>25.4</td>
<td>28.7</td>
<td>14.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queen's*</td>
<td>87.4%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>26.1</td>
<td>30.3</td>
<td>30.9</td>
<td>8.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sherbrooke*</td>
<td>86.9%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>24.6</td>
<td>39.4</td>
<td>24.6</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalhousie*</td>
<td>86.4%</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>21.5</td>
<td>28.2</td>
<td>24.8</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manitoba</td>
<td>86.4%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td>24.8</td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UBC*</td>
<td>86.3%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>31.1</td>
<td>24.2</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterloo</td>
<td>86.3%</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>23.6</td>
<td>31.9</td>
<td>25.5</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alberta</td>
<td>86.0%</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28.5</td>
<td>21.3</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: McClean's November 2009 University Rankings
* Figures are for 2007

Graduation Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Bachelor 2003</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2001</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Queen's</td>
<td>89.90%</td>
<td>87.90%</td>
<td>88.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McMaster</td>
<td>85.90%</td>
<td>81.80%</td>
<td>79.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western</td>
<td>84.90%</td>
<td>81.10%</td>
<td>77.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McGill</td>
<td>83.20%</td>
<td>82.90%</td>
<td>84.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterloo</td>
<td>80.80%</td>
<td>77.20%</td>
<td>76.70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UBC</td>
<td>77.20%</td>
<td>76.90%</td>
<td>77.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toronto</td>
<td>76.20%</td>
<td>73.50%</td>
<td>73.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montreal</td>
<td>75.90%</td>
<td>78.20%</td>
<td>78.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ottawa</td>
<td>73.50%</td>
<td>72.10%</td>
<td>72.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alberta</td>
<td>69.30%</td>
<td>65.70%</td>
<td>68.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalhousie</td>
<td>66.30%</td>
<td>62.80%</td>
<td>60.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calgary</td>
<td>61.60%</td>
<td>61.40%</td>
<td>62.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U. Quebec</td>
<td>71.80%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concordia</td>
<td>70.80%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: CSRDE (Consortium for Student Retention Data Exchange)
Graduation of 4-year students after six years
Undergraduate Retention and Graduation

While many universities struggle to retain and graduate undergraduate students, McGill compares favorably on these important indicators with our two comparison groups in the Association of American Universities (AAU).

Retention & Time To Graduation

AAU Comparative

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AAU - McGill Aspirational</th>
<th>Retention Rate</th>
<th>Graduation Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Ohio State University, Columbus</td>
<td>92.8%</td>
<td>72.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of California, Berkley</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</td>
<td>93.7%</td>
<td>82.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Michigan, Ann Arbor</td>
<td>96.1%</td>
<td>87.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Minnesota, Twin Cities</td>
<td>88.0%</td>
<td>65.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</td>
<td>96.2%</td>
<td>85.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The University of Texas at Austin</td>
<td>90.9%</td>
<td>77.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Washington, Seattle</td>
<td>92.7%</td>
<td>76.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Wisconsin, Madison</td>
<td>93.6%</td>
<td>82.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAU (aspirational) Average</td>
<td>93.0%</td>
<td>78.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

McGill University | 91.6% | 83.1% |

AAU - McGill Empirical

| Indiana University, Bloomington | NA | NA |
| Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey (NB) | 90.7% | 74.6% |
| The University of Arizona | 79.2% | 57.2% |
| University of California, Los Angeles | 96.7% | 89.0% |
| University of Colorado at Boulder | 84.0% | 66.5% |
| The University of Iowa | 83.1% | 66.1% |
| University of Missouri, Columbia | 85.2% | 68.9% |
| University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh | 90.8% | 76.2% |
| University of Virginia | 97.3% | 92.9% |
| AAU (empirical) Average | 88.4% | 73.9% |

McGill University | 91.6% | 83.1% |

Note: Canadian universities are CSRDE members (Consortium for Student Data Exchange)

Research Graduate Enrolment

Research graduate students at McGill include all those in doctoral and research master’s programs. In response to McGill’s strategic planning priorities, research graduate enrolment has increased by 9% over the past 4 years: 2006 – 5,020; 2007 – 5,037; 2008 – 5,304; 2009 – 5,489.

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3 Aspirational peers are AAU publicly-funded universities with which we strive to compete, but which have far more favorable funding than we do; empirical peers are respectable AAU publicly-funded universities that are funded at levels similar to ours.
Graduate Funding
McGill has directed resources to its priorities for SEM, particularly at the graduate level. A number of centrally funded initiatives have significantly increased support of graduate students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Increases In Graduate Funding</th>
<th>2007-2008</th>
<th>2008-2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>McGill International Doctoral Awards (MIDAs)</td>
<td>$1.8M</td>
<td>$1.3M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal's Graduate Fellowships</td>
<td>$2.2M</td>
<td>$4.5M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Enhancement Recruitment Initiative (GERI) Fellowships</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Consequently, the average funding for doctoral students, an important element in attracting qualified students, has risen 22% from 2005 to 2008, while McGill’s G13 Canadian competitors have increased their average funding for doctoral students by only 2%:

Although McGill is still behind in overall funding per doctoral student compared to the G13 average, we have made significant strides, and we also have the highest doctoral funding in Quebec.

Weaknesses
Services to Students
The Principal’s Task Force on Student Life and Learning illuminated a number of weaknesses in our services to students. Chief among these were problems with academic advising and administrative services and information that was difficult-to-navigate. The Report of the Task Force noted that the “University is accountable for minimizing unnecessary obstacles to students in academic and administrative matters, for making relevant information available in a timely fashion, and for providing the guidance students need through the academic cycle” (2006, p. 3). Improvements that have been implemented or are underway include enhancements to advising support, the introduction of an easier-to-navigate e-calendar, and student websites that are more user friendly. In addition, during the summer of 2010, the University launched Service Point, an integrated services centre for students in a new location designed to enhance the provision of services.

Enrolment and Operational Funding
It is well documented that Quebec has the lowest tuition in Canada and that Quebec universities suffer from chronic underfunding relative to universities in the rest of the country. This has had a persistently negative impact on McGill’s planning, academic services, program delivery and operations. The 2008 economic downturn reduced the value of the University’s endowments, which has compounded the budgetary challenges we face and has condensed resources available for scholarships and bursaries.
Graduate Supervision

The Graduate and Professional Student Survey and evidence from case studies in Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS) indicate that the overall quality of graduate student supervision at McGill, while satisfactory, needs to be improved. Many programs at McGill have relied on a one-on-one apprenticeship model for supervision, while best practices show that supervisory committees are much more effective. Moreover, there has been little done at McGill to advance supervisory criteria or supervisory training. As part of the GPS SKILLSETS initiative (more below), development workshops for both supervisors and supervisees have been introduced, and important issues regarding supervisory recognition and advancement are being studied and, where appropriate, regulations are being revised.

International Marketing

Although DFAIT has been working on the marketing of Canada in the global context, we still lack a comprehensive educational brand and marketing campaign. Canada is not the first choice as a study destination for international graduate students, and there are additional challenges in Quebec for non-French speakers, including partners of graduate students, to find work.

Administrative Challenges

- Despite recent improvements in the time to respond to undergraduate applications, we face continued challenges, particularly in light of the competition from American universities, which tend to release decisions very early.
- Although McGill is one of the few Canadian universities that provides a full range of scholarships and financial aid to international students, there are weaknesses in our funding programs. Many applicants view the scholarship amounts as inadequate; and separate applications are required for financial aid, resulting in a lag between offers of scholarships and bursaries/loans.
- For many programs, McGill admits students on the basis of a single criterion – viz., incoming grades – or on the basis of grades and standardized tests. This approach may undermine our goal of achieving diversity among our student body – especially diversity of socio-economic background.
- A graduate admissions process that is only partially automated leads to longer-than-optimal turnaround of admissions files and delayed acceptance letters. In a 2007 survey of admitted students, 30% of those refusing McGill’s offer identified our longer-than-anticipated admissions response as the reason they declined the opportunity to study at McGill.
- Graduate funding levels are not yet competitive with our domestic and international competitors.

Opportunities

Undergraduate Residences

McGill has invested in two new undergraduate residences since 2008, providing additional spaces for incoming first-year students, with more to become available by 2011. In view of the transition challenges that many new undergraduates face during their first year, the availability of a living space on campus for all who seek one (i.e., guaranteed residence to new undergraduates) seems to have a positive impact on undergraduates’ academic performance, including GPA and retention and graduation rates. 4

Strongly Engaged Alumni Network

We have engaged alumni in many cities around the world who are eager to support their alma mater in its recruitment efforts. GPS, in cooperation with Development and Alumni Relations (DAR), will track graduate outcomes as a measure of our achievement in producing highly qualified graduates and associated benchmarking and will create a secure, central database to store and share this information. Having more information about our graduate student alumni will also enable improved networking for current students to

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4 PIA, 2009, provided by M. Porritt
assist in career development and other initiatives that are designed to improve the graduate student experience.

Global Research Partnerships
Graduate recruitment stands to benefit from long-standing research partnerships with universities around the globe and from a global network of alumni who are conducting research. Research partnerships and graduate recruitment are intimately tied, as all major research projects create opportunities for graduate student recruitment. As such, priority geographic areas for graduate recruitment are dictated by McGill’s research strategy and key research strengths. GPS is working with the Office of the Vice Principal Research and International Relations to identify these areas of strength and prioritize markets accordingly.

Emerging Markets
Offsetting the surge in competition for students is the prominent emergence and growth of several primary markets, including China and India, which alone will generate over half the global demand in international higher education by 2025. Between the years 2000 and 2025, the global demand for higher education is expected to more than triple:

![Projected Global Demand for International Education (Thousands of International Students)](image)

IDP Education Australia Report, Global Student Mobility 2025: Forecasts of the Global Demand for International Higher Education

Threats
Complacency
The most serious threat to McGill may be complacency, which can arise as a result of our strengths and excellent reputation. Although a 2010 survey of Canadian students found McGill to be a leader in many areas ranging from reputation and quality to academic environment and teaching quality, there was considerably less awareness of McGill by students in the Northeast US and in California, areas where we anticipated a much stronger recognition. However, we must be mindful of threats to our reputation and of the fact that reputations must be nurtured, especially in jurisdictions that do not already have a McGill presence. Moreover, McGill’s excellent reputation alone cannot sustain future enrolment planning. The competition for recruitment of graduate and undergraduate students has become fierce in Quebec, Canada and the world, so it behooves McGill to take its place as a deliberate, thoughtful and strategic competitor.

We must also be more vigilant and determined about ensuring that students who choose McGill have the opportunity to study and research with the best minds, be supported by exemplary advising, graduate supervision and other services, and be given the opportunity to have international experiences that prepare them to be effective global citizens. Excellent undergraduate retention rates, as compared to our peers, and improved time to completion are two additional indicators that are critical to monitor. McGill must not be complacent about the student experience and its impact on retention.
McGill will continue to feel the pressure of budget challenges and the difficulty of delivering excellent world-class teaching and research unless there is a fundamental shift in the funding of the University. Quebec’s entire university system is underfunded in comparison to other Canadian provinces - with an annual shortfall of more than $500 million in comparison to the Canadian average. Quebec is last among Canadian provinces for the level of funding per FTE-student in terms of provincial operating grant plus tuition/fees.

One tuition policy in particular disadvantages McGill relative to other Quebec universities. Although we recruit a large number of international students, the University must return most of their tuition to the Province for all but six undergraduate disciplines.

Due to McGill’s large number of historic buildings, we also face particular challenges in the upkeep of our buildings and infrastructure, which directly impact, among other things, the educational experiences and services that we can offer our students. In 2007, McGill had 39% of estimated deferred maintenance for all Quebec universities. Even with new government infrastructure investment, we would need $380M over 15 years to bring our buildings to an acceptable level of repair.

Economic Factors
We must be mindful of the potential impact on McGill’s recruitment and retention of undergraduates and graduate students of economic factors related to global and local conditions and to possible changes in tuition and financial support. It is unclear whether the economic downturn of 2008 has had a positive or negative effect on McGill’s enrolment. In fact, undergraduate American yield increased substantially in 2009, notwithstanding the downturn. However, reports were received from many undergraduate students (particularly from western Canada and abroad) that they were not financially able to follow through on registering at McGill. The impact seems to be different in various markets.

Escalating Competition
The global competition for undergraduate and graduate students has accelerated noticeably over the last decade. In addition, the improvement in the educational systems of former “sending countries” (e.g. China) has intensified this process.

At the graduate level:
- Some Canadian universities have turned to intensive international recruitment activities as the supply for university seats exceeds demand in their provinces, and several provincial governments fund such activity
- Key markets such as China and India are building their own graduate education capacity.
- Other provinces are investing heavily in graduate education to produce more high quality personnel.
- Competitor institutions have implemented guaranteed graduate funding that surpasses what we offer.

McGill’s Research Profile
McGill’s preeminent position in research in Canada has faltered recently at the same time as other institutions – notably, the Universities of Toronto, British Columbia, and Alberta – have made important strides. We find ourselves ranked fifth overall in research grants. A drop in our rankings is a serious threat to our reputation, which can affect our ability to attract both undergraduates, who state reputation is one of the main reasons for choosing McGill, and graduate students, who are searching the best possible research experience.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN – EXTERNAL

Quebec
Statistics Canada data suggest that there will be a peak in enrolment in postsecondary institutions in Quebec in 2009-10, which should then be maintained for the following 4 years, prior to a steep decline, bottoming out in 2025-26.
More specifically, MELS has highlighted the following Quebec enrolment trends in for 2006-07 to 2021-22:

**All Quebec universities**

- Total enrolment in Quebec universities was expected to decline by 3.3%, but with an increase of 6.6% from 2006-07 to 2014-15 and a decline of 9.2% from then to 2021-22.
- However, enrolment was projected to decrease by 5.5% at the bachelor’s level, while master’s and PhD enrolments were actually expected to grow by 2.4% and 4.5% respectively.

**McGill University**

- McGill’s long-term enrolment growth was estimated by Quebec at 3.2% overall, with an increase of 10.8% from 2006-07 to 2013-14, and a decline of 6.9% from then to 2021-22.
- However, Bachelor’s level enrolment was projected to decrease by 0.5% from 2006-07 to 2021-22, while master’s and PhD enrolments were projected to grow by 2.0% and 6.2% respectively.

**Medical Residents and McGill’s Share**

- Between 2006-07 and 2021-22, the number of medical residents is expected to increase by 47% or 2,213 FTEs at the provincial level; McGill’s share of this growth is estimated at 694 FTEs or 31.4%.

These predictions may seem favorable for McGill, but we must still chart a course to address the impending demographic shift. While this plan is meant to create such a path until 2016, it should also anticipate dramatic shifts beyond that timeframe in order to protect the University from a possible serious downturn in enrolment in the future.

**Ontario**

The demographic projections for Toronto suggest that it will be a good market to continue to develop for undergraduate recruitment, although the intensity of competition is likely to increase. Toronto’s population is projected to increase over the 15-year period, while other parts of the province will increase slightly or remain stable. The increases in Toronto will be significant for McGill, because it is our most important market in Canada outside Quebec. The expected increase would represent an opportunity, but the opportunity would likely be tempered by intense competition, as universities from other jurisdictions, especially in Canada, experiencing declines in their university-aged population establish bases in Toronto.

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5 PIA expressed some reservations about 2008 MELS projections for CEGEP and university enrolment
United States

McGill relies heavily on the US market, particularly in the northeast. The university-aged population is expected to decrease in this region, but grow in the South and West. Our presence and penetration in California are comparatively limited, but we must plan US recruitment strategies in light of the impending demographic shifts. The quality of the high-school market in the US must also be considered, with the nation’s best students (approximated by SAT scores) identified as being in Colorado, followed by several mid-western and northeastern states. However, recent market research regarding McGill has indicated that McGill is relatively unknown by US high-school students in the northeast and California who might be expected to attend college, so the University cannot be complacent about continuing to attract applications from these markets.
V. STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES AND GOALS

This section provides a summary of the strategic imperatives and goals. The ensuing sections itemize the performance indicators for each imperative as well as the proposed actions to support the goals.

Imperative I - Research Intensity and Academic Excellence
McGill will align enrolment management strategies and activities with its focus on research intensity and academic distinction.

Goals
I.1 McGill will increase the number and proportion of doctoral, research and professional master’s students according to goals set through the Graduate Capacity Compact Process and will be appropriately balanced with undergraduate enrolments.6 7
I.2 McGill will develop mechanisms to increase the number and percentage of McGill graduate students who complete their degrees within a designated timeframe appropriate to their discipline.
I.3 McGill will continue to enrol the best prepared students for its undergraduate, graduate and professional programs, where best prepared is defined by academic standing and by other predictors of success in their discipline of choice.
I.4 McGill will increase the number and percentage of undergraduates engaged in research and scholarship.

Imperative II – Engaged Community of Scholars and Alumni
McGill will provide outstanding teaching, learning and service experiences as well as other opportunities for involvement to create an engaged community of students, professors and alumni.

Goals
II.1 McGill will foster teaching and learning excellence, enhance transitional support experience of students, and make academic information easily accessible and understandable.
II.2 McGill will continue to improve undergraduate advising and mentoring.
II.3 McGill will improve graduate student retention rates.
II.4 McGill will develop academically-oriented student life programming.
II.5 McGill will increase the extent of alumni engagement in the recruitment and yield of new students.

Imperative III – International Stature
McGill will encourage an enrolment profile and a learning experience that aligns with its distinguished international stature and its unique position in Quebec and Canada.

Goals
III.1 McGill will continue to enhance its international profile and reputation by enrolling outstanding international students.
III.2 McGill will continue to graduate outstanding students, both doctoral and professional, to support its role in providing communities with highly qualified medical, legal, teaching, engineering, business, and other professionals.
III.3 McGill will increase the engagement and retention of international students.
III.4 McGill will promote the placement of PhD and research and professional master’s students at peer institutions, in industry and in the not-for-profit sector across the world.

6 The goal is to increase research graduates as compared to all degree-seeking students. G13 benchmarking will need to be adjusted to ensure ongoing and effective benchmarking against Canadian peer institutions.
7 This and other goals related to McGill’s enrolment mix are subject to considerations of financial sustainability (Imperative 5).
**Imperative IV - Diversity and Accessibility**
McGill will align its resources to enhance accessibility and to encourage diverse populations of students, professors, and administrative and support staff.

**Goals**

IV.1 McGill will maintain its FTE share of students with Quebec residency relative to students with Quebec residency in all Quebec universities at 8.5% to 9%.  
IV.2 McGill will increase the diversity of the student body by enrolling and supporting more students from historically under-represented sectors, such as, but not limited to, first-generation university students, socio-economically disadvantaged students, Aboriginal students, and students with disabilities.  
IV.3 McGill will make significant progress in ensuring that financial need is not an enrolment barrier for qualified undergraduates.  
IV.4 McGill will make significant progress toward ensuring that research graduate students receive funding that is competitive in their field and that will advance McGill’s ranking of 11th in the G13.

**Imperative V - Financial Sustainability**
McGill will ensure enrolment strategies and activities support the financial vigor of the University.

**Goals**

V.1 Align enrolment strategies and activities with budgetary, academic and resource considerations.  
V.2 Continue to work with the provincial government to bring about desired policy changes.

**VI. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND ACTIONS**

**Imperative I - Research Intensity and Academic Excellence**
McGill will align enrolment management strategies and activities with its focus on research intensity and academic distinction.

**Imperative I - Performance Indicators**

- The growth in the number of research graduate students (PhD years 1-5 and Master’s years 1-2) using the 2006 numbers as a baseline.
- The proportion of research graduate students to total degree-seeking students (PhD years 1-5 and Master’s years 1-2 vs. total degree-seeking).
- The proportion of doctoral students (PhD years 2-5) to total degree-seeking students.
- The number and proportion of professional master’s students to total degree seeking students.
- Quality of graduate students.
- Quality of faculty supervision.
- Research graduate students to supervisors (ratio).
- Average funding per doctoral and master’s student.
- Post-graduation tracking (graduate students).
- Proportion of undergraduates who have a research experience

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8 This and other goals related to McGill’s enrolment mix are subject to considerations of financial sustainability (Imperative 5).  
9 Note that McGill’s share of degree seeking undergraduate students with Quebec residency is currently 9.2%, and its master’s and doctoral share is 10.7%.
Goal I.1
McGill will increase the number and proportion of doctoral, research and professional master’s students according to goals set through the Graduate Capacity Compact Process and will be appropriately balanced with undergraduate enrolments.

Actions:
Please note that many of the actions listed here are relevant to the goals under Imperative III (International Stature).

1. Develop a coordinated undergraduate and graduate recruitment and marketing plan. Update and publish the plan by June 1st each year to coincide with other University planning exercises.
2. Target key international markets that are aligned with McGill’s strategic priorities and re-align recruitment resources as appropriate.
   a. Targeted recruitment markets include India, China, Hong Kong, Middle East, the US - Northeast (with concentration on New York City and Boston) and California.
   b. As appropriate, leverage the McGill Alumni network for rendezvous events in international cities.
   c. India and China strategies will include:
      i. Partner with government to provide orientation to frontline staff and agents in India and China
      ii. Provide input about changing assessment policies to increase flow of Indian students
      iii. Align education and immigration policies to evaluate and accept 3-year Indian degrees
      iv. Partner with top China Scholarship Council (CSC) universities to offer scholarships to outstanding doctoral and postdoctoral students
      v. Use China’s C9 group as a recruitment channel
3. Leverage Enrolment Services’ international recruitment trips to include all faculties and levels:
   a. Attend recruitment events in key international markets that have proven successful in the past; build on the international recruiters’ existing expertise and provide additional training, information, and materials from faculties and GPS.
   b. Meet with key prospects one-on-one in their local communities to provide information about McGill and to develop the relationship.
   c. If resources permit, hold information sessions for groups of prospective applicants in top universities, embassies, and other venues.
   d. Package cohesive program, research and development opportunities for targeted markets — e.g., Engineering and Management in India and China; Environmental Sciences and Liberal Arts in California; Music in the US Northeast.
4. Enhance admissions and recruitment materials and the Future Undergraduate and Graduate Students websites to support recruitment objectives and leverage the use of virtual tours, interactive tools and social media as appropriate.
5. Enhance graduate student tours by hiring graduate tour guides to offer tours to applicants identified by departments as being especially attractive.
6. Engage international undergraduate exchange students, who are selected on the basis of academic performance, in McGill’s on-campus recruitment activities, identifying the benefits of returning to McGill for graduate studies.
7. Improve admissions processes and technology to render graduate admissions decisions more quickly.
8. Communicate the importance of graduate student enrolment across McGill — e.g., via In the Loop.
a. Promote GPS’ BEST (Building Enrolment Strategically Together) workshops, which are designed to educate academic units on how to increase graduate student enrolment locally and on how to improve retention programs and activities.

b. Promote GPS log-in website for faculty and staff involved in graduate enrolment activities as a means to educate faculty members about the resources available to support them in their recruitment efforts.

c. Encourage international faculty members to recruit from their alma maters or from institutions they are visiting for professional reasons (e.g., conferences, etc.) and provide them the tools they need to do so.

9. Seek, develop and coordinate partnerships with external associations and agencies for recruitment purposes although it may be advantageous to recruit independently in certain key markets.

a. Initiate an informal networking group for graduate recruiters across Canada to share information on graduate student events.

b. Promote a common understanding of international documents among Canadian universities, to facilitate the recruitment of international graduate students.

10. Continue to increase the value of scholarships, bursaries and fellowships for international graduate and undergraduate students.

a. Identify and pursue additional sources of funding such as fundraising and lobbying governments for funding support for international graduate students.

b. Develop key messages for prospective students regarding funding (e.g. highlight MIDAs Program).

Goal I.2:
McGill will develop mechanisms to increase the number and percentage of McGill graduate students who complete their degrees within a designated timeframe appropriate to their discipline.

Actions:
1. Remove program and administrative obstacles and address financial impediments to timely graduation.
2. Develop a GPS Graduate Milestones Initiative to improve program design, help with identifying goals, and create mechanisms to monitor progress towards degree completion (see below).

Goal I.3
McGill will continue to enrol the best prepared students for its undergraduate, graduate and professional programs, where best prepared is defined by academic standing and by other predictors of success in the discipline of choice.

Actions
1. Coordinate all undergraduate recruiting and marketing activities to ensure the effective and most targeted use of resources.
   a. Recruit from targeted schools and programs that graduate academically superior students who are likely to enrol at McGill.
   b. Develop and sustain value-added relationships with influencers, such as teachers and guidance counselors, in targeted schools.
   c. Establish an Ontario guidance counselor event to be held every second year, in Toronto or Montreal.
   d. Target key markets nationally: Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal, Quebec, Ontario (golden triangle), Ottawa, Calgary, and Edmonton.
   e. Target key markets internationally as identified under Goal I.1.
f. Leverage technology in lieu of in-person visits.
g. Attend only key education fairs.
h. Leverage the purchase of lists and adopt target marketing practices for the United States (Northeast, Chicago, and possibly California).
i. Invest in targeted yield activities, but reduce investment in mass recruitment activities (fairs).
j. Reduce printed materials and invest in the McGill web presence as the primary method of information sharing and prospect engagement.
k. Engage alumni in local yield activities. Develop a mechanism to accurately measure alumni involvement and set a realistic goal for increases until 2016 (see Goal II.5).

2. Conduct annual research on the effectiveness of marketing and recruitment activities and revise them, as needed, in line with overarching goals and research outcomes.

3. Enhance Client Relationship Management CRM software and its use:
   a. Identify the strongest students earlier (i.e., by grade 10) and foster relationships using CRM software.
   b. Collect prospect contact information at first point of contact and maintain communication through CRM software, which would be especially valuable for programs at Macdonald campus.
   c. Purchase prospective lists of qualified students to expand enrolment in specific programs.

4. Develop and implement tactics to increase the enrolment of highly qualified undergraduate students in key programs in light of the availability of space and other resources. For example, specialized scholarships tied to particular programs and to specific conditions (such as the completion of the program) might help to influence enrolment trends.

Goal I.4:
McGill will increase the number and percentage of undergraduates engaged in research and scholarship.

Actions:
1. Increase the summer research experience
   a. Extend the new “BSc/MSc track” in the Faculty of Science to other degree programs and possibly other faculties, allowing undergraduate students to conduct research in their final year to be transferred toward a future graduate degree at McGill.

2. Encourage tenure track faculty to engage undergraduates in research projects.
3. Fund undergraduates with bursaries or scholarships during the summer to make it possible for them to complete research projects.

Imperative II – Engaged Community of Scholars and Alumni
McGill will provide outstanding teaching, learning and service experiences as well as other opportunities for involvement to create an engaged community of students, professors and alumni.

Imperative II - Performance Indicators

- Retention rate – undergraduate.
- NSSE – student satisfaction - undergraduate.
- Advising: CUSC – satisfaction results.
- Advising survey – McGill.
- Time to completion (graduate).
- Completion/promotion rate (graduate).
Percentage of alumni for whom we have current addresses.

Percentage of alumni who attend Homecoming, volunteer events or special lectures and presentations.

**Goal II.1**

McGill will foster teaching and learning excellence, enhance transitional support experience of students and make academic information easily accessible and understandable.

**Actions:**

1. Advance teaching and learning excellence by:
   a. Creating more innovative learning opportunities through inquiry-based learning, blended learning and the use of technology.
   b. Enhancing student engagement in classes – e.g., with the support of clicker technology.
   c. Communicating learning expectations at McGill (pilot seminars) to undergraduates.
   d. Extending Skillsets, a comprehensive series of workshops that provide professional development opportunities for graduate students in their development as professionals, including:
      i. Communication and interpersonal skills
      ii. Critical and creative thinking
      iii. Career development
      iv. Teaching competence
      v. Research management and leadership
      vi. Dissemination of research and knowledge translation
      vii. Social or civic responsibilities
   e. Identifying, building consensus and making explicit the core outcomes of an undergraduate education at McGill.
   f. Promoting the engagement of undergraduate students with research/scholarship within their programs.
   g. Delivering workshops and developing resources – Course (Re)Design – to support professors in fostering student learning and in reviewing and improving curriculum and delivery of instruction.
   h. Providing workshops for faculty members on graduate supervision, academic integrity, writing etc.
   i. Supporting individual faculty members in their teaching responsibilities through one-on-one consultations.
   j. Increasing classroom support for professors and students by encouraging an integrated approach to services.
   k. Developing physical teaching and learning spaces based on pedagogical principles, formal and informal, to support students’ learning experience.
   l. Enhancing web access to teaching and learning information, policies, services etc.

2. Develop additional methods to enhance the welcoming and supporting environment for graduate students:
   a. Host welcome events for new graduate students rather than dry orientation sessions.
   b. Set up a graduate buddy program in the First Year Office, pairing new students with current students.
c. Work with the Dean of Students and academic units to develop a graduate mentorship program, whereby faculty and administrative staff mentor graduate students.

d. Improve the quality of graduate supervision.

3. Enhance the undergraduate first-year orientation experience by providing resource support and working collaboratively with University and Faculty student leaders to create a purposeful, streamlined orientation with collaborative goals and training.

4. Expand a first-year transition program for all students in new programs.

5. Simplify and streamline services, processes and policies and implement continuous improvement to streamline services and reduce run-around.
   a. Extend integrated services (Service Point) to additional units.
   b. Rewrite and reorganize websites for students with a view to have the information reflect the student lifecycle and functions rather than organizational units.
   c. Introduce and enhance web-based calendars by ensuring they are written in accessible language.

6. Implement coordinated scheduling at the downtown campus to make more effective use of instructional space and to assist students by improving the accessibility of course sections.

Goal II.2
McGill will continue to improve undergraduate advising and mentoring.

Actions:
1. Provide greater in-person access and online support, including an online advising tool for U0 and U1 new students for all faculties.
2. Digitize students’ advising records so that information is accessible to all advisors and related colleagues who directly support students’ advising needs.
3. Improve online advising resources to support advisors.
4. Create an advising network – i.e., a community of practice – at McGill for the purposes of professional development and information-sharing.
5. Develop and implement the technology to support referrals to advisors (such as from the Service Point).
6. Enhance the capacity of academic and administrative support staff to provide excellent advice and support to students as they achieve their academic and personal development goals by providing professional development courses or activities:
   a. Service Excellence Workshops as developed for Student Life and Learning.
   b. Service Excellence Workshops as tailored for Graduate Program Coordinators.
   c. Advisor training and development.
   d. Developmental workshops for Service Point and Welcome Centre colleagues.
   e. Support for quality recruitment and retention attitudes and initiatives for staff and faculty who have key roles in these areas.
7. Establish a mentorship program for new students involving senior students, faculty, and administrative and support staff as mentors to create a network of academic support.

Goal II.3
McGill will improve graduate student retention rates.

Actions:
1. GPS and the recruiting units will determine the metrics and goals for graduate retention rates to be achieved by 2016.
2. Implement the Graduate Milestones Initiative across graduate programs to track the progress of graduate students and establish program-specific deadlines.
3. Improve Graduate Student Orientation to ensure that students are fully informed of expectations, especially with respect to supervision and advising right from the start.
4. Provide graduate supervisors with workshops to promote a number of supervisory skills:
   a. Supervising graduate writing.
   b. Collaborative writing.
   c. How to be an editor.
   e. Intercultural communications.
   f. Peer mentorship and modeling.
   g. Giving and receiving criticism.

Goal II.4
McGill will develop academically-oriented student life programming.

Actions
1. Develop robust student leadership and residence-life programs that are framed within the context of academic excellence.
2. Increase curricular and co-curricular service learning opportunities so as to give excellent students the broad experiences they are seeking to complement their academic experience at McGill.
3. Ensure that community service learning opportunities become formally recognized, through a co-curricular record.

Goal II.5
McGill will increase the extent of alumni engagement in the recruitment and yield of new students.

Actions:
1. Establish a mechanism to accurately measure alumni participation in yield recruitment activities.
2. Set a realistic goal for increasing the involvement of alumni in yield recruitment activities through 2016:
   a. Establish an alumni and community advisory committee to support the new Welcome Centre.
   b. Invite young alumni to participate in yield recruitment campaigns during each admission cycle.
   c. Invite young alumni to talk to prospective students about career options.
   d. Work with alumni chapters to host off-site events.
   e. Annually create a shared plan of recruitment and event activities annually.
3. Use statistics as ‘truth in advertising’ in online program pages to show where graduates of specific programs are working now.
4. Establish a DAR-Enrolment Services liaison position to facilitate the provision of information and intensive support to alumni and families in admission activities.
5. Where appropriate, target specific markets to support both alumni relations and recruitment objectives.

Imperative III - International Stature
McGill will encourage an enrolment profile and a learning experience that aligns with its distinguished international stature and its unique position in Quebec and Canada.
### Imperative III – Performance Indicators

- Number and proportion of degree-seeking international students to total degree seeking students.
- Number of students who participate in international activities – exchanges, study away, field study semesters, etc. (Need to specify measurement.)
- Graduate outcomes/attributes/competencies\(^{10}\).

#### Goal III.1

McGill will continue to enhance its international profile and reputation by enrolling outstanding international students.

**Actions:**

*Please note that many of the actions listed here are relevant to the first goal of Imperative I.*

1. Increase the overall international student body to approximately 22% of all McGill students by 2016: \(^{11}\)
   - a. Increase international undergraduate enrolment from 17.7% (2009) to 20%.
   - b. Increase international graduate enrolment as specified in the ongoing Graduate Capacity Compact process.
2. Coordinate recruitment activities as outlined and detailed in Goal I.1.
3. Increase the internationalization of the curriculum and student experience.
   - a. Expand international opportunities open to students that are based on research intensity and academic excellence, focusing on experiences at the best institutions in the world through exchanges, field semesters and internships.
   - b. Enhance materials and activities to actively promote international exchange opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students.
   - c. Augment funding for students to pursue international study abroad and exchange opportunities (e.g., promote the PBCSE Mobility Award” - Programme de bourses pour de courts séjours d'études universitaires à l'extérieur du Québec),
   - d. Create an official designation (e.g., Certificate of Global Citizenship) to be awarded upon graduation to students who have successfully engaged in an appropriate combination of academically-focused international activities while studying at McGill.
4. Work with external partners to promote McGill’s international goals:
   - a. Continue partnership through CHEC international recruitment ventures (Canadian recruitment consortium), where strategically advantageous.
   - b. Work with governments of Quebec and Canada to:
     - i. Brand the province and the country as a study destination
     - ii. Facilitate the immigration process for all international visa students but especially in those regions targeted for enrolment growth

\(^{10}\) McGill’s Teaching and Learning Services is working on this.

\(^{11}\) This and other goals related to McGill’s enrolment mix are subject to considerations of financial sustainability (Imperative 5).
Goal III.2:
McGill will continue to graduate outstanding students, both doctoral and professional, to support its role in providing communities with highly qualified medical, legal, teaching, engineering, business, and other professionals.

Actions:
1. Highlight and promote the outstanding contributions to community and society made by the students and graduates of our research and professional programs.

Goal III.3:
McGill will increase the engagement and retention of international students.

Actions:
1. Enhance services and support for international students:
   a. Integrate international student activities with those for inbound and outbound exchange students, providing opportunities for students to learn from and support each other.
   b. Increase financial aid for international students.
   c. Create an international student mentoring program, matching interested international students with a community mentors.
   d. Provide academic language skills and cultural integration programs for international graduate students as part of professional skills development program for graduate students (“Skillsets”).

Goal III.4:
McGill will promote the placement of PhD and research and professional master’s students at peer institutions, in industry and in not-for-profit sectors around the world.

Actions:
1. Placements of PhD and master’s research students will be measured. In collaboration with DAR, PIA and CaPS, GPS will develop a database to track graduate outcomes, which will be stored, analyzed and shared with the faculties.
2. The outcome information will be used as a measure of the quality of each unit’s graduate programs, as a selling feature to recruit prospective graduate students who have similar career aspirations, and to recruit graduate mentors and speakers at graduate career events.

Imperative IV - Diversity and Accessibility
McGill will align its resources to enhance accessibility and to encourage diverse populations of students, professors, and administrative and support staff.

Note: The recommendations of the Principal’s Task Force on Diversity, Excellence and Community Engagement will be addressed when they are available.

Imperative IV - Performance Indicators:

- Number and proportion of Quebec students
- McGill’s share of the CEGEP market
- Enrolment of underrepresented groups
- CUSC survey – parental education question
- McGill demographic survey
- Number of Aboriginal students on band funding
**Goal IV.1**

McGill will maintain its FTE share of Quebec’s undergraduate university students at 8.5% to 9%.  
**Actions:**
1. Continue to target all CEGEPs for recruitment:
   a. Enhance efforts to improve Francophone students’ knowledge about McGill’s opportunities and services for them.
   b. Increase the frequency of CEGEP counselors’ information events.
2. Establish targeted support for retaining French-speaking students, such as ensuring that a reasonable number of services and advising materials are translated into French.
3. Introduce electronic sharing of university transcripts among Quebec universities to expedite graduate admission and transfer student decision-making.

**Goal IV.2**

McGill will increase the diversity of the student body by enrolling and supporting more students from historically under-represented groups, such as, but not limited to, first-generation university students, socio-economically disadvantaged students, Aboriginal students, and students with disabilities.

**Actions:** Further actions to be developed in response to the Principal’s Task Force on Diversity, Excellence, and Community Engagement
1. Monitor the diversity of students with respect to a variety of dimensions through the Student Demographic Survey to identify students who may be under-represented on campus and/or who may not be receiving the types of support they need at McGill to make them feel welcome.
2. Create outreach programs with key communities to reach a diverse range of students at a younger age.
3. Recruit Aboriginal students through a partnership between First People’s House and Enrolment Services. Set stretch goals for increases in enrolment.
4. Establish jointly developed and locally delivered academic programs in Aboriginal communities, where appropriate and where consistent with the availability of resources.

**Goals IV.3 and IV.4**

McGill will ensure that financial need is not an enrolment barrier for qualified undergraduates.
McGill will make significant progress toward ensuring that research graduate students receive funding that is competitive in their field and that will improve upon McGill’s current G13 ranking of 11th.

**Actions:** For Goals IV.3 and IV.4
1. Increase the number and value of entrance scholarships and bursaries for new undergraduate students, to ensure that McGill becomes competitive with institutions of equal stature.
2. Increase the number and value of fellowships for research graduate students, to ensure that McGill can compete with G13 peers and internationally for the best students.

**Imperative V - Financial Sustainability**

McGill will ensure that enrolment strategies and activities support the financial vigor of the University.

**Imperative V - Performance Indicators:**

- Annual Budget Report
- Projected Government Funding
- Endowments
- General Economic Factors

---

12 This and other goals related to McGill’s enrolment mix are subject to considerations of financial sustainability (Imperative 5).
Goal V.1
Align enrolment strategies and activities with budgetary, academic and resource considerations.

Actions:
1. Engage in a planning exercise to:
   a. Identify models of McGill’s student profile that are consistent with the University’s academic mission and that optimize financial resources.
   b. Incorporate end-to-end economic contributions.
   c. Be transparent about enrolment decisions and Faculty initiatives.
   d. Propose approaches to managing and evolving our enrolment profile, with estimates of financial and other implications.
2. Ensure that annual enrolment targets are aligned with the University’s budgetary constraints and goals.
3. Consult with Faculties, Teaching and Learning Services, Enrolment Services, Student Services and other appropriate units to measure the impact of strategies and activities.

Goal V.2
Continue to work with the provincial government to bring about desired policy changes related to underfunding.

Actions:
1. Develop an integrated policy that increases tuition to the Canadian average, while simultaneously investing a substantial portion of the net tuition increase into student financial aid.
2. Pursue the deregulation of tuition for international undergraduate students.
3. Work towards the expansion of a government incentive program to match philanthropic donations to universities, which could increase gifts for student aid and services, among other areas.
4. Highlight the particular challenges that McGill faces in the upkeep of its buildings and infrastructure, due to its large number of historic buildings.
5. Seek additional funding to address building maintenance and repair.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Executive Pool (EXEC Minutes 1 to 14, Caucus 1-3)</th>
<th>Grant Committee</th>
<th>VP Academics</th>
<th>Travel and Conference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$2,400.00 #3 Telephone charges</td>
<td>$3,200.00 June</td>
<td>$64.00</td>
<td>$500.00 Orientiation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$300.00 #3 Survey Monkey</td>
<td>$7,211.00 July</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,128.70 #6 Web Movement</td>
<td>$1,430.00 September</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$500.00 #3 SSMU/PGSS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$325.00 #3 Montreal Board of Trade</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,000.00 SSMU Homecoming</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$5,500.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$11,153.70 Actual</td>
<td>$11,841.00 Actual</td>
<td>$64.00</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$61,750.00 Budget</td>
<td>$31,600.00 Budget</td>
<td></td>
<td>$7,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| $65,205.00 Fund Available                    | $19,759.00      | -$ 64.00     | $6,500.00             |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Executive Special Project</th>
<th>Presidential affairs</th>
<th>University Affairs</th>
<th>Executive Retreat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$650.00</td>
<td>Mental Health Event E-10-10-#035</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| $650.00 Actual                              | $-                   | $-                 | $-                 |
| $23,000.00 Budget                          | $750.00              | $500.00            | $500.00            |

<p>| $22,350.00 Fund Available                  | $750.00              | $500.00            | $500.00            |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VP External</th>
<th>VP Internal</th>
<th>Family</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>75.00</td>
<td>300.00</td>
<td>650.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75.00</td>
<td>$2,500.00</td>
<td>PGSS orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500.00</td>
<td>550.00</td>
<td>Softball (E-10-09-#033)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>Karaoke Hard drive (E-10-09-#034)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83.40</td>
<td>400.00</td>
<td>AFRI G - AIDS Awareness</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>$650.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$883.40</td>
<td>$3,850.00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>$3,000.00</td>
<td>$14,000.00</td>
<td>$60,000.00</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$2,116.60</th>
<th>$10,150.00</th>
<th>$59,350.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SSMU day care contribution</th>
<th>Student parent activities</th>
<th>Maternity Leave Pilot Project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>Apple Picking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| $ -                       | $1,000.00                | $ -                          |
| 10,000.00                 | 7,500.00                 | 40,000.00                    |

<p>| $10,000.00                | $6,500.00                | $40,000.00                   |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Executive Special Project</th>
<th>Commissioner Project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$776.00 Strawberry Social</td>
<td>$193.13 Printing Brochures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$750.00 Science &amp; Policy Ex.</td>
<td>$300.00 Equity Social ECC-10-10-#006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$300.00 Equity Social ECC-10-10-#006</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| $776.00 Actual | $1,243.13 Actual |
| $23,000.00 Budget | $7,000.00 Budget |

| $22,224.00 Budget | $5,756.87 |
The Post-Graduate Students' Society of McGill University Inc.
L'Association des étudiants post-gradués de l'Université McGill Inc.

Financial Statements

As at May 31, 2010
The Post-Graduate Students' Society of McGill University Inc.
L'Association des étudiants post-gradués de l'Université McGill Inc.
Financial Statements
As at May 31, 2010

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<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statement of financial position</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statement of operations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statement of changes in net assets</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statement of cash flows</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes to financial statements</td>
<td>6-9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members and Directors of:
The Post-Graduate Students' Society of McGill University Inc. -
L'Association des étudiants post-gradués de l'Université McGill Inc.

I have audited the statement of financial position of The Post-Graduate Students' Society of McGill University Inc.-
L'Association des étudiants post-gradués de l'Université McGill Inc. as at May 31, 2010 and the statements of
operations and changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are
the responsibility of the Society's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial
statements based on my audit.

Except as explained in the following paragraph, I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally
accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable
assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining,
on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also
includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well
as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

My examination of memberships revenue, which because of its nature is not susceptible of satisfactory audit
verification, was confined principally to test comparisons of recorded receipts against bank deposits. Accordingly,
my verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Society and I was not
able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to revenue, excess of revenues over expenses,
assets and net assets.

In my opinion, except for the effect of adjustments, if any, which I might have determined to be necessary had I
been able to satisfy myself concerning the completeness of the revenues referred to in the preceding paragraph,
these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Society as at May
31, 2010 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with
Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Frank Santillo, C.A.

By Frank Santillo, CA auditor

Montreal, Quebec
August 26, 2010
## Statement of Financial Position

### As at May 31, 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operating Fund</strong></td>
<td>$715</td>
<td>$760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(unrestricted)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capital Assets Fund</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(unrestricted)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Library Improvement</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund (restricted)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education Bursaries</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund (restricted)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Student Support</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund (restricted)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thomson House Fund</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(restricted)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Retirement Savings</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan Fund (restricted)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$1,475</td>
<td>$53,960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$1,036,641</td>
<td>$601,720</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Assets

#### Current assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>886,641</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term deposits</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,036,641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporary investments (note 2)</td>
<td></td>
<td>117,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>12,547</td>
<td>12,547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundry receivables</td>
<td>22,544</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McGill University</td>
<td>60,416</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
<td>22,011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventory</td>
<td>18,532</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1,022,691</td>
<td>1,406,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>884,625</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Thomson House fund deposits (note 4)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>81,613</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>81,613</td>
<td>97,899</td>
</tr>
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</table>

#### Capital assets (note 5)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>94,966</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>94,966</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>119,323</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Liabilities and Net assets

#### Current liabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bank indebtedness</td>
<td>22,623</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued liabilities</td>
<td>771,342</td>
<td>641,822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>793,965</td>
<td>658,697</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Net assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted net assets</td>
<td>228,726</td>
<td>323,692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Externally restricted net assets</td>
<td></td>
<td>82,328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internally restricted net assets</td>
<td></td>
<td>53,485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>328,726</td>
<td>443,150</td>
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#### Contractual obligations (note 7)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1,022,691</td>
<td>1,582,579</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1,101,847</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Signed on behalf of the Executive Committee:

Director

Director
The Post-Graduate Students' Society of McGill University Inc.
L'Association des étudiants post-gradués de l'Université McGill Inc.

Statement of Operations
For the year ended May 31, 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenues</strong></td>
<td>3,960,601</td>
<td>3,679,754</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Fund (unrestricted)</td>
<td>2,124,618</td>
<td>1,881,558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Assets Fund (unrestricted)</td>
<td>975,071</td>
<td>978,076</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Improvement Fund (restricted)</td>
<td>834,197</td>
<td>771,474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Bursaries Fund (restricted)</td>
<td>140,560</td>
<td>6,375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Support Fund (restricted)</td>
<td>140,560</td>
<td>6,375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomson House Fund (restricted)</td>
<td>28,112</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirement Plan Fund (restricted)</td>
<td>20,625</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4,217,799</td>
<td>3,679,754</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Expenses**             | 3,709,958  | 3,574,799  |
| Payments to Quebec Student Health Alliance | 1,961,383  | 1,812,113  |
| Salaries                 | 559,289    | 636,116    |
| Employee benefits        | 81,255     | 102,659    |
| Cost of goods sold       | 383,623    | 446,071    |
| Business                 | 45,898     | 40,906     |
| Fees paid to other societies | 225,009    | 188,269    |
| Education bursaries      | 35,843     | 31,375     |
| Library improvement      | 140,560    |            |
| Family care              | 80,904     |            |
| Litigation (note 8)      | 53,981     |            |
| Researcher, referendum   | 15,424     |            |
| Maintenance              | 60,032     | 64,160     |
| Consulting fees          | 91,919     | 96,179     |
| Amortization of capital assets | 40,434     | 42,792     |
| Internal affairs         | 7,903      | 5,572      |
| Council and elections    | 21,918     | 8,890      |
| Legal and audit fees     | 12,000     | 13,957     |
| Office                   | 11,047     | 8,820      |
| Travel awards            | 4,800      |            |
| Meals and entertainment  | 1,402      |            |
| Bank and payroll charges | 17,730     | 20,259     |
| Bad debts                | 2,528      |            |
| Insurance                | 14,002     | 13,431     |
| Telephone and fax        | 6,128      | 6,626      |
| Grants and subsidies     | 33,407     | 22,546     |
| Special projects and travel | 9,858      | 6,009      |
| External affairs         | 40,302     | 673        |
| University affairs       | 409        | 200        |
| President                | 707        | 15         |

| **Excess of revenues over expenses** | 250,643 | (40,434) | 40,434 | 4,500 | 11,320 | 3,942,615 | 3,574,799 |

(expenses over revenues) for the year
### The Post-Graduate Students' Society of McGill University Inc.

L'Association des étudiants post-gradués de l'Université McGill Inc.

**Statement of Changes in Net Assets**

**For the year ended May 31, 2010**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund/Asset</th>
<th>2010 $</th>
<th>2009 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating Fund (unrestricted)</td>
<td>42,890</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Assets Fund (unrestricted)</td>
<td>119,323</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Improvement Fund (restricted)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Bursaries Fund (restricted)</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>75,182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Support Fund (restricted)</td>
<td>98,717</td>
<td>42,818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomson House Fund (restricted)</td>
<td>443,150</td>
<td>338,195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirement Savings Plan Fund (restricted)</td>
<td>275,184</td>
<td>104,955</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Balance - Beginning of year**

(42,890) 119,323 - 150,000 75,182 98,717 42,818 443,150 338,195

**Excess of revenues over expenses (expenses over revenues) for the year**

250,643 (40,434) - - 33,647 20,661 10,667 275,184 104,955

**Transfer for acquisition of capital assets**

20,973 16,077 - - - (37,050) - - -

**Balance - End of year**

228,726 94,966 - 150,000 108,829 82,328 53,485 718,334 443,150
The Post-Graduate Students’ Society of McGill University Inc.  
L’Association des étudiants post-gradués de l’Université McGill Inc.  
Statement of Cash Flows  
For the year ended May 31, 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operating activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash flow from operations:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess of revenues over expenses</td>
<td>$275,184</td>
<td>$104,955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item not involving cash:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amortization of capital assets</td>
<td>40,434</td>
<td>42,792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>315,618</td>
<td>147,747</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net change in non-cash working capital balances</td>
<td>(390,935)</td>
<td>(112,991)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(75,317)</td>
<td>34,756</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Cash flows from investing activities** |            |            |
| Thomson House fund deposits         | 16,286     | 8,008      |
| Acquisition of capital assets       | (16,077)   | (26,461)   |
|                                | 209        | (18,453)   |

**Change in cash and cash equivalents**

|                                | (75,108)   | 16,303     |

| **Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year** | 53,960 | 37,657 |

| **Cash and cash equivalents (deficiency) at end of year** | ($21,148) | $53,960 |

**Changes in non-cash working capital balances**:

|                                | ($434,921) | ($259,780) |
| Term deposits                  |             |            |
| Temporary investments          | (44,404)    | 114,075    |
| Prepaid expenses               | (7,547)     | 6,158      |
| Sundry receivables             | (4,052)     | (9,992)    |
| Accounts receivable            | (54,757)    | (7,095)    |
| Inventory                      | 1,821       | 6,360      |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | 182,925 | 37,283 |
|                                | ($390,935)  | ($112,991) |
1 Organization

The Society is a democratic, non-profit corporation having its head office in the City of Montréal and is incorporated under Part III of the Quebec Companies Act as a not-for-profit organization. The purposes of the Society are to establish, maintain and conduct a social club for the convenience of its members and their guests, to promote friendship and unity among its members, and to promote the educational and cultural interests of its members.

The Society receives the use of premises, referred to as Thomson House, from McGill University Inc. ("McGill") for nominal consideration. The Society currently has a five-year lease under which it pays an agreed amount for operating costs to McGill (note 7).

2 Significant accounting policies

Fund accounting

Transactions of the Society are accounted for by the restricted fund method to recognize various restrictions imposed on the use of available resources. Under these procedures, revenues and their related expenses are accounted for in separate funds in accordance with objectives, limitations and restrictions imposed by sources outside the Society and determinations made by the Society's Council ("the Council").

- Operating Fund, an unrestricted fund, accounts for revenues and expenses used in the general operations of the Society.

- Capital Assets Fund, an unrestricted fund, accounts for the Society's investment in capital assets.

- PGSS/GPS Education Bursaries are restricted funds that account for the collection and disbursement of fees to support graduate and post-doctoral students in good academic standing who demonstrate financial need.

- Library Improvement Fund, a restricted fund, accounts for the collection and disbursement of fees to improve library resources and facilities for graduate students.

- PGSS Student Trust Fund and Retirement Savings Plan Fund are restricted funds that account for contributions received for specific purposes, as stipulated by the contributors or designated by the Council.

- Thomson House Fund, a restricted fund, accounts for the collection and disbursement of student fees specifically designated for the improvement of Thomson House.

Revenue recognition

The Society follows the restricted fund method of accounting for revenues. Income from the Society's various activities is recognized as revenue of the appropriate fund when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Temporary investments

Temporary investments relate to mutual funds invested in treasury bills, which are accounted for at the lower of cost or net realizable value. At year-end, the cost equals the net realizable value.
2 Significant accounting policies (Continued)

Inventory

Inventory is valued at the lower of cost, determined on a specific identification basis, and replacement cost.

Capital assets

Purchased capital assets are recorded at cost. Contributed capital assets are recorded at fair value at the date of contribution. Amortization of furniture, fixtures and equipment is calculated using the declining balance method at an annual rate of 20%. Amortization of leasehold improvements is calculated at an annual rate of 20% using the straight-line method.

Impairment of long-lived assets

Long-lived assets are reviewed for impairment when events or circumstances indicate that cost may not be recoverable. Impairment exists when the carrying amount of an asset is greater than the undiscounted future cash flows expected to be provided by such asset. The amount of impairment loss, if any, is the excess of the carrying amount over the fair value.

Management estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Capital disclosures

The Society adopted the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants ("CICA") handbook section 1535, Capital Disclosures, which establishes disclosure requirements about an entity’s capital and how it is managed. The purpose is to enable users of the financial statements to evaluate the entity’s objectives, policies and processes for managing its capital. The Society’s 1535 disclosures are presented in Note 10.

3 PGSS Retirement Savings Plan

The PGSS retirement savings plan is a defined contribution plan administered by Sun Life, where PGSS contributes up to 5% of employees’ salaries. There is no other responsibility on the part of the Society.

4 Thomson House fund deposits

The Society must receive approval from McGill for disbursements for improvements to the Thomson House. The funds are invested in temporary investments.
5 Capital assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010 Net Book value</th>
<th>2009 Net Book value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>Amortization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art collection</td>
<td>5,750</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture, fixtures</td>
<td>551,157</td>
<td>475,163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and equipment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leasehold improvements</td>
<td>497,339</td>
<td>484,117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,054,246</td>
<td>959,280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6 Credit facility

The Society has an available credit facility of $200,000 (2009 - $200,000), bearing interest at the bank’s prime lending rate plus 3% on amounts advanced. As at May 31, 2010, no amount (2009 - nil) had been drawn on this demand loan. The bank has a $315,000 (2009 - $315,000) charge on the Society’s movable property as security for the demand loan. The last written agreement is dated in 2009, and the loan facility is reviewed on an annual basis.

7 Contractual obligations

The Society leases its premises under a lease expiring May 31, 2013. Future payments for operating costs will aggregate approximately $66,000 and will include the following payments over the remaining three years: 2011, $21,000; 2012, $22,000 and 2013, $23,000.

8 Litigation

The Society is currently involved in litigation with the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). CFS is claiming that the Society remains a member of the CFS, and therefore will continue to owe membership fees for the future. The Society is claiming that it ceased being a member of CFS effective April 1, 2010. Neither the possible outcome nor the amount of possible settlement can be foreseen. Therefore, no provision has been made in the financial statements. The membership fees for the current twelve month period ending March 31, 2010 have been remitted to CFS by the Society.

9 Financial instruments

Fair value

The carrying amounts of cash, term deposit, temporary investments, sundry and accounts receivable, accounts payable and accrued liabilities, approximate fair value because of the short-term maturities of these items.

Credit risk

The Society does not have a significant exposure to credit risk as the majority of its revenues have been collected within the normal terms.

Interest rate risk

The Society manages its short-term investments based on its cash flow needs with a view to optimizing its interest income. The interest rates on the term deposits at year-end range between 0.98% and 4.25% per annum (between 2.9% and 4.9% - 2009). The term deposits are stated at cost and have maturity dates of one year or less.
10 Capital Disclosures

The Society's objectives when managing capital are:
  - to safeguard the Society's ability to continue as a going concern,
  - to maintain sufficient cash resources to continue to expand its operations, and
  - to maintain the cost of capital at an acceptable level of risk.

The Society manages its capital structure and makes adjustments to it in light of economic conditions and the risk characteristics of the assets. The Society, upon the approval of management, will balance its overall capital structure through the re-acquiring of debt, acquiring or disposing of assets, or by undertaking other activities as deemed appropriate under specific circumstances.

The Society's overall strategy with respect to capital risk management remains unchanged for the year.
POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS’ SOCIETY OF McGill University
Minutes for the Council Meeting of
Wednesday, October 6, 2010, 18h30
C11-10-#03

Executives
President Alexandra Bishop, VP Internal Magnus Bein, VP Finance Natalie Lee, VP External Ryan Hughes

Councilors

Commissioners & Non-voting Members
Council Commissioner D. Simeone, Health Commissioner J. Mooney, Environment Commissioner C. Nei, Equity Commissioner E. Sirett, Elections Commissioner T. Hamade, Senate and Library Commissioner A. DeGuise, Social Commissioner P. Tyagi, Family Care Commissioner H. Myers, Secretary M. Boudreau

Regrets
Gallery and Guests

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
Whereas 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;

12.1.3.6 Upcoming events, if applicable;

12.1.3.7 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;
12.2.3.4 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).
6.4 Motion R11--10--#29-- Student Services Fee Levy Referendum (J. Mooney/ E. Pedersen)

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.
AGENDA

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA [2MIN]

2. SPEAKER’S REPORT

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

3.1 PRESENTATION ON THE JOURNAL de MONTREAL [10MIN]
3.2 PRESENTATION FROM VAUGHAN DOWIE, MCGILL EXECUTIVE HEAD OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS ON TUITION POLICY [10MIN - 7:00PM]

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

4.1 C11-10-#03 [2min]

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES AND STANDING ORDERS ................................................................. 2

5.1. MOTION R11-12-#51 - TO ACCEPT NOMINATING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS [3MIN] ............................................ 2
5.2. MOTION R11-12-#52 - TO ELECT CANDIDATES TO THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE [3MIN] ............................................ 2
5.3. MOTION R11-12-#53 – PGSS-GPS GRANTS PROGRAMME [5MIN] ................................................................................. 3

6. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

6.1 VP External
6.2 VP Academic
6.3 VP Finance
6.4 VP Internal
6.5 President

7. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

7.1 ELECTIONS COMMISSIONER
7.2 EQUITY COMMISSIONER
7.3 SENATE COMMISSIONER
7.4 ENVIRONMENT COMMISSIONER
7.5 HEALTH COMMISSIONER
7.6 SOCIAL COMMISSIONER
7.7 STUDENT SUPPORT COMMISSIONER
7.8 FAMILY CARE COMMISSIONER

8. OTHER REPORTS

8.1 COMMITTEE ON MONETARY AFFAIRS [ CONTAINS MOTIONS!] [10MIN]
9. QUESTION PERIOD (15 MIN)

10. NEW BUSINESS ................................................................................................................................................................. 3

10.1. R11-12-#54 - JOURNAL DE MONREAL MOTION OF SUPPORT [10MIN] .............................................................................. 3

10.2. R11-12-#55 – RENCONTRE DES PARTENAIRES EN EDUCATION [10MIN] .................................................................................. 3

10.3. R11-12-#56 – KNOWLEDGE OF FRENCH FOR THE VP-EXTERNAL [10MIN] ................................................................. 4

10.4. R11-12-#57 – TRANSITION PERIOD [10MIN] .......................................................................................................................... 4

10.5. R11-12-#58 – COPYRIGHT ACT CHANGES [10MIN] ............................................................................................................. 4


10.7. R11-12-#60 – HEALTH AND WELLNESS DAY [10MIN] ......................................................................................................... 5


5. Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders

5.1. Motion R11-12-#51 - To accept Nominating Committee Recommendations [3min]

(... / ...)

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
Mental Health Services Advisory Board (and HAWC) - Elizabeth Cawley
Committee on Graduate Student Support – Vikrant Bhosle
Policy and Structure Advisory Committee – Vikrant Bhosle, Jonathan Mooney
Ad-Hoc Committee on the restructuring of PGSS Council – Finn Upham

5.2. Motion R11-12-#52 - To elect candidates to the Nominating Committee [3min]

(... / ...)
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

5.3. Motion R11-12-#53 – PGSS-GPS Grants Programme  [5min]

(VP-Finance / ..)

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 Moshebi 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

10. New Business

10.1. R11-12-#54 -Journal de Montreal Motion of Support  [10min]

(VP-External/..)

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.

10.2. R11-12-#55 – Rencontre des Partenaires en Education  [10min]

(VP-External/..)

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,
10.3. R11-12-#56 – Knowledge of French for the VP-External [10min]

(Chair/..)

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.

10.4. R11-12-#57 – Transition Period [ 10min]

(VP-Academic/..)

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.

10.5. R11-12-#58 – Copyright Act Changes [ 10min]

(VP-Academic/..)

BIRT Council enter into Committee-of-the-Whole for 10 minutes to discuss the Rencontre des partenaires en Education.
(VP-External/..)
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.

10.6. **R11-12-#59 – Health and Wellness Day [5min]**

(Health Commissioner/..)
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.

10.7. **R11-12-#60 – Health and Wellness Day [10min]**

(Health Commissioner/..)
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)”**

10.8. **R11-12-#61 – Annual Council Photograph[10min]**

(VP-External/..)
Whereas the Society annually spends roughly $1000 for 2 photographs of both the executive and councillors;
BIRT council enter a committee-of-the-whole for 10 minutes to discuss the value of this activity.

10.9. **R11-10-#49 – Committee-of-the-Whole Respecting the Strategic Enrolment Plan [10min]**
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.
Society:
1. Steering Committee meeting. (October 28)
2. Meeting with M. Kreiswirth (Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies). (October 28)
3. Meeting with E. Sirett and M-N. Huet regarding the tuition policy review. (October 29)
4. Executive Committee meeting. (October 29)
5. Meeting with M. Mendelson (Deputy Provost), A. Masi (Provost), and M. Kreiswirth. (November 1)
6. Meeting with Jana Luker (Executive Director of Services for Students). (November 2)
7. Council. (November 3)
8. Internal Affairs Committee meeting. (November 4)
9. External Affairs Committee meeting. (November 5)
10. Meeting with M. Mendelson, M. Kreiswirth, and H. Munroe-Blum (Principal). (November 11)
11. Meeting with V. Dowie (Executive Head of Public Affairs), Z. Newburgh (President of SSMU), and M. Zaidi (VP External of SSMU). (November 12)
12. Executive Committee meeting. (November 12)
13. Executive-Commissioner Caucus. (November 15)
14. Board of Directors meeting. (November 17)
15. Executive e-meeting. (November 19 to 22)

Provincial Representation:
1. Telephone conversation with L-P. Savoie (President of FEUQ). (November 1)
2. Email exchange with I. Handelman. (October/November)
3. Conversation with J-F. Meilleur (VP aux affaires externes of ADEESE) regarding FEUQ. (November 5)
4. Conversation with I. Handelman. (November 5)
5. Meeting with L. Viau (President of CNCS) regarding CAGS. (November 8)
6. Conversation with A. Severyns (VP External of CSU) regarding FEUQ. (November 9)
7. Teleconference with FEUQ. (November 9)
8. FEUQ Conference in Lévis. (November 13 to 14)
9. Email exchange with M. Flambard (President of AÉCSP) regarding FEUQ. (November 14)
10. Email exchange with L. Viau (President of CNCS) regarding Postdoctoral students. (November 17)
11. Meeting with I. Handelman. (November 17)
12. Meeting with A. Severyns, M. Zaidi, R. Sonin, N. Hausfather, R. Mehreen, E. Chevrier (Free Education Montreal), and A. Abueid (President of CGSA) regarding October 6th. (November 19)
13. Telephone conversation with I. Handelman. (November 19)
14. Meeting with R. Mehreen and N. Hausfather regarding Concordia and the CCMM. (November 19)
15. Conference with FEUQ. (November 22)

Public Relations:
1. Meeting with M. Corbett (PGSS Councillor) regarding the MBA program. (November 15)
2. Meeting with Debbie McAllister (Payroll Analyst for McGill) regarding taxation. (November 16)
3. Email exchange with P. Jelinski (Assistant General Manager of URSU the University of Regina Student Union) regarding their referendum. (November 18)

Upcoming Events:
1. PGSS/SSMU holiday wine & cheese event. (November 30)

Initiatives:
1. Meeting with E. Li regarding the Science & Policy Exchange. (November 1)
2. Email exchange with A. Ngo regarding the Science & Policy Exchange. (October/November)
3. Email exchange with S. Law and B. Swerhun regarding the GG13 Conference. (November)
4. Meeting with A. Ngo regarding the Science & Policy Exchange. (November 11)
5. Email exchange with S. Kapchinsky regarding the tax seminar. (November)
6. Tax seminar. (November 16)
7. Email exchange with A. Bertrand (Coordonatrice des activités de sensibilisation et de formation) regarding potential tax seminars. (November 19)

Other:
1. Trivia Night. (November 9)
2. Meeting with B. Ward (House Manager) regarding upcoming events. (November 5)
3. Email exchange with J-P. Alepins regarding Nutcracker tickets. (November 9)

Upcoming Events:
1. Nutcracker Ballet. (December 16)

Further Information:
The tax seminar was well attended and we will be planning two more seminars in the new year, focusing primarily on Postdoctoral and International students. I would like to thank all of the volunteers (Dayna Debenedet, Sophia Kapchinsky, and Alexandra Bishop) who helped out with this event.
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Committee Meetings

November 1st, 2010: Meeting with the Provost

The President, VP external and I attended a meeting with the Provost, Prof. Anthony Masi. On the agenda, we included an update on the Science and Exchange Policy and requested a support from the McGill Administration. The Provost seemed receptive to the idea. Other items on the agenda were the Daycare issue as well as updates on the fee levies (mental health fee levy).

November 2nd, 2010: Lunch meeting with Jana Luker, Director of Student Services

On the agenda, we had the fee levy for Mental Health services for graduate students. We also shared with Mrs. Luker our ideas on Family care and solicited her support.

November 4-6th, 2010: Canadian Association for Graduate Studies

The president and I attended the 4 days conference in Toronto. Many topics of interest were on the agenda such as:

- Internationalization of graduate education / partnerships
- The situation with the postdocs
- Graduate schools governance
- Online education
- Graduate experience
- Career development for graduate students
- News from the Granting Agencies

November 8th, 2010: GPS Council

I attended the GPS council where two main issues that are of importance came up:

1. New funding model for faculties
   a. Enrollment based model for research students (x amount of dollars for each intl, OOP or Quebec student, x amount of dollars for granting degrees, etc....) – visit [http://www.mcgill.ca/files/gps/CGPS.10.15.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/files/gps/CGPS.10.15.pdf) for more info.
   b. No more MIDAS and GERI programs to be awarded. Already awarded programs would be grandfathered for 3-4 years.
   c. More freedom for faculties to allocate funds to departments and programs

2. No more August 31st “deadline” for thesis submission
   a. Historically, students were allowed to submit their thesis by augest 31st in order to avoid paying for the upcoming fall term.
b. This deadline does not really exist, and GPS have no idea how it came about.

c. According to MELS, this would be illegal, because graduating students have to be enrolled in a program, and paying fees, prior to the date of graduation (i.e. convocation in may requires that the student be paying the preceding fall term. Most people that submit by August 31st do not make it for the fall convocation but rather for the following spring)

d. The remaining three legitimate deadlines will remain in place and students will have to respect them, by submitting their reviewed thesis, in order to avoid paying fees.

e. This will cause some problems for students whose programs run to August 31st (such as professional programs)

f. A formal announcement will be made shortly by the GPS and an information campaign will be undertaken to publicize this change.

November 11th, 2010: Meeting with Principal

The President, VP external and I attended a meeting with the Principal, Prof. Heather Munroe Blum. On the agenda we had the update on the Science and Exchange Policy and again requested future support. The principal requested our support on a set of principles that are presented to you today. We also talked about our initiatives on family care.

November 16th, 2010: Meeting with Prof. Morton Mendelson

The President and I attended a meeting with Prof. Morton Mendelson. On the agenda, we included updates on the student services fee levy. We also talked extensively on the principles that we are being asked to support, and to the extent that this support will be used to promote the university’s own agenda. We informed Prof. Mendelson of the recent funds that were allocated to Eating Disorder support group within the mental health services.

October 17th, 2010: Senate Meeting

During this month’s senate, the Dean of Graduate Studies presented an overview on the student funding at McGill among other data compared to the rest of the G13. There was also an update on the capital campaign by Mark Weinstein. Note: Senate documents are public. Ask me for more information.

October 24th, 2010: Meeting with Dean Kreiswirth

The president, the VP External and I met with Dean Kreiswirth. On the agenda, we had the removal of the August 31st deadline and we discussed how we are going to advertise it. There is a good possibility that the Dean would come to council to
discuss this matter as well as the new funding plan. We also discussed the possibility to hold GPS Town Hall for students. Another important point was the out of program courses as well as the language courses.

October 26th, 2010: Meeting with McGill International Education Network

I attended a meeting with the MIEN during which the exchange programs were discussed. This was mostly an undergraduate discussion, and I made the recommendation to start looking for ways to improve research exchanges for graduate students. MIEN is looking into it.

Events Attended

None

Activities

None

Upcoming events

Meetings that are confirmed so far for the month of December:

PGSS Retreat – Work plan discussion and social
Holiday socials
GSA town hall
December Senate
Other committees

Further information/recommendations

Committee Reporting and Caucus

I am almost finished setting up the reporting procedures for committee members, as well as caucus structures. I anticipate having a meeting with the caucus members in January to discuss and come up with an effective reporting and meeting structure.

Committee recruitment

Going well. Most committees are filled.
Family Care and Mat/Pat project

Despite various conversations with the other members of the executives and the administration, I would like to be more involved and aware of those issues on the inside before talking to the outside. For that, I am going to try a bit harder to setup a meeting with the family care commissioner and committee to discuss these issues.
VP Internal
Magnus Bein

Nov.26, 2010

Portfolio: Duties of the Vice-President (Internal)

Acronyms: IAC = Internal Affairs Committee; SC = Social Commissioner; BoD = Board of Directors; GSA = graduate student association

Activities

- Halloween contests coordination (Oct.28, 29)
- Halloween decorating of TH (Oct.30)
- Planning Nov-outing to Mt. St. Hilaire with IAC volunteer, in consultation with staff and SC (Oct.14-17)
- Development of promotions/multimedia assistant job description and posting (Nov.12, 24)
- Assistance with Trivia (Nov.2); organizing Dec trivia (Nov.26)
- Coordination of karaoke event (Oct.28, Nov.8,10,17)
- Selection of charity for Halloween proceeds donation (Oct.27)
- Planning and coordinating GSA event (Nov.2, 19, 26)
- Support of Mt St Hilaire outing with staff and IAC members (Oct.28, Nov.2,8,10,12)

Communication

- Handling of Newswire submissions and general inquiries (various times/dates throughout Nov.)
- Executive meeting (Oct. 29, Nov.25) and several email exchanges incl. e-meetings (Nov.20)
- Handling IAC membership inquiries (various times throughout Nov.)
- IAC meetings and updates (Oct.30, Nov.9,11,17,21 & 28)
- Jan. orientation planning (Nov.2,3)
- Linking groups for the Interdisciplinary Research Symposium (Nov.4)

Other duties

- PGSS BoD meeting; review and feedback on BoD goals and background materials (Nov.17)
- Development of Promotions/Multimedia Assistant job description (Nov.13,14,17)
- Steering Committee meeting and correspondence (Oct.28)
- Setting up management plan for Nov.3-17 (Oct.28, Nov.2)
- Communication to SC, staff, executives (various dates)

Upcoming tasks anticipated before the next Council meeting

- Executive retreat and development of workplan
President’s Report December 2010

Submitted to Council by Alexandra Bishop

Meetings Attended in November:

University Representation
- Meeting with DPSLL: Nov. 1st, Nov 16th
- Meeting with SSMU president on a monthly basis
- Meeting with Executive Director of Services for Students and PGSS Executives: Nov. 2nd
- Graduate Advisory Committee meeting: Nov 3rd
- Bi-yearly meeting with the Principle, Provost, Deputy Provost Student life and learning and Dean of Graduate Studies: Nov 11th
- Meeting with Vice-Principle External Relations and SSMU to discuss upcoming MELS meeting and general education principles: Nov 12th
- Represented PGSS at Scopus award gala: Nov 15th
- Student Consultation and Communication Working Group: Nov 9th, Nov 17th
- Meeting with Dean Kreiswirth: Nov 24th

Committee for the Coordination of Student Services
- Regular meeting: Oct 15th

Senate
- Senate Steering Committee: Nov 9th
- Senate: Nov 16th

Board of Governors
- Building and Property Committee: Nov 22nd
- Board of Governors: Nov 30th

Executive
- Executive meetings: Nov 12th, Nov 25th
- Executive Workplan and Retreat: Nov 27th
- Executive Commissioner Caucus: Nov 15th
- Board of Directors: Nov 17th
- Legal Council and Strategy Meeting: Nov 17th
PGSS Activities
- Meeting with Director of Residence and Family Care Commissioner to discuss possible day care locations: Nov 1st
- Canadian Association of Graduate Studies Conference: Nov 3rd – Nov 6th
- Attended Tax Seminar held by PGSS: Nov. 16th
- Meeting regarding complementary course tuition policy: Nov 25th
- GSA Town Hall and Discussion Session: Nov. 26th

Important Upcoming Dates
I have listed the following important meetings that I will be attending in December. If you have any issues that you would like me to address at these meetings please don't hesitate to contact me.

University Representation
- Student Consultation and Communication Working Group: Nov 30th
- Meeting with Dean Kreiswritten: Dec 16th

Senate
- Senate Steering Committee: Dec 1st

Board of Governors
- Board of Governors: Nov 30th
- BOD Executive Committee: Dec 14th

Executive
- Executive Meeting: Dec 9th

PGSS Activities
- Joint PGSS/SSMU Winter Social Event: Nov 30th
- Meeting with family care commissioner and architect to discuss feasibility study for day care project: Dec 1st
- Executive Commissioner Caucus: Dec 8th

Other
- Meeting with Isabelle Daoust regarding speed mentoring project: Dec 8th
Equity Commissioner’s Report to Council – November 2010

1. MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS:
   i. I met with the VP-External to discuss the tuition policy analysis that he is working on. I proposed that we include an analysis of how tuition hikes affect different groups of people differently so my Equity Committee is now researching this in terms of the five groups identified by McGill as historically disadvantaged: women, First Peoples, queer people, people with disabilities and racialized people.
   ii. I met with the SSMU Equity Commissioner November 10 to discuss a conference we are co-organizing in March on Equity & the Media, and a new Teaching & Learning award at McGill focused on those who teach for equity. We will be submitting the proposal to McGill in January.
   iii. I attended the Student Civil Rights Information Program (SCRIP) training workshop organized by the Social Equity & Diversity Education Office (SEDE) on November 10. The workshop focused on the Canadian and Quebecois legal framework within which equity and human rights can be understood.
   iv. I met with the Equity Committee on November 10th.
   v. I attended a workshop organized by the McGill First-Year Office on Student Leadership Development @ McGill on November 19th. The purpose of the workshop was to solicit feedback from on-campus stakeholders (like those involved in student government) about student leadership in terms of its current context, conceptual framework, resources etc. My focus during this workshop was to encourage McGill to consider how to support the leadership structures that already exist, like SSMU and PGSS, and to make an effort to foster the leadership of students who have historically been excluded from the leadership structures on campus.
   vi. I met with the Student Support Commissioner November 25th to discuss how the CGSS and EqC can better communicate and feed into one another.

2. EVENTS:
   i. **Film presentation of Polytechnique to honour the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, November 26th.** This was a co-organized event with Rouzbeh Mircharkhchian, Sauvé Scholar and member of the White Ribbon Campaign.
Green Drinks

The PGSS environment committee screened the film “Food, Inc.” in the Thomson House restaurant on Tuesday Nov 30. The film provides a revealing look at the way food is produced in North America. Screening the film was in line with an increasing awareness among the McGill community about the sourcing of food and the way vegetables and meat are produced. This has given rise to several projects on both campuses dealing with this issue. One project has resulted in the delivery of fruits and vegetables from the Horticulture Center at the Macdonald campus to the McGill student residence cafeterias and Thomson House. Another has led to changes in the curriculum at the Macdonald campus at both the undergraduate and graduate student levels with regards to the subject of sustainable agriculture. The PGSSec hopes to explore the issue of sustainable food production at future Green Drinks events next year.
The Family Care Committee continues to receive Family Care Programme applications for financial assistance from PGSS members who are caring for children. The application period will close on December 3rd at 5:00PM. Statistical information on the applications and applicants will be made available to the Council once the application period has ended, but the Committee would like to stress at this time the importance of this program and the difference it makes in the lives of applicants and their families.

In order to improve the Family Care Programme so as to provide help to PGSS members who are parents as beneficially as possible, the Family Care Committee is planning a round-table discussion to be held the second week of December, after the end of the Fall 2010 application period. This discussion, the time and place of which will be communicated to PGSS members via the Family Care mailing list (which members can sign-up to by visiting the Family Care Programme page of the PGSS website, under the “Services for Members” tab) will be a venue for the Family Care Committee to receive feedback on the program and to allow applicants and non-applicants alike to raise concerns and make suggestions on possible enhancements.

There have been some developments on the PGSS’s efforts to create more subsidized daycare spots reserved for PGSS members on or near the campus. The Committee has been made aware of several possible locations which could be utilized for this purpose, and we are now in the process of recruiting the services of a consultancy firm in order to investigate the feasibility of constructing a daycare at those locations. The Committee wishes to thank Michael Porritt, executive director of residences and student housing, for his help in identifying these locations for us.

The Family Care Committee is also planning an event to be held on a Sunday in the month of December. The event, which will be held in the Thomson house ballroom, will invite PGSS members who are parents to bring clothes or toys their children have grown out of and exchange them for other toys that other parents have brought in. Children will be invited to the event as well, and breakfast will be served. The objective is, on the surface, to allow parents to exchange toys and clothes, but also to meet each other and in doing so construct a support network. Once again, information on the specifics of the event will be communicated via the Family Care mailing list.

Finally, we are also working to increase the informational support that is readily available to PGSS members on a range of family issues. We are currently collecting pamphlets and brochures for family services offered in and around Montreal which will be made available in Thomson house.

Hadley Myers, Family Care Commissioner
December 1, 2010
The CMA recommends the following motions to Council.

Motion:
**BIRT the budget line item for the Commissioner Executive pool be raised from $7,000.00 to $10,000.**

Motion:
WHEREAS the Writer/Research position and the new Promotional & Multimedia Coordinator positions should be recognized as Society Staff,

**BIRT the Writer/Research line item go from $11,000 to $0, and that the Executive Pool be reduced by $9,000.**

**BIFRT the Society Staff budget item be increased by $30,000.**
L’INJUSTICE, EN VENTE PARTOUT.

Manifestation
Samedi 4 décembre
au parc La Fontaine

(à l’angle des rues Cherrier et du Parc La Fontaine)

Rassemblement à 12 h. Départ à 13 h pour converger vers
les locaux du Journal de Montréal.

ACHETER LE JOURNAL DE MONTRÉAL,
C’EST ENDOSSER L’INJUSTICE.
POUR QUE L’ABUS CESSE, INSCRIVEZ VOTRE NOM :
WWW.CSN.QC.CA/BOYCOTTONS-LE-JOURNAL

APRÈS PLUS DE 22 MOIS DE LOCK-OUT
Rassemblement en appui aux 253 lock-outrés du
Journal de Montréal :
• pour un règlement respectueux
des travailleuses et des travailleurs;
• pour la modernisation de la loi
anti-briseurs de grève.
Pour plus d’information, contactez
le conseil central de la CSN de votre région.
Un lock-out qui perdure depuis plus de 22 mois. De bonnes raisons de venir manifester.

Le 8 octobre 2010, la direction du Journal de Montréal déposait sa première proposition au Syndicat des travailleurs de l’information du Journal de Montréal (STIJM–FNC–CSN) depuis le début du lock-out, le 24 janvier 2009. Rejetée à 89,3 % par l’assemblée générale des membres, elle prévoyait notamment :

- La mise à pied de 80 % du personnel ;
- Une clause de non-concurrence (en échange d’une indemnité de départ, l’interdiction pendant six mois aux journalistes licenciés de travailler pour La Presse ou Cyberpresse, de créer d’autres quotidiens francophones dans la région montréalaise et l’obligation de fermer le site Web Ruefrontenac.com)
- D’autres reculs importants dans la convention collective – plus de 700 modifications ont été demandées.

De surcroît, l’absence de modernisation de la loi anti-briseurs de grève contribue à déséquilibrer complètement le rapport de force.

Aidez-nous à rétablir ce rapport de force, venez sur csn.qc.ca/boycottons-le-journal pour :

1. Appuyer la campagne de boycottage du Journal de Montréal ;
2. Donner votre appui aux 253 membres du STIJM–CSN ;
3. Autoriser la CSN à indiquer aux annonceurs du Journal de Montréal que vous ne lirez plus ce journal et que vous désapprouvez leur achat publicitaire dans cette publication ;
4. Presser le gouvernement du Québec de moderniser les dispositions anti-briseurs de grève.

Pour plus d’information, contactez le conseil central de la CSN de votre région.
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
Russian and Slavic Studies  T. Levesque, Educational & Counseling Psychology  O. Leung

Gallery and Guests
MCGSS President  K. Geukers

Call to Order
19h10

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.

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

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.
AGENDA

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

2. SPEAKER’S REPORT

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
   4.1 C10-12-#05

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES AND STANDING ORDERS .......................................................... 2
   5.1. MOTION R11-01-#62 - TO ACCEPT NOMINATING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS ................................. 2
   5.2. MOTION R11-01-#63 - TO ELECT CANDIDATES TO THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE ................................ 3
   5.3. MOTION R11-01-#64 – PGSS-GPS GRANTS PROGRAMME ........................................................................ 3
   5.4. MOTION R11-01-#65 – ENVIRONMENT COMMISSIONER ........................................................................ 3
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   5.6. R11-12-#54-JOURNAL DE MONTREAL MOTION OF SUPPORT ............................................................... 3
   5.7. RR11-12-#57 – TRANSITION PERIOD ................................................................................................. 4
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5. Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders

5.1. Motion R11-01-#62 - 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;

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
5.2. **Motion R11-01-#63 - To elect candidates to the Nominating Committee**

(... / ...)

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

5.3. **Motion R11-01-#64 – PGSS-GPS Grants Programme**

(President/..)

[Motion will be ready in time for Council.]

5.4. **Motion R11-01-#65 – Environment Commissioner**

(President/...)

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.

5.5. **Motion R11-01-#66 – VP-Finance**

(President / AGSEM)

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.

5.6. **R11-12-#54 - Journal de Montreal Motion of Support**

(VP-External/..)
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.

5.7. RR11-12-#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.

5.8. R11-12-#59 – Health and Wellness Day

(Health Commissioner/..)

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.

5.9. R11-12-#61 – Annual Council Photograph

(VP-External/..)

Whereas the Society annually spends roughly $1000 for 2 photographs of both the executive and councillors;

BIRT council enter a committee-of-the-whole for 10 minutes to discuss the value of this activity.

5.10. R11-10-#49 – Committee-of-the-Whole Respecting the Strategic Enrolment Plan

(Chair/..)

[Draft plan is in the addenda to the November Council Package.]

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.

10. New Business
10.1. **R11-01-#67 – Duties of VP-Finance [10min]**

( President/...)

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

10.2. **R11-01-#68 – Amend the Budget**

( President/...)

BIRT $2000 be reallocated from Cooperative Research with FEUQ to Travel and conference.

10.3. **R11-01-#69 – Amend the Budget**

( President/...)

BIRT $5000 be reallocated from PSGA Funding Inititive to the Grants program.

10.4. **R11-01-#70 – Amend the Budget, Family Friendly Grants**

( Family Care Commissioner/..)

BIRT the budget me 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.

10.5. R11-01-#71 - Retain Position

(J. Mooney/..)

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

BIRT the Student Support Commissioner to retain her position.

10.6. R11-01-#72 –Motion to Amend a Previously Adopted Referendum Question

(Health Commissioner/..)

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

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Part time currently $75.50, new $80.00
Full-time currently $125.50, new $133.00
10.7. R11-01-#73 –Discussion of Health Plan

(Health Commissioner / ..)

BIRT Council enter Committee-of-the-Whole for a period of 10 minutes to discuss the health insurance plan renewal procedure.

10.8. R11-01-#74 –Family Care Bylaw

(Family Care/..)

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: 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.

10.9. R11-01-#75 – Family Care Regulation

(BFamily Care/..)

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.”

10.10. R11-01-#76 – Family Care Regulation

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.”

10.11. R11-01-#77 Report of the PSAC

(President/..)

[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.

10.12. R11-01-#67 - AGSEM Support Motion

(L. Lewis/M. Rozworski)

WHEREAS the Association of Graduate Students Employed at McGill (AGSEM) has unionized Invigilators in April of 2010 and the said Invigilators subsequently formed their own bargaining unit within AGSEM;

WHEREAS the Invigilators have deposited their demands for negotiation of their first collective agreement in December 2010;

WHEREAS AGSEM has represented graduate student Teaching Assistants at McGill since 1993 and remains the only teaching-oriented union on campus and now currently represents both student and non-student Invigilators;

WHEREAS a successful negotiation with McGill will allow Invigilators to standardize rates of pay across campus and improve other working conditions;

WHEREAS a successful negotiation with McGill will ensure that the position of Invigilator is recognized as a distinct job category requiring remuneration;

WHEREAS Invigilators earned, the same rate of pay: $10.00 over 10 years and the minimum wage in Quebec has increased several times over this period (from $6.00) and will increase again (from $9.50 to $9.65) in May 1, 2011;

BIRT the PGSS stand in solidarity with AGSEM throughout the negotiations for the Invigilators’ first Collective Agreement with their employer;

BIFRT the PGSS support AGSEM by informing all PGSS members about the progress of the negotiations, and by encouraging them to support the Invigilators and AGSEM.
Society:
1. Executive Committee meeting. (November 25)
2. Executive retreat. (November 27)
3. Meeting with E. Sirett regarding position. (December 1)
4. Council. (December 1)
5. Attended meeting of the Athletics Advisory Board. (December 6)
6. Executive-Commissioner Caucus. (December 7)
7. Meeting with E. Cawley regarding elections. (December 9)
8. Meeting with M. Kreiswirth. (December 16)
9. Meeting with the APF regarding Postdoctoral taxation. (December 20)

Provincial Representation:
1. Attended FEUQ Special General Congress. (December 2)
2. Attended meeting of the RAE. (December 3)
3. Meeting with I. Handelman. (December 9)
4. Meeting with I. Handelman, F. Viau, L. Watson, and D. Molenhuis regarding legal examination. (December 14)
5. Meeting with A. Campeau (Vice-President of FEUQ) regarding updates strategic planning. (December 15)
6. Meeting with M. Garneau (MP for Westmount-Ville-Marie) regarding student issues. (December 17)
7. Meeting with M. Desjardins (President of ADEESE), M. Flambard (President of AÉCSP), L. Boucher (Secretary General), and G. Houle (Vice-President of University Affairs) regarding FEUQ. (December 17)
8. Email and telephone exchange with A. Campeau regarding tuition. (January 5)

Public Relations:
1. Attended SSMU holiday event. (November 30)
2. Meeting with K. Ng (Environmental Officer) and P. Guenther (Urban Planner) regarding transportation and student initiatives. (December 10)

Initiatives:
1. Meeting with Dr. S. Laver regarding the McGill Writing Centre. (November 25)
2. Meeting with G. Dallaire regarding the PGSS daycare. (December 1)
3. Attended meeting of the Science & Policy Exchange. (December 8)

Upcoming:
1. Tax Seminar for Postdoctoral Fellows. (January 19)
As you can expect, December is a slow month at the university when it comes of non-academic activities (exams, breaks, etc...) so my report this month will be short and concise.

**Committee Meetings**

*December 1st, 2010: Meeting with the consultant on daycare*

The family care commissioner, the President, VP external and I attended a meeting with a consultant and discussed the various basic requirements to establish and operate a private daycare. More on this issue in the FC commissioner’s report.

*December 8th, 2010: Senate Meeting*

Usual business. Nothing out of the ordinary to report.

*December 16th, 2010: Canadian Association for Graduate Studies*

The president, the VP External, the VP internal and I met with Dean Kreiswirth. On the agenda, we had the removal of the August 31st deadline. Since the announcement of this change, the GPS has received a lot of feedback on the implication of such a sudden change and is currently drafting a proposal to re-consider the way the change will take effect and when. No official announcement yet but it seems that the GPS is listening to the opinions that the students and the departments are expressing.

Another point on the agenda was the disbursement of Tri-Council student awards and whether the students are well informed of the policies and procedures of the payouts and the implication on the individual’s financial planning. I am currently in contact with the personnel in charge of this issue in order to get more insights onto how information is flowing to the students.

**Events Attended**

None

**Activities**

None

**Upcoming events**
Meetings that are confirmed so far for the month of December:

Senate
PGSS Exec
PGSS-Commissioner caucus
Other committees

Further information/recommendations

Committee recruitment

Going well. Most committees are filled.

Family Care and Mat/Pat project

Discussions on this topic are ongoing at the executive level and with the FC commission and committee. Any decisions or proposals will be brought back to council for discussion.

On a more personal note, I find that the PGSS has gone on many different directions without proper short term and long term planning, and hence, I am continuously recommending that the PGSS adopt a comprehensive and fair Family Care Plan that include proper budgets, analysis, and impact.
Jan.5, 2011

Portfolio: Duties of the Vice-President (Internal)

Thanks to Caitlin Doyle, Kaywana Raeburn, Monica Granados, Allan Brand, Daniel Simeone (and of course staff) for making the recent karaoke and trivia events a success!

Acronyms: IAC = Internal Affairs Committee; SC = Social Commissioner; BoD = Board of Directors; GSA = graduate student association

Activities

- IAC meetings (Dec.2,9) and recruitment (Nov.26, 28, Dec.2)
- Review of promotions/multimedia assistant job posting and resumes (Dec.14,15)
- Dec. trivia (Dec.14)
- GSA event and follow-up (Nov.26)
- Holiday season decorations (Nov.28,30)

Communication

- Handling of Newswire submissions and general inquiries (various)
- Executive meeting (Dec.9) and several email exchanges incl. e-meeting (Dec.16)
- Jan. orientation coordination (Dec.6, 16, Jan.3-6)
- Follow-up on karaoke and planning for next one (Nov.27, Dec.2, 8, Jan.5); coordination for trivia (Dec.6,7,14)
- Meetings w/ staff to request dates for events, drink specials, etc. (Dec.2, 6)
- Planning joint the events Robbie Burns night (Dec.2,6,7,9, Jan.5) and Franco Fete (Dec.14, 17, Jan.5)
- Development of Sustainability Projects Fund proposal (Dec.6,15,17, Jan.3)
- Liaison with Family Care committee (Dec.8,9,14)

Other duties

- Executive retreat (Nov.26, 27)
- Commissioner-Exec caucus meeting (Dec.7)
- Compiling and editing executive workplan (Nov.28, Dec.7,8,9, Jan.5)
- Communication to SC, IAC, staff, executives (various dates)

Upcoming tasks anticipated before the next Council meeting

- New grad student orientation
- Planning and coordination of regular events (trivia, speeddating) and special events (Robbie Burns)
- IAC and executive meetings
President’s Report January 2010

Submitted to Council by Alexandra Bishop

Meetings Attended in January:

University Representation
• Student Consultation and Communication Working Group: Nov 30th & Dec 13th
  • Meeting with Dean Kreiswrith: Dec 16th

Senate
• Senate Steering Committee: Dec 1st
• Senate: Dec 8th

Board of Governors
• Board of Governors: Nov 30th
  • BOG Orientation Dinner: Dec 2nd
  • BOD Executive Committee: Dec 14th

Executive
• Executive Meeting: Dec 9th

PGSS Activities
• Joint PGSS/SSMU Winter Social Event: Nov 30th
  • Meeting with family care commissioner and architect to discuss feasibility study for day care project: Dec 1st
  • Executive Commissioner Caucus: Dec 8th
  • PSAC : Dec 14th

Other
• Meeting with Isabelle Daoust regarding speed mentoring project: Dec 8th
Important Upcoming Dates
I have listed the following important meetings that I will be attending in January. If you have any issues that you would like me to address at these meetings please don’t hesitate to contact me.

University Representation
- Meeting to consider Calendar of Dates: Jan 7th
- Student Consultation and Communication Working Group: TBD
- Meeting with Dean Kreiswrith: Jan 18th
- Committee on Student Services: Jan 17th, Jan 26th
- Meeting with Prof. Mendelson: Jan 19th
- Food and Dining Advisory Committee Meeting: Jan 21st
- Graduate Student Skills Development Advisory Board- Meeting with the Director of the Writing Centre: Jan 21st
- SSMU Council Presentation: Jan 26th

Senate
- Senate Steering Committee: Jan 11th
- Senate: Jan 19th

Board of Governors
- Board of Governors Retreat: Jan 12th
- BOD Executive Committee: Jan 12th

Executive
- Executive Meeting: Jan 6th

PGSS Activities
- PGSS Orientation: Jan 6th
1. MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS:
   i. December 1\textsuperscript{st}: Attended the PGSS Executive-Commissioner Caucus.

   ii. December 1\textsuperscript{st}: Met with the SSMU Equity Commissioner and the SEDE Anti-Racism and Cultural Diversity Advisor to discuss an “Equity” teaching award. We have decided to submit a proposal to McGill in the winter.

   iii. December 3\textsuperscript{rd}: Met with the QPIRG rep to PGSS to discuss collaboration.

   iv. December 7\textsuperscript{th}: Attended the PGSS Executive-Commissioner Caucus.

   v. December 7\textsuperscript{th}: Met with the SSMU organizer of the Equity and the Media conference.

2. PROJECTS:
   i. Submitted relevant academic literature to the VP-External on the impacts of tuition hikes on disadvantaged groups.

   ii. Conference on Islamophobia, taking place March 25\textsuperscript{th} as part of the SSMU conference on Equity and the Media. I have secured 3 panel speakers and 1 facilitator for the event. CKUT and Media@McGill have both agreed to be sponsors.
Members of Council,

First off, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones health and happiness in this new year. And may it also be filled with academic success. This year has the potential to be a momentous one for the PGSS, and I will continue to work diligently to ensure that this is the case. And now to the business at hand.

Our new Trenholme Dean of Libraries has taken office, and with this, the PGSS is presented a unique opportunity. Given that the new Dean will be setting the libraries priorities in the coming months, I will be working very closely with her office to ensure that graduate student needs are high on the list. In conjunction with the President and the VP Academic, along with the PGSS library representative, I will draw together a list of our collective priorities and present them to the Dean. Given that we have accumulated a significant sum in our Library Fund (as of Fall 2010, the fund contained about $212,000; By year end this figure should be closer to $300,000), we are obviously in a promising position to influence the Dean's planning and priorities. If you or your constituents are interested in making proposals as to what our priorities should be, please send them along to the executive and myself.

The second point of interest is the forthcoming move to electronic system for graduate student project tracking (integrated into the Banner/Minerva systems). In the current paper form, progress tracking is not applied uniformly throughout the University, and is thus made much less effective as a means to protect students and faculty from difficult situations. The move to an electronic system will ensure uniform application across faculties and will also streamline the process, making it easier for everybody to ensure that they are on the right track. As more information becomes available, I will ensure that our members are made aware of it.

A final point to note is that the GPSO will be undertaking a revision and approval of the University's thesis guidelines over the coming months. Once the new guidelines are made public (I have yet to see any formal documents), I will be sure to keep you abreast of the developments with respect to this process.

With kindest regards,

Alexander DeGuise
Health Commissioner
Jonathan Mooney
6 January 2011

December activities were focused on flu shot reimbursement logistics and efforts to produce and assure a well-crafted referendum question regarding the mental health services disparity.

Communication

24 November 2010 – E-mailed Brittany Tyson, ASEQ account manager, regarding HAWC meeting schedule

Late November – Early December 2010 – Communication with students regarding flu shot reimbursement

26 November 2010 – E-mailed Professor Doreen Starke-Meyerring regarding mental health services usage statistics.

26 November 2010 – Discussed advertising rapid HIV testing with Erin Sirett, Equity Commissioner

26 November 2010 – Communication with Council commissioner regarding reports and minutes

29 November 2010 – E-mailed with Services Coordinator regarding flu shot reimbursements

6 December 2010 – Discussed flu shot reimbursements with Brittany Tyson, ASEQ account manager

10 December 2010 – E-mailed student regarding counselling services for post-doctoral fellows

3 January 2011 – Discussed flu shot reimbursement logistics with PGSS Insurance coordinator, Marilou Alforque

3 January 2011 – Disbursed minutes and solicited schedules and feedback from Health and Wellness Committee members

3 January 2011 – Communication with Mary Jo McCullogh regarding revised mental health referendum question wording

5 January 2011 – Sought assistance from PGSS Insurance coordinator, Marilou Alforque to collect student signatures to process flu shot reimbursements

5 January 2011 – Communication with Council Commissioner regarding Health insurance renewal and mental health referendum question issues for Council
Meetings

1 December 2010 – Meeting with Elizabeth Cawley, representative to Mental Health Services Advisory Board, regarding mental health services usage statistics and mental health referendum

7 December 2010 – Executive- Commissioner Caucus meeting – Discussed restricted health insurance fund
Social Commissioner Report

December 2010

I was in India from 25/11/2010 to 23/12/2011 visiting my folks back home. This was my first vacation in 2010. During the break, I checked my email once every ten days to keep track of what was going on in the society and IAC in particular. Things seemed to have progressed smoothly over the last month with the joint efforts of VP Internal, the committee members and the staff.

While in India, I received a query regarding the exorbitant price of the New Year's Eve Thomson House Party tickets. I communicated this issue to the VP Internal, the Operations Manager and the Events and Bar Manager, and got back to the student. I also communicated availability to the President regarding the Exec-Commissioner pre-council meeting which was supposed to take place in the first week of January.

I also received a request to post a message from the McGill Chaplaincy services to our newswire. I informed the VP Internal and requested the Services Coordinator to have it posted in the most recent PGSS newswire.

Happy New Year!
The Family Care Committee has received a total of 97 applications for financial support in the Fall 2010 application period of the Family Care Programme. We hope to have reviewed all of the applications by the middle of January. However, there is one complication which may delay payment to successful applications. It has recently been brought to our attention that the support paid out to parents may be taxable, but the specifics of exactly how the payments are considered by the provincial and federal governments is not entirely clear. As such, we have asked for clarification on the responsibilities of PGSS and in making such payments, as well as responsibilities of the recipients. We hope to receive a response in February, and will then proceed with the distribution of the funds.

As well, the Family Care Committee has decided to cancel the mat/pat project. This is because the project, as it was designed, does not guarantee maternity or paternity funding for all graduate and post-doctoral students, and was also contingent on McGill double-matching the funds allocated to the project by PGSS, which has not happened and which, as some fear, would only happen at the expense of other initiatives. Therefore, a motion has been submitted to this council to re-allocate the mat/pat funds to the Family Care Programme, and to extend the scope of the Programme so that expecting parents (those who would have benefited from the mat/pat project) can apply for support along with those who currently care for children. Additionally, those of us who are responsible for the care of sick or elderly relatives, by the motion, will also be able to apply for support.

A round-table discussion on the Family Care Programme was held in the basement of Thomson house on December 8, 2010. At that discussion, some of the attendees who are also parents had said that they were not able to attend most school-related activities and events because it was impractical or impossible to do so with children. As a result, in addition to the financial difficulties inherent in caring for children while in grad school, the feeling of isolation common to graduate students was exacerbated for this demographic. Therefore, a motion has been submitted to allocate some of the funds reserved for the mat/pat project to the grants committee, with the stipulation that it be used to partially finance events which are “family-friendly,” meaning that attendees are welcome to bring children (as stated in all publicity associated with the event), and are held in a time and place that would make it possible for children to attend. It is hoped that this the creation of this fund, as an incentive for those wishing to receive PGSS funding for their events, will allow more graduate and post-doctoral student parents to attend events with their children, thus allowing them to meet and network more easily, as well as to increase awareness of family-care issues.

Hadley Myers, Family Care Commissioner
January 12, 2011
Report from the CMA

The Committee on Monetary Affairs hereby requests submissions from members of the Society for proposals for the budgeting process for 2010/2011. Please send suggestions, reports, ideas, etc. to the Services Coordinator, at services.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca
Report of the PSAC
December 14 2010
In attendance: Vikrant Bhosle, Caitlin Mouri, Jonathan Mooney, Alexandra Bishop

The PSAC recommends the following motions based on the business referred to it by council.

**Motion #1**
Whereas constitutional amendments may be submitted through petition as well as through council,
BIRT the words “through council” be removed from Society Article 12.1.1

**Motion #2 - Petition Percentages**

Whereas the PSAC has reviewed the following proposed revision to Society Article 12.1.1 d

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.”

BIRT Society Article 12.1.1 d be amended to:

“Through petition, whereby notice of the proposed enactment, amendment, or repeal of an Article, signed by at least seven percent (7%) or 525 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 shall be given to the President.”

**Motion #3 - Petition Percentages (Bylaw)**

Whereas the PSAC has reviewed the following proposed revisions to Society Bylaw 8.11.3

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.”

BIRT Society Bylaw 8.11.3 be amended, in first 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 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 #4

Motion for committee of the whole on new Article 17

Whereas the following motion was refereed to the PSAC for review,
Whereas council should be able to call an AGM with a motion of no confidence on the agenda;
Whereas such a motion should not have an unreasonable threshold;
Whereas a 2/3 vote of ½ of the voting membership of council is an obtainable but high threshold;
Whereas council should not be able to impeach an officer elected by the general membership directly;

BIRT council enter into committee of the whole for 10 minutes to discuss the following revised recommendations of the original motion:

Original Motion as Referred:

5.7. Motion R11-10-#36 Removal from Office (J. Mooney/ Joseph)
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.

Proposed New Motion From PSAC:

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 525 members or 7%, plus addition of Council vote.]

After the receipt by the Elections Commissioner of a petition signed by at least seven-percent (7%) or 525 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 1/2 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 All appointed or elected representatives not referred under item 1 of this Article 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 #5 - Steering Committee

Whereas the PSAC has reviewed the referred motion regarding alterations to the steering committee
Whereas the PSAC has added the following recommendations in bold below:

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 "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 “to 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 for read “non-voting chair”

Motion #6

BIRT council enter committee of the whole for 10 minutes to discuss the following suggested bylaw amendments:

5.6. Motion R11-10-#35 Executive Attendance at Council (J. Mooney / Jason)
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 may include but are not limited to Society business, illness or bereavement, or being on an approved leave-of-absence.
Motion # 7
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.

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 “x” 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”.

POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS’ SOCIETY OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY

Minutes for the Council Meeting of
Wednesday, December 1, 2010, 18h30

Executives
President Alexandra Bishop, VP Internal Magnus Bein, VP Finance Natalie Lee, 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, 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
Mental Health Services Advisory Board (and HAWC) - Elizabeth Cawley
Committee on Graduate Student Support – Vikrant Bhosle
Policy and Structure Advisory Committee – Vikrant Bhosle, Jonathan Mooney
Ad-Hoc Committee on the restructuring of PGSS Council – Finn Upham

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 Mosahebi 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 approved 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 5\textsuperscript{th}, 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. Centeza, 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.
AGENDA

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

2. SPEAKER’S REPORT

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

3.1 Family Care Committee Announcement (5min)
3.2 Resignation of the Social Commissioner
3.3 ASEQ – Health Plan For 2011/2012 (10min)

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

4.1 C11-01-#06

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5. Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders

5.1. Motion R11-02-#79 Health Plan Renewal

(Health Commissioner/..)

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 committees 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
5.2. Motion R11-02-#80 - 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;

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

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

5.3. Motion R11-02-#81 - To elect candidates to the Nominating Committee

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

5.4. Motion R11-02-#82 – PGSS-GPS Grants Programme

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]
5) $400 to Adrienne Smith for the project "Web2.You 2011" [GrantID_10-11-49]

5.5. Motion R11-02-#83 – Ratification of Resignation of Social Commissioner
(President/..)
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.

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

5.7. Motion R11-02-#85 – Graduate Student Life Fund
(President/ ..)
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?
5.8. Motion R11-02-#86 – Mental Health Referendum Question

(Health Commissioner/..)

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: 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 equalise 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 MELS guidelines?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part-time (1-11.5 credits)</th>
<th>Full-time (12+ credits)</th>
<th>Additional Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$75.50</td>
<td>$125.50</td>
<td>$42.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New $80.00</td>
<td>New $133.00</td>
<td>New $44.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.9. **Motion R11-02-#87 – Family Care Fee Levy**

(J-A. Burgoyne/..)

BIRT the following question be put to referendum in 2011:

Do you agree to reallocate $7.50 per term of your existing PGSS Membership Fee (for full time students, prorated accordingly for part-time and continuing students) to a restricted PGSS Family Care Fund, which may be used solely to provide a scholarship program to PGSS members with children who demonstrate financial need? (Yes/No/No opinion)

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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.

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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.

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5.12. **Motion R11-12-#59 – Health and Wellness Day**

(Health Commissioner/..)

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.

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5.13. **Motion R11-01-#75 – Family Care Regulation**

(Family Care/..)

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.”

5.14. Motion R11-01-#76 – Family Care Regulation
(Family Care /..)
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.”

5.15. Motion R11-01-#77 Report of the PSAC
(President/..)
[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.

5.16. Motion R11-01-#74 – Family Care Bylaw
(Family Care/..)
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.

5.17. Motion R11-01-#73 – Discussion of Health Plan

(Health Commissioner / )

BIRT Council enter Committee-of-the-Whole for a period of 10 minutes to discuss the health insurance plan renewal procedure.

5.18. Motion R11-10-#49 – Committee-of-the-Whole Respecting the Strategic Enrolment Plan
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.

10. New Business

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.

10.2. Motion R11-02-#89 – Policy on Conduct of Research

(Western Canada)

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.**

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**10.3. Motion R11-02-#90 – Indemnification**

(President/..)

**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.**

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**10.4. Motion R11-02-#91 Recognition of the Graduate Association of Pharmacology and Therapeutics Students at McGill University (GAPTS-McGill)**

(V. Bhosle/…)

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.**
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

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. Trojan, 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 give 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. The CMA decided to allocate this money to help student parents. Although he recognizes that we should also help our postdoc members.

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 favour of the amendment.

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
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

BIRT 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)  
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.
BIYFRT 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.
Society:
1. Meeting with T. Fabian (VP Internal of the SSMU) regarding athletics financing. (January 6)
2. Email exchange with the APF. (January 6)
3. Meeting with the Athletics Advisory Board’s Finance Sub-Committee. (January 6)
4. Executive Meeting. (January 6)
5. Steering Committee meeting. (January 7)
6. Meeting with K. Ng (McGill Environmental Officer), Professor A. Egeneidy, et al regarding a transportation survey. (January 12)
7. Council. (January 12)
8. Meeting with M. J. McCullogh (Senior Manager, Student Accounts) regarding ancillary fees. (January 14)
9. Meeting with the External Affairs Committee. (January 14)
10. Meeting T. Fabian and J. Abaki (VP University Affairs) regarding athletics fees. (January 17)
11. Executive meeting. (January 20)
12. Meeting of the McGill Athletics Advisory Board. (January 21)
13. Meeting with a McGill Environment Committee regarding AASHE STARS. (January 24)
14. Meeting of the GSAs regarding consultation in the referendum question. (January 24)
15. Meeting with M. Kreiswirth. (January 25)
16. Email and telephone exchange with A. Brovkin (Web Designer) regarding the PGSS website. (January)

Provincial Representation:
1. Email exchange with L. Viau (President of the CNCS) regarding postdoctoral taxation. (January 6)
2. Email exchange with P. V. Kuong (VP University Research of FAÉCUM) regarding postdoctoral taxation. (January 7)
3. Telephone conversation with I. Handelman regarding legal issues. (January 7)
4. Email exchange with M. Desjardins (President of ADEESE) regarding postdoctoral taxation. (January 10)
5. Email exchange with I. Handelman regarding legal issues. (January 10)
6. Tele-conference with FEUQ. (January 12)
7. Email exchange with G. Houle (VP University Affairs of FEUQ) regarding FIOs. (January 13)
8. Email exchange with C. Holly (Psychology) regarding psychology students. (January 13)
9. Telephone conversation with L. Viau regarding familycare and psychology
students. (January 14)
10. Telephone conversation with R. Sonin (CGSA representative) regarding Concordia. (January 16)
11. Email exchange with I. Handelman regarding legal issues. (January 17)
12. Email and telephone exchange with A. Haley (President of CBUSU) regarding information exchange. (January 18 to 20)
13. Email exchange with I. Handelman regarding legal issues. (January 18)
14. Email exchange with L. Viau regarding psychology students. (January 18)
15. Telephone conversation with B. Ditto (Professor) regarding psychology students. (January 19)
16. Email and telephone conversation with R. Livingstone (President of UPEISU) regarding information exchange. (January 20)
17. Email exchange with G. Houle regarding frais institutionnels obligatoires (FIOs). (January 20)
18. Email exchange with I. Handelman regarding legal issues. (January 21)
19. Email exchange with G. Houle regarding FIOs. (January 22)
20. Telephone conversation with G. Houle regarding FIOs and McGill MBAs. (January 24)
21. Email exchange with L. Viau regarding Posdoctoral students and psychology students. (January 24)
22. Email exchange with I. Handelman regarding legal issues. (January 24)
23. Email exchange with I. Handelman regarding legal issues. (January 25)
24. Email exchange with L. Viau regarding familycare issues. (January 25)

Upcoming:
1. FEUQ Congress at Concordia University. (February 11, 12 and 13)

Initiatives:
1. Email exchange with M.H. Renaud (Agente de développement marketing et relations publiques) regarding Communauto and the PGSS. (January 6)
2. Email exchange with M.H. Renaud regarding Communauto and the PGSS. (January 10)
3. Tax seminar for postdoctoral students. (January 19)
4. Email exchange with M.H. Renaud regarding Communauto. (January 25)
5. Multiple email exchanges with postdoctoral tax seminar attendees. (January)

Upcoming:
1. Tax seminar for international students. This event will be held on February 9 from 1 PM to 4 PM in the Thomson House Ballroom. Light refreshments will be served. Please register for this event at: https://surveys.mcgill.ca/limesurvey/index.php?sid=32592&lang=en

Acknowledgement:
I would like to thank Dayna Debenedet, Mariève Isabel and Sophia Kapchinsky for all of their efforts in making all of the tax seminars a success. I would also like to thank the Anne Bertrand from the Canada Revenue Agency for providing a comprehensive series of seminars.
**Committee Meetings**

*January 18th, 2011: Meeting with the president and Ms. Finn Upham Re: PGSS representation*

The president, Ms. Upham and I met to discuss PGSS representation on campus. Topics discussed included: what are the tools that the reps are provided with for proper representation? How are reps chosen? Is there a reporting mechanism in place for sharing of information?

Few solutions were proposed:
1. Re-instate recruitment day in the beginning of the year in order to give people a chance to learn about the committees and be encouraged to sign on.
2. Have a system for human resources and information management (software, fillable online forms)
3. Work with nominating committee to improve the selection process of representatives.
4. Introduce follow-ups and requests for reports.

*January 19th, 2011: Meeting with Deputy Provost Prof. M. Mendelson*

The president and I met with Prof. Mendelson. We reviewed the mental health referendum question. We also discussed other fee increases and changes in fee structures.

*January 19th, 2011: Senate Meeting*

Usual business. Nothing out of the ordinary to report.

*January 20th, 2011: PGSS Executive meeting*

Usual business. Minutes are available upon request.

*January 25th, 2011: Meeting with Dean Krieswirth*

The president, the VP External, the VP internal and I met with Dean Krieswirth. On the agenda, we had the removal of the August 31st deadline. As reported previously, the GPS is working on a plan to solve this issue. Unfortunately, the plan is not yet announced. We had asked the dean to inform the units of such a step in order to stop scaring students.
January 27th, 2011: CMA meeting

Please refer to CMA report in this council package.

**Meeting that were not attended:**

*January 21st, 2011: Forum on Student Consultation*

Due to sickness, I was unable to attend this forum.

*January 28th, 2011: Meeting with SSMU VP Academic Mr. Josh Abaki*

I had scheduled a meeting with Mr. Abaki to discuss few projects but was cancelled at the last minute due to his other engagements.

**Events Attended**

None

**Activities**

None

**Upcoming events**

*Meetings that are confirmed so far for the month of February:*

- Senate
- PGSS Exec
- PGSS-Commissioner caucus
- Day-care related meeting
- Dean of Libraries, Prof. Colleen Cook
- Other committees

**Further information/recommendations**

*Committee recruitment*

Going well. Most committees are filled.
Enclosed, on the next page, is a proposal that was accepted by the Sustainable Projects Fund to grant $30,000 to PGSS to undertake a comprehensive “greening” Thomson House project. It will require coordination between PGSS officers and estimated financial contribution of $4,000 plus inkind support from PGSS.

Thanks to Caitlin Doyle, Kaywana Raeburn, Pooja Tayagi, Hilary Havens, Ben Barootes (and of course staff) for making the recent trivia and Robbie Burns Night events a success!

Also thank you to the GSAs who helped at the winter orientation.

Portfolio: Duties of the Vice-President (Internal)

Acronyms: IAC = Internal Affairs Committee; SC = Social Commissioner; BoD = Board of Directors; GSA = graduate student association

Activities
- IAC meetings (Jan.14,21,27) and recruitment (Jan.18)
- Review of promotions/multimedia assistant resumes (Jan.26)
- Jan. trivia (Jan.17)
- Robbie Burns Night (Jan.26)
- January orientation (Jan.6)

Communication
- Handling of Newswire submissions and general inquiries (various)
- Executive meeting (Jan.21) and several email exchanges incl. e-meeting (various)
- Liaison with Family Care Commissioner and other commissioners (Jan.21)
- Meeting with Environment commissioner and committee (Jan.24, 27)
- Planning Wii rock-band night; Feb trivia, speeddating (Jan.7,13, 17, 18, 24, 25)
- Meetings w/ staff to organize events (Jan.13,25)
- Planning joint the events Robbie Burns night and Franco Fete (Jan.12,13,14,17,18,20,24,25,26)
- Revision and submission of Sustainability Projects Fund proposal “Greening Thomson House” (Jan.11,20) [Proposal follows on next page]

Other duties
- Meeting with Business Manager regarding French language at TH and translation services (Jan.14)
- Health and Wellness committee meeting (Jan.21)
- Commissioner-Exec caucus meeting (Jan.24)
- Communication to SC, IAC, staff, executives (various dates)

Upcoming tasks anticipated before the next Council meeting
- Francofete @ PGSS and assistance with Dumas concert on Feb.4
- Speeddating, Jan.31, Feb.1
Sustainability Project Fund Application

Applicant/Project Leader: Magnus Bein

Contact Information:
Name: Magnus Bein
Email: internal.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca
Daytime Phone: 514-550-8411

Project Title: Greening Post-Graduate Student Society and Thomson House

Budget Requested: $30,000

Project Group – Post-Graduate Student Society (of McGill)
PGSS Executive member & PGSS Member of Board of Directors (M. Bein serves in both capacities)
PGSS Business Manager (Andre Pierzhala)
PGSS Environment Commissioner (Chair of the PGSS Environment Committee)

In an attachment (maximum 4 pages), please summarize the proposal using the following structure. Please ensure that all relevant points listed below are addressed. Last revised: January 28, 2011

I. Project Overview
Project summary

The Post Graduate Student Society (PGSS) of McGill proposes to carry out a comprehensive process leading to making the Thomson House (TH) building and operations more sustainable. The process will be carried out across four phases, from identifying needs, assessing feasible options, selecting and developing an achievable plan, and implementing the plans and designs that will:

- Increase the environmental sustainability of the operations of PGSS and Thomson House through technical means and behavioural strategies (Appendix 1 for definition);
- Engage the community through student leadership that directly contributes to the development of plans and designs for a sustainable PGSS and Thomson House; and,
- Sustain the awareness and capacity to manage and improve sustainability at PGSS and Thomson House.

This proposal is for launching the initiative through the first phase: completing a comprehensive audit of Thomson House facility and operations as well as developing a student engagement process to assess where improvements, retrofits, and programs
could achieve sustainability targets. This will provide detailed information and plans for subsequent phases, including engaging students, researchers, and professors in an integrated design process. This phase also entails setting out sustainability targets and an overall plan for development of future phases. It will be necessary to build an integrated design team which includes stakeholders and key user groups.

Project eligibility

The PGSS membership includes over 5,000 grad students and postdoctoral scholars and over 1,000 professional students. Most members regularly convene at Thomson House for socializing, special events, and academic activities in a given academic year. Outside groups and organizations also utilize Thomson House for social uses, such as weddings, and educational purposes, increasing the community of people who use the facilities and services of the PGSS beyond just students. Therefore, by implementing and featuring the strategies to make Thomson House environmentally sound in a socially responsive way, a large number of emerging leaders, early in their career, and who will build lasting connections across the province, country and world will have access to the emerging culture and approach of sustainability. Exposure of our members and customers of this not only reinforces the potential for promoting and supporting these sort of initiatives in their own workplaces and communities, it empowers leadership to address ecological sustainability. As an experience where students can actually be involved in constructive change, this program will create a living laboratory for the PGSS community and our partners to practice and evolve sustainable approaches.

This cultural of sustainability will be fostered in ways that depend on the phase of this multi-year program. For this proposal concerning the first phase, we will outreach to professors and grad students in engineering, architecture, design, and other pertinent fields. With them we will identify and plan direct ways to involve researchers in crafting sustainability guidelines, plans and designs for PGSS and TH. General awareness-raising will be accomplished by hosting a town hall meeting, regarding this initiative early in the phase as well as at the end, when the results of the audit, plan for engaging students, and plan for next phases are presented. While a design-charette would be held in the second phase, we would also hold a public workshop in the middle of the phase, to obtain detailed feedback on the vision of the program, such as how various initiatives and needs of PGSS committees (e.g. Family Care), Grad Student Associations, and community user groups could be accommodated in the building and operations audit, program plan, and student engagement aspects of this phase.

Milestones

1. Development of terms of reference for building design consultant and operations/business consultants
2. Request for expressions of interest (REI) for completing comprehensive sustainability audits of a) Thomson House heritage building and b) operations of
the business and society, each aspect would be required to address viable ways to include students in the process and form an integrated design team

3. Hold town hall meeting event to kick-off project
4. Building the integrated-design team (IDT) with stakeholders and representatives of key user groups
5. Development of multiple criteria representing sustainability targets, such as a triple bottom line indicators
6. Hold a public consultation workshop to develop guidelines for objectives and guidelines
7. Carry out comprehensive assessment of the facility and operational needs and opportunities for achieving sustainability targets and complete analysis of priorities
8. Convene integrated design team and consult on preliminary audit results
9. Present results of audits and plans for engagement and future phases at public town hall meeting

Timeframe

Phase 1: Comprehensive audit and development plan, from Feb.1-Sep.30, 2011
- Terms of Reference, REI, and selection – February-March
- Outreach to IDT members and first meeting of IDT – Feb-March
- Town hall meeting – March
- Consultants begin and carry out contract – March-May
- Consultation workshop – April-June
- Outreach and consultation for academic component – Mar-June
- Meeting of IDT – May-August
- Public presentation of results -- September

Stakeholders
- McGill Campus and Space Planning
- Sustainable Project Fund
- Ville-de-Montreal
- Architecture Prof & Student representative
- Engineering Prof. & Student representative
- Grad student reps
- TH staff
- Community user groups

II. Project Implementation

Tasks and Responsibilities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Activity – Task</th>
<th>Estimated Required Time</th>
<th>Group Member in Charge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Administrative support
- 200 hours
- Andre Pierzchala and staff

### Facilitation & Coordination
- 100 hours
- Magnus Bein or delegate

### Building audit
- 250 hours?
- Consultant to be selected

### Operations audit
- 100 hours?
- Consultant to be selected

### Initial town hall meeting
- 15 hours
- M.B., A.P., or delegate

### Public workshop
- 15
- M.B., A.P., or delegate

### Public meeting presenting results
- 15
- M.B., A.P., or delegate

### IDT meetings
- 10
- M.B., A.P., or delegate
  - Feb or Mar
  - Aug or Sep

### III. Financials

Critical date: February 2011

#### Detailed expenses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense Description</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building audit and consulting (contracted to a consultant)</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations audit and consulting (contracted to a consultant)</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration (accounting and preparation of reports, correspondence to partners)</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordination and organizing (average 3.5 hours/week completed by applicant or a designated position)</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events (two town-hall meetings, one workshop)</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrated Design Team meeting and related meeting expenses for consultation with partners (e.g. professors in engineering or architecture)</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$43,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Detailed revenues:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue Source</th>
<th>Amount Requested</th>
<th>Confirmed?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sustainability Projects Fund</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGSS (Inkind)</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGSS (Cash)</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### IV. Additional information:

**Qualifications**
Prior to moving to Montréal, Magnus Bein gained over five years experience in the field of sustainable urban planning as well as conservation planning. His accomplishments include contributing to converting a brown field in the core of Vancouver into a green community (Southeast False Creek; it was the site of the 2010 Olympic Village), by
working with architects, engineers, planners, and community members. He obtained his undergraduate degree from the University of Victoria in British Columbia, in biology and environmental studies. He has worked with three regional conservation programs (the Islands Trust, the Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team, and the Okanagan Conservation Program) involving multi-stakeholder resource and land-use planning and decision-making. He also has a record of community and volunteer service. This has included acting on the board of The Land Conservancy of BC and more recently the McGill Postgraduate Student Society as Vice President Internal and a member of the Board of Directors of the Thomson House business. Magnus is currently completing graduate research in ecology at the University of McGill. His research interests include: nutrient cycling, aquatic ecology, the role of behaviour in ecological interactions, and sustainability.

Appendix 1: Definition of Sustainability

Overall, sustainability is an evolving concept, and while not a complete definition, our provisional view of the technical and behaviour strategies of sustainability would entail:

- Involving students directly in the process through course, independent study projects, and research
- Minimizing the energy consumption of Thomson House
- Increasing the use of renewable energy sources such as passive solar, geothermal, and solar
- Lessening the generation of material waste and maximize diversion of wastes that can be recycled or composted
- Localizing our consumption and use of food and materials by selecting and utilizing locally produced and/or processed food and materials, and even growing a portion of our own food on location

Appendix 2: Future Phases

* NOTE: this application concerns Phase 1, the following future phases have been included for information only, and may change.

- Connections to professors to initiate student and course projects
- Comprehensive assessment of options and proposals, based on guiding principles as well as financial and technical constraints
- Consultation with PGSS members
- SFP proposal for phase 3

- Consultation with PGSS members
- Connections to professors to initiate student and course projects
- Proposals for phase 4

Phase 4: Project implementation ~Mar 2012
President’s Report February 2010

Submitted to Council by Alexandra Bishop

Meetings Attended in January:

University Representation
• Meeting to consider Calendar of Dates: Jan 7th
• Student Consultation and Communication Working Group: Jan 13th
• Meeting with Dean Kreiswricht: Jan 25th
• Committee on Student Services: Jan 17th, Jan 26th
• Meeting with Prof. Mendelson: Jan 19th
• Food and Dining Advisory Committee Meeting: Jan 21st
• Graduate Student Skills Development Advisory Board- Meeting with the Director of the Writing Centre: Jan 21st
• Meeting to discuss possible changes to FIO structure: Jan 14th
• Advisory Committee Meeting on The Policy for Safe Disclosure: Jan 27th

Senate
• Senate Steering Committee: Jan 11th
• Senate: Jan 19th

Board of Governors
• Board of Governors Retreat: Jan 12th

Executive
• Executive Meeting: Jan 20th

PGSS Activities
• PGSS Orientation: Jan 6th
• Civil Engineering Orientation Session: Jan 7th
• Student Consultation and Communication consultation with PGSS representatives: Jan 18th
• Consulted with possible candidates regarding PGSS Executive positions: Jan 18th, Jan 21st
• Executive Commissioner Round Table: Jan 24th
• GSA consultation session on referendum question and fee levy changes: Jan 24th
• Health and Wellness Committee: Jan 24th
• Grants Review Committee: Jan 25th
• Committee on Monetary Affairs: Jan 27th
• PGSS Steering committee: Jan 27th
• Executive Commissioner Caucus: Jan 31st

Other
• Consultation with SSMU president: Jan 27th

Important Upcoming Dates
I have listed the following important meetings that I will be attending in February. If you have any issues that you would like me to address at these meetings please don't hesitate to contact me.

University Representation
• Student Consultation and Communication Working Group: TBD
• Committee on Student Services: Feb 14th

Senate
• Senate Steering Committee: Feb 8th
• Senate Nominating Committee: Feb 2nd
• Senate: Feb 16th

Board of Governors
• BOD Executive Committee: Feb 8th

Executive
• Executive Meeting: TBD

PGSS Activities
• Meeting to discuss possible government funding of daycare project: Feb 1st
• PGSS Council: Feb 2nd
• BOD: TBD
• Meeting to consult on TLS projects: Feb 22nd
During the January 12th 2011 council meeting, Mr. Alexandre Poisson was elected in council for the position of Environment Commissioner.
Equity Commissioner's Report to Council – January 2011

1. MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS:
   i. January 11th: Met with the Equity Committee
   ii. January 12th: Met with the QPIRG representative to PGSS (Nakita Sunar), QPIRG External Coordinator (Andrea Figueroa) and QPRIG CURE Coordinator (Anais Cadieux Vanvliet) to discuss an event to promote CURE (Community-University Research Exchange) projects among the graduate student population. We organized an event, a 5 a 7 on January 26th.
   iii. January 12th: Met with the SSMU organizer of the Equity and the Media conference.
   iv. January 17th: Skype meeting with the SSMU Equity Commissioner to discuss the ongoing proposal for an equitable teaching award. We developed a research proposal to submit to SSMU to get funds to hire a student researcher to do some background research on what other universities have in terms of equity teaching awards.
   vi. January 24th: Executive-Commissioner Caucus
   vii. January 25th: Met with chair of the McGill Subcommittee for Women to discuss the upcoming Joint-Senate Board Committee on Equity meeting

2. PROJECTS:
   i. Submitted information to the McGill Daily about the kick-off panel March 25th for the Equity and the Media Conference, which we’ve called Exposed: The role of the media in promoting Islamaphobia
   ii. Held the PGSS/QPIRG CURE 5 a 7 on Wednesday, January 26, 2011
   iii. Submitted a letter of support to the McGill Sustainability Projects Fund in support of the proposal submitted by First Peoples’ House, SEDE and the Office of the Dean of Students
EVENTS:

Green Drinks Montreal

The PGSSec hosted a Green Drinks Montreal event on January 25 at the Thomson House restaurant. The event featured a presentation by the group “Developing Pictures” A group of dynamic and innovative students at McGill are the founders of Developing Pictures, a small non-profit media company devoted to helping small NGOs that desperately need donations. On top of serving as free promotional material for cash-strapped organizations, the videos also encourage collaboration between academics and the people on the ground in developing countries. Developing Pictures are also currently trying to contribute to Haiti’s long-term reconstruction effort with an unconventional tool – bamboo. Several of the students involved were on-hand to share their experience, and to give a look into the potential of bamboo within the context of the nation's ongoing rebuilding process. The presentation was very well received by the audience which filled most of the restaurant.

Sustainability Projects Fund Awareness Breakfast

The PGSS environment committee hosted an awareness breakfast for the Sustainability Projects Fund at the Macdonald campus in conjunction with the Macdonald Campus Graduate Student Society on the morning of January 25. The featured guest speaker was Lilith Wyatt who is the administrator of the Fund. She gave the latest updates on the Fund. Of the seventy project fund applications twenty eight have been accepted. There is currently over $200,000 available in the Fund with another $400,000 being put into it by the end of April. Approximately thirty people attended. Two events will be organized for the downtown campus in the near future.

MEETINGS:

As the new Environment Commissioner I (Alexandre Poisson) have attended several meetings since being elected ( ) to become familiar with: ongoing projects and plans, partners, and funding opportunities, and Council and Exec-Caucus procedures. The first meeting of the Environment Committee will be held on Friday, January 28. We will be discussing future plans, and two important priorities for the committee in the coming months: 1) the Sustainability Research Symposium, and 2) Greening of Thomson House project.
January saw the culmination of the Health and Wellness Committee’s work over the past year. We received and reviewed the results of the comprehensive survey of our members which asked about modifying the coverage within our health and dental plan. We then recommended a referendum question to council to determine the will of our membership regarding these coverage changes.

**Meetings and Events**

7 January 2011 – Council Steering Committee meeting
- Discussed placement of mental health referendum question in council package
- Discussed Committee-of-the-Whole motion on insurance plan renewal process

24 January 2011 – Health and Wellness Committee meeting
- Reviewed survey results with ASEQ representatives
- Discussed quarterly claims data with ASEQ representatives
- Voted on potential coverage changes to health plan and discussed implications regarding health insurance premiums

26 January 2011 – Meeting with Lev Bukhman and Brittany Tyson of ASEQ, PGSS’ insurance broker
- Engaged in constructive discussion about due diligence with respect to broker selection process
- Discussed ASEQ’s further analysis of claims data and renewal options
- Reviewed more details of premium changes associated with coverage changes

27 January 2011 – Committee on Monetary Affairs meeting
- Reviewed referendum question on health and dental plan renewal
- Discussed implications of any possible reviews related to health and dental plan

**Communication**

13 January 2011 – Communicated with Cindy Bois, Nursing Coordinator, regarding flu shot reimbursements

13 January 2011 – Communicated with Brittany Tyson of ASEQ regarding benefit changes and referendum question timeline
18 January 2011 – Communicated with Alexandra Bishop, PGSS President, Brittany Tyson, ASEQ representative, and HAWC regarding timing of upcoming HAWC meeting time

25 January 2011 – Communicated with Brittany Tyson of ASEQ regarding benefit changes

25 January 2011 – Communicated with Daniel Simeone, Council Commissioner regarding text of health and dental plan renewal referendum question

26 January 2011 – Discussed invoicing procedure for Eating Disorders Programme with Andre Pierzchala, PGSS Operations Manager

26 January 2011 – Discussed meeting with broker with Elizabeth Cawley, PGSS representative to Mental Health Services Advisory Board

26 January 2011 – Communication with Health and Wellness Committee regarding coverage change recommendations to council for the referendum question

Other

I would like to express my deep appreciation toward ASEQ for their consistent support and guidance throughout our health and dental plan review process. Their expertise has been invaluable in aiding the committee in understanding the finer details of the health plan and the renewal procedure. From planning and executing the survey to reviewing the claims trends and coverage changes, ASEQ representatives have consistently excelled in the quality of service they have provided to PGSS and have proven resolutely to be consistent, transparent, and professional partners.

Representatives from ASEQ will be making a presentation to Council regarding the health and dental plan and the renewal process. Copies of the survey results will be provided to Council members at the Council meeting, and Health and Wellness Committee members will be available to take questions regarding our choices for coverage changes presented in the referendum question.
A total of 101 applications were received for the Fall 2010 Family Care Programme. This is slightly more than the 96 that were received in Winter 2010, with 78 (86%) receiving funding (9 at the $3000 level, 19 at the $1500 level, and 50 at the $500 level). We would have liked to have matched this level of funding, but due to a reduction in the size of the program and considering the number of applications we’ve received, the committee has decided to allocate $37,000, which will fund approximately 37 people. We are finalizing our decisions (which we hope to do by the time this council meeting takes place a week from now) and we anticipate informing applicants as to the status of their individual application before the end of January. Unfortunately, there will be a delay in the payment of this support as we continue to wait for a response from the government with regards to the tax status of the project, but we hope this delay will be minimal. We recognize that those waiting for the support are in a desperate situation.

As was stated in the Family Care Committee report, the committee has decided to share some of the remainder of our budget with GSAs at McGill, as well as other committees who wish to plan events that are family friendly. A family friendly event is defined by the Family Care Committee as an event that is scheduled at a reasonable time of the day so that parents and children can attend, that is described as “family-friendly” in all publicity related to the event, and that offers some provision for children. This could be as simple as juice boxes and a table that could be used as a baby changing station. For events in which small children would not be able to directly participate, such as a speaker series, the organizers could hire someone to baby-sit the children in a separate room while their parents attend the event. Representatives of recognized GSAs who wish to apply for grants of $500 each can fill out an application form on the Family Care page of the PGSS website.

We are also in the process of organizing classes that would be of interest to student parents. Specifically, we are considering sponsoring financial management classes for parents, expectant parents or those considering having children so that they can anticipate the costs involved in having a child and plan accordingly. These classes would include information on the types of government assistance available to parents and qualification criteria for such assistance. Information will be communicated soon regarding the times and availabilities of these classes.

Hadley Myers, Family Care Commissioner
February 2, 2011
Report of the PSAC
The following is our recommendation regarding the Policy on the Conduct of Research that was referred to the PSAC last semester.

Policy on the Conduct of Research

Preamble

Universities play a fundamental role in advancing knowledge. Research conducted at universities often directly contribute to social well-being, culture, legal, economic, technological, and scientific development.

Academic freedom, including the freedom of inquiry and the freedom to communicate ideas and results, is essential to University research and innovation. Hence, researchers and students should be encouraged to publicly present their research, regardless of the funding agency. However, academic freedom also obliges students, researchers and institutions to understand the ethical and moral guidelines that apply to their research, and to make every effort to conduct it in a moral, ethical, and legal way. All research and scholarship must be governed by the principles of honesty, integrity, transparency, trust, accountability, and collegiality. Researchers should have a reasonable knowledge of precedents concerning similar research with regards to its potential harmful effects on individuals, the society, and the environment and should apply this knowledge to guide their research.

Regulations on the conduct of research should address both the content and method with which research is being conducted. They should help maintain the highest moral and ethical values within research and scholarship; they should be committed to transparency that aids the reporting of research; and they should ensure that research is neither done in a way nor has outcomes that are directly harmful to individuals, the society, and the environment.

Policy

The PGSS supports:
1. A policy that explicitly acknowledges the central role of graduate students in research at the University.
2. Regulations that ensure research cannot be conducted if implicit or explicit conditions of the funding purpose or recommend any conclusion.
   a. Transparency in reporting sources of funding is encouraged while anonymous funding directed at specific research efforts is discouraged.
3. That any contract or binding agreement, including military and private industry partnerships, are encouraged to respect the right of students and researchers to publicly present their research findings in a timely fashion.
4. Appropriate recognition of student contributions to any scholarly or non-scholarly publication.
5. Regulations that urge researchers to be aware of potentially harmful applications of their research, including obvious uses by supporting agencies and sponsors. Any research or research methods deemed harmful by the researcher involved or appropriate review committees should be strongly discouraged and subject to strict review and regulation.
6. A clear definition of “harmful applications” of research, in order to guide researchers when weighing the potentially harmful applications of their research against the benefits.
7. That the PGSS would support any university initiatives to educate graduate students on the potential harmful effects of their research.
8. Awareness and adherence to the ethical guidelines of applicable research domains, areas or disciplines by all researchers throughout their research.
9. That any policy regulating the conduct of research should be reviewed at the third year of its operation by a working group that includes appropriate representation from the unit.
The Family Care Committee is deeply disappointed that the motion to fold the Mat/Pat program into the Family Care Programme was not approved. We know the money could have been used efficiently as part of the Family Care Programme to the great benefit of graduate and post-doctoral student parents and their families, and as part of a long-term plan to increase support and awareness for this demographic. However, we share the concern of the council regarding the tax status of our post-doctoral fellow population and we hope they will be able to use the money effectively in their battle with the government, in which they have the Committee's full support.

The purpose of the Family Care Programme is to provide direct financial support to those in serious need. Shown below are some statistics regarding those who applied in Fall 2010. As can be seen, many families (towards the left side of the graph) are struggling to make ends meet. From those who applied for financial aid, the average living expenses for a family of three were calculated at only $27,000/year/family ($9000/person). We do not believe that someone should have to choose between furthering his or her education and having children. Indeed, many parents choose to pursue a graduate degree in the hopes of providing a better life for their children. There will always be a segment of our population facing the financial challenge of living on a student income while raising children and for whom there are no other means of support, and we believe some portion of the PGSS Family Care budget should be reserved to support these PGSS members. In the long term, we hope to supplement these direct, “emergency” grants with a support network similar to that which student parents at certain other universities enjoy.

To this end, we continue to work towards the creation of a daycare exclusive to the children of PGSS members. We are planning to complete a feasibility study of the project in March and should have a timeline and budget estimate in time for the 2011-2012 budget. We would also like to organize workshops for student parents on topics ranging from financial planning to applying for government support. Such workshops will allow student parents to meet and network, thereby establishing a support structure within the PGSS community. Finally, we are hoping to work with McGill to install changing tables and nursing areas around the campus.

One of the functions of the PGSS is to promote community among graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. Unfortunately, PGSS members who have children often are not able to participate in that community, as most PGSS events are not family-friendly. The FCC has planned a few family-oriented
events this year, and we are planning several more, including a large event in May to be called “Family Care Day,” which we hope will become an annual tradition. It is our hope that other committees will follow our lead to organize family-friendly PGSS activities. We do not believe student-parents should be segregated from the rest of the PGSS membership. Therefore, we would like to share a portion of our budget with other committees and GSAs for the funding of events that student parents and their children can attend.

The Family Care Committee has decided to reserve $5000 of the “Support fund for graduate and post-doctoral student parents” for the funding of events that are family-friendly. In doing so, we hope to allow those of us caring for children to be more active members of the graduate and post-doctoral community and to encourage the visibility of student parents on campus and at PGSS events. We would like to encourage GSAs recognized by the PGSS to apply to the FCC for financial support for events open to parents and children and advertised as such. It isn’t difficult to make an event family-friendly: it could be as simple as holding it during the day rather than at night, or providing on-site babysitting.

The University is quite diverse, and many PGSS members are a part of one or several minority groups on campus. Awareness for many of these groups is high, and many people take into consideration the various needs of the members of these groups when organizing events and carrying out business. We ask that graduate and post-doctoral student parents be recognized as one such minority group, and that their needs be considered as well; we hope to encourage this through the funding of events.

We recognize we will not be able to accomplish any of this without the support and assistance of the entire PGSS community. We are very appreciative of the support we’ve received so far, which we are using to aid student-parents who have immediate need while developing a plan for the long-term. As we work to help those student parents in severe financial difficulty and to carve out space for student parents in the greater PGSS community, we hope to be able to count on your continued support in the future.

Sincerely,
The 2010-2011 Family Care Committee

Hadley Myers, Lerona Lewis, Katia El Jurdi, Brock Rutter, Dana Bailey, Laura Risk, Irina Pivneva.
The Constitution Committee was asked to rule on a question of constitutional interpretation, according to Society Article 11.1:

May the budget be modified by a motion of Council if such a motion has not been submitted to the Speaker by 17h00 five (5) days prior to the date of the Council meeting and thus is not included in the agenda circulated in advance of the meeting?

Society Bylaw 9.2 specifies the following (emphasis added):

9.2.3 The budget may be modified by a motion of Council provided the motion has been submitted before the regular Council deadline.

9.2.4 The budget may not be modified after the regular January meeting of Council.

The question arises in part because the Society Regulations provide details on the Rules of Order and the conditions under which a substantive motion may be presented to Council. According to Society Regulation 2.1.1:

2.1.1 All substantive motions shall:

... 

2.1.1.4 Either:

2.1.1.4.1 Be preceded by notice of motion, given at a previous meeting of Council; or

2.1.1.4.2 Be submitted in writing to the Speaker as per Section 4 of this regulation in time to be included with the agenda circulated in advance of the meeting; or

2.1.1.4.3 Be submitted immediately prior to, or during a meeting, at the discretion of the Speaker, but only if the motion is of sufficient urgency, that it need be dealt with immediately.

2.1.1.5 Be in writing

2.1.2 A substantive motion of which no notice was given or that was not submitted in time to be on the agenda shall not be moved except by consent of two-thirds (2/3) of the voting members of Council present.
Society Regulation 2.4 specifies the deadlines for circulating the agenda in advance of the meeting (see 2.1.1.4.2):

2.4.1 Documentation for regulation Council meetings (specifically Executive reports, motions and accompanying documentation to each motion) must be submitted to the Speaker by 17h00 seven (7) days prior to the date of the Council meeting. The extension of this deadline for up to two (2) days can be applied at the discretion of the Speaker.

2.4.2 Posting of all documentation must be complete by 17h00 five (5) days prior to the date of the Council meeting.

The main question is whether Society Bylaw 9.2.3 prevents a motion to modify the budget from being moved if it is submitted as an “emergency motion” according to Society Regulation 2.1.1.4.3, with the support of two-thirds of the voting members of Council present (2.1.2).

The Constitution Committee feels that the key point is the wording of Society Bylaw 9.2.3, specifically the term “regular Council deadline”. This term is not defined, nor used anywhere else in the Society Constitution. We therefore interpret this to refer to the details in the Society Regulations. Although the original intent may have been to refer to the deadlines specified in Society Regulation 2.4, the current wording is sufficiently vague to include the Rules of Order in Society Regulation 2.1.

It may be argued that the wording of Society Bylaw 9.2.3 implies an intent to prevent motions to modify the budget that do not follow “regular” procedures. Nevertheless, Society Regulations do not distinguish between “regular” or other types of deadlines, only the conditions required to apply a range of deadlines. Furthermore, other Society Bylaws that require advance notice for Council motions also specify a number of days, usually five (5): for example, Bylaws 8.10.1.2, 12.1.2. The lack of such specificity in Bylaw 9.2.3 suggests that the deadlines detailed in Society Regulations 2.1 and 2.4 are therefore appropriate.

The Constitution Committee therefore rules that the PGSS Constitution does allow the budget to be modified by a motion if such a motion has not been submitted to the Speaker by 17h00 five (5) days prior to the date of the Council meeting and thus is not included in the agenda circulated in advance of the meeting, provided that the motion is submitted according to the Rules of Order detailed in Regulation 2.1.1 and 2.1.2.

We recommend that the Speaker remind Council members of the January deadline to modify the budget (Bylaw 9.2.4), when requesting submission of motions and documentation for future regular January meetings of Council.
Should Council desire to further clarify or restrict the deadlines by which the PGSS budget may be modified, we recommend that this be done by amending Society Bylaw 9.2.3. For example (although Council may prefer a different wording):

- Replace “before the regular Council deadline” with: “in time to be included with the agenda circulated in advance of a Council meeting”. This wording should prevent urgent motions to modify the budget from being considered, even in accordance with Regulation 2.1.2, by setting more stringent conditions, but allow the exact timeline to be detailed in the Regulations. This would provide more time for members of Council to consider motions to modify the budget.

- Replace “provided the motion has been submitted before the regular Council deadline” with: “provided that five (5) days notice of the motion has been given to members of Council.” This wording is specific enough to prevent exceptions that may be allowed by regulations, while being consistent with other Society Bylaws regarding deadlines for important Council motions. This would ensure a minimum of five (5) days’ time for members of Council to consider motions to modify the budget.

- Change Bylaw 9.2.3 to: “The budget may be modified by a substantive motion of Council.” This wording would more clearly refer to the relevant Society Regulations (2.1.4.3, 2.1.2) concerning when and how such motions may be submitted.
Report of the PSAC  
December 14 2010  
In attendance: Vikrant Bhosle, Caitlin Mouri, Jonathan Mooney, Alexandra Bishop

The PSAC recommends the following motions based on the business referred to it by council.

**Motion #1**  
Whereas constitutional amendments may be submitted through petition as well as through council,  
BIRT the words “through council” be removed from Society Article 12.1.1

**Motion #2 - Petition Percentages**  
Whereas the PSAC has reviewed the following proposed revision to Society Article 12.1.1 d  
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.”

BIRT Society Article 12.1.1 d be amended to:  
“Through petition, whereby notice of the proposed enactment, amendment, or repeal of an Article, signed by at least seven percent (7%) or 525 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 shall be given to the President.”

**Motion #3 - Petition Percentages (Bylaw)**  
Whereas the PSAC has reviewed the following proposed revisions to Society Bylaw 8.11.3  
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.”

BIRT Society Bylaw 8.11.3 be amended, in first 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 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 #4

Motion for committee of the whole on new Article 17

Whereas the following motion was refereed to the PSAC for review,
Whereas council should be able to call an AGM with a motion of no confidence on the agenda;
Whereas such a motion should not have an unreasonable threshold;
Whereas a 2/3 vote of ½ of the voting membership of council is an obtainable but high threshold;
Whereas council should not be able to impeach an officer elected by the general membership directly;

BIRT council enter into committee of the whole for 10 minutes to discuss the following revised recommendations of the original motion:

Original Motion as Referred:

5.7. Motion R11-10-#36 Removal from Office (J. Mooney/ Joseph)
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;
17.1.2.1One-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.

Proposed New Motion From PSAC:
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 **525 members or 7%**, plus addition of Council vote.]

After the receipt by the Elections Commissioner of a petition signed by at least seven-percent (7%) or 525 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 1/2 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 All appointed or elected representatives not referred under item 1 of this Article 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.

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**Motion #5 - Steering Committee**

**Whereas the PSAC has reviewed the referred motion regarding alterations to the steering committee**
**Whereas the PSAC has added the following recommendations in bold below:**

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 "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 “to 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 for read “non-voting chair”

Motion #6

BIRT council enter committee of the whole for 10 minutes to discuss the following suggested bylaw amendments:

5.6. Motion R11-10-#35 Executive Attendance at Council (J. Mooney / Jason)
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 may include but are not limited to Society business, illness or bereavement, or being on an approved leave-of-absence.
**Motion # 7**

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.

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 “x” 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”
The committee on monetary affairs held a meeting as well as an e-discussion on the following subjects and is proposing the recommendations:

1. **Beginning of a budget review in preparation for next year’s budget proposal.**

The CMA will be reviewing the expenses incurred by the society with regards to the respective budget lines in order to make sure that the society remains on track with its projections. At present, considering the recent budget re-allocations, it appears that the society’s spending will remain within budget.

2. **Emergency motions pertaining to budget amendments.**

The CMA has considered the procedural anomaly that occurred at the January council meeting. This procedural anomaly involved an emergency budget amendment being introduced and passed at the same council meeting, which was the final opportunity to make budget modifications per the PGSS Constitution.

The committee considers that, as part of a far broader rewriting of the PGSS constitution, certain categories of motions should require a minimum of (for example) two weeks' notice to protect the inalienable rights of the membership. These categories should include motions of impeachment, motions of censure, motions to change the constitution, and motions to amend the budget.

The committee further considers that the PGSS should establish a contingency fund to address the rare situation in which an emergency expense arises in a period of time during which it is impossible to modify the budget given the notice requirements.

3. **Implications regarding the proposed Family Care budget allocation referendum question that will be discussed at the February meeting of Council.**

The Steering Committee referred the following motion to CMA for deliberation. The motion was submitted by a member of the society and council to the Steering Committee for inclusion in the February Council agenda as per the PGSS constitution. If adopted by Council, the referendum question will go on the ballot during the Society's upcoming general election.
BIRT the following question be put to referendum in 2011:

Do you agree to reallocate $7.50 per term of your existing PGSS Membership Fee (for full time students, pro-rated accordingly for part-time and continuing students) to a restricted PGSS Family Care Fund, which may be used solely to provide a scholarship program to PGSS members with children who demonstrate financial need? (Yes/No/No opinion)

The CMA finds multiple issues with this question.

Following various discussions that the Society has had at a number of levels, consensus appears to be forming around the notion that we would like to see a Family Care program that is well structured and institutionalized within the PGSS. However, the CMA identified the following problems with present proposal for a referendum question on this matter:

1. The proposed fee allocation is not pro-rated for part-time studies, additional sessions, post-doctoral fellows, etc. Also, there is no clear idea or justifications of how a fee of 7.50$ came about.
2. The proposed fee allocation will result in major and permanent budgetary consequences for the Society, since it is proposing a fixed fee allocation and not a fee increase. The CMA has not been consulted in order to analyze the implications of such a drastic and permanent change.
3. The question suggests that the fee allocated will be used for a scholarship program, which requires issuing proper tax slips, by the Society or McGill, depending on who is administering the scholarship. As far as we know, McGill has not been consulted on this issue, and the Society is currently investigating whether a scholarship, or even a bursary program is within its legal mandate and powers.
4. The proposed question seems to fundamentally belie the Society's budgeting process. Referendum questions are not usually used to create budget line items, but rather to establish, abolish, or amend fees. Council, as a representative body should be the forum where budget lines are discussed and voted upon.
5. The proposed question fails to take in consideration the needs of the Family Care program within the Society, be it a scholarship or not.

Although they do not fall directly within the mandate of the CMA, some other important questions were raised with the proposed question,
which lacks all the preparatory elements which usually lead to fee creation. Who is going to administer the project? Is McGill going to accept taking on such a scholarship? Can the Society even create a "scholarship program?" Is this an academic-based scholarship or a needs-based bursary? What happens if it turns out that the PGSS cannot give out this money? Does it become a liability? What are the various tax implications both personal (on the part of recipients), and institutional (on the part of the Society)?

Finally, there are number of implicit misconceptions about the state of the Family Care program. The past two budgets have allocated funds to family care and have been used to test different strategies for supporting students with families. Although there have been two consecutive and substantial budget allocations, this program is still in its infancy, and the exact mechanisms and procedures for providing support have yet to be finalized. It is the opinion of the CMA that this program is not in a state to be institutionalized via referendum assigning a fee, but that the Society should maintain a budget allocation for family care, to be determined via the regular budgeting process. This should be maintained until the program parameters are developed and refined by the continued hard work and diligence of the Family Care Commissioners and Committee members, and until such time as they make clear recommendations for a well researched, tested, and clearly defined program with specific permanent funding needs.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The CMA recommends that the questions be withdrawn or postponed indefinitely
2. Furthermore, the CMA recommends that a clear plan for such a project be drafted in consultation with the proper entities including the Executive Committee, the Family Care Commissioner and Committee, McGill University, the Society's Board of Directors, and the Society's legal counsel. This will allow the Society to come up with a comprehensive long-term plan that properly serves PGSS members with families and is properly integrated into the McGill community and resource base.

Committee members: Roland Nassim (acting chair), Adrian Kaats, Jonathan Mooney and Daniel Simeone.
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   3.3 Redpath Library Renovations - Senate & Libraries Commissioner
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5. Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders

5.1. Motion R11-03-#92 - 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;

BIRT Council approve the recommendations of Nominating Committee, as listed below:
Lisa Rose Palladini to the University Health and Safety Committee
5.2. Motion R11-03-#93 - To elect candidates to the Nominating Committee

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

5.3. Motion R11-03-#94 – PGSS-GPS Grants Programme

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).

5.4. Motion R11-01- #77 Report of the PSAC

[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.]
[Note: We are going through the report motion by motion, and are now on Motion #4.]

BIRT that the report of the PSAC be adopted, and that all bylaw amendments therein be adopted in first reading.
5.5. Motion R11-01-#74 – Family Care Bylaw

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.

5.6. Motion R11-01-#73 – Discussion of Health Plan

(Health Commissioner / )
BIRT Council enter Committee-of-the-Whole for a period of 10 minutes to discuss the health insurance plan renewal procedure.

5.7. Motion R11-10-#49 – Committee-of-the-Whole Respecting the Strategic Enrolment Plan

(President/..)

[Draft plan is in the addenda to the November Council Package.]

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.

5.8. Motion R11-02-#89 – Policy on Conduct of Research

(President/..)

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.

5.9. Motion R11-02-#91 Recognition of the Graduate Association of Pharmacology and Therapeutics Students at McGill University (GAPTS-McGill)

(V. Bhosle/..)

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.

10. New Business

10.1. Motion R11-03-#95 To adopt a Tuition Fee Policy
(VP-External/..)

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.

10.2. Motion R11-03-#96 Regarding Defi-Climat
(VP-Internal/..)

WHEREAS Defi-Climat 2011 is a civic-level challenge to individuals and organizations to make sustainable choice to reduce the risk of environmental impacts,

AND 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.

10.3. Motion R11-03-#97 to Allow for Electronic Campaigning for In-Council Elections
(Elections Commissioner/..)

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.

10.4. Motion R11-03-#98 to Amend the Equity Issues Policy
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.

10.5. Motion R11-03-#99 to Endorse the PGSS-SPF Project
(VP-Internal/..)

WHEREAS PGSS has identified a mandate to implement sustainability in its operations and function,
AND 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.

10.6. Motion R11-03-#100 to Amend Bylaw Regarding Referendum Petition
(President/..)

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.”

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 lobby McGill administration to follow suit and eliminate the sale and distribution 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 available tap water, and other sustainable methods of water distribution such as reusable glasses and bottles, etc.

10.8. Motion R11-03-#102 to Extend Family Care Programme to Elderly and Ill Family Members and Expecting Parents

(Family Care Commissioner/..)

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."

[Note: the following section consists of motions from the Report of the PSAC, included as an addendum. Some motions from the report from February, which are in the middle of, will be removed from that, and discussed here in altered form.]
10.9. Motion R11-03-#104 Report of the PSAC: Executive Stipends
(President/..)
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.

10.10. Motion R11-03-#105 Report of the PSAC: Petition Percentages(Article 2.3.f)
(President/..)
Whereas the PSAC recommends the following changes to Society Article 2.3.f 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.f 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.
10.11. Motion R11-03-#106 Report of the PSAC: Removal from Office

(Chairman/..)

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%, 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.

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

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/..)

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.


(President/..)

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”.
Society:
1. Meeting with the Association of Postdoctoral Fellows (APF) regarding taxation. (January 27)
2. Steering Committee meeting. (January 28)
3. Meeting with L. Pariseau (legal counsel) and the APF regarding federal income tax. (January 31)
4. Meeting with L. Viau (President of the CNCS), Roland Nassim (VP Academic), Mariève Isabel (EAC Committee) and H. Myers (Family Care Commissioner) regarding family care. (February 1)
5. Executive meeting. (February 3)
6. Email and telephone exchange with A. Brovkin (Web Designer) regarding the PGSS website. (February)
7. Conducted interviews for the Promotions position. (February 10)
8. Executive-Commissioner Caucus. (February 14)
9. Executive meeting. (February 17)
10. Conducted interviews for the Promotions position. (February 18)
11. Meeting with A. Cleary (PGSS Promotions). (February 21)
12. Meeting with M. Rak (Chair of the Science & Policy Exchange Organizing Committee) regarding the Science & Policy Exchange. (February 22)

Provincial Representation:
1. Email exchange with I. Handelman regarding legal issues. (February 1)
2. Email exchange with I. Handelman regarding legal issues. (February 3)
3. Meeting with G. Houle (VP University Affairs of FEUQ), P. Tenneriello (President of MBASA), R. Sodhi (VP External of MBASA) and M. Isabel (EAC Committee) regarding the MBA program. (February 3)
4. Meeting with T. Fabian regarding Francofête (February 7)
5. Telephone conversation with I. Handelman regarding legal issues. (February 10)
6. Meeting of the Coalition régionale étudiante de Montréal (CREM) mobilization and transportation. (February 10)
7. Email exchange with I. Handelman regarding legal issues. (February 3)
8. FEUQ Congress. (February 11, 12, 13)
9. Meeting with the Association of Graduate Students Employed at McGill (AGSEM) and the M. Zaidi (VP External of the SSMU). (February 15)
10. Attended a joint PGSS/SSMU executive dinner. (February 16)
11. Telephone conversation with I. Handelman regarding legal issues. (February 21)
12. Email exchange with G. Houle regarding FIOs. (February 22)

Upcoming:
1. Protest at Place du Canada at noon. (March 12)
Initiatives:
1. Skype exchange with B. Swerhun (VP Academic of DAGS) regarding GG13 (February 7)
2. Tax seminar for postdoctoral students postponed. (February 9)
3. Meeting with the mobilization organizing committee. (February 21)
4. Multiple email exchanges with international tax seminar registrants. (February)

Upcoming:
1. To protest or not to protest, c’est une question de choix. Please join us in a provincial day of action on March 12. Thousands of people will be gathering at Place du Canada at noon. Come and tell the Government what you think about tuition increases. For more information contact:
   external.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca
2. Tax seminar for international students. This event will be held on March 9 from 1 PM to 4 PM in the Thomson House Ballroom. Light refreshments will be served. Please register for this event at:

Apologies:
I would like to apologize to all of those who may have been inconvenienced by the cancellation of the tax seminar of February 9.
VP Finance – Council Report
Adrian Kaats
February 23, 2011

Acronyms used in this report

- Committee on Monetary Affairs (CMA)
- Grants Review Committee (GRC)
- Executive Committee (EC)
- Board of Directors (BoD)
- Post-Graduate Student Association (PGSA)
- Family Care Program (FCP)
- Graduate Student Life Fund (GSLF)
- Trust Fund for Student Support (TFSS)

1. Meetings
   a) Committee meetings
      i. CMA
         1. 1:30pm, Thursday, February 17, 2011
      ii. GRC
         1. 12:30pm, Thursday, February 17, 2011
      iii. EC
         1. 3:00pm, Thursday, February 3, 2011
         2. 3:00pm, Thursday, February 17, 2011
      iv. BoD
         1. 7:00pm, Monday, February 7, 2011
   b) Meetings with PGSS staff
      i. Services Coordinator
         1. 2:00pm, Tuesday, February 15, 2011
      ii. Business Manager
         1. 10:00am, Monday, February 10, 2011
         2. 11:00am, Thursday, February 17, 2011
         3. 11:00am, Thursday, February 24, 2011
   c) Meetings with PGSS officers
      i. Health Commissioner
         1. 12:30pm, Monday, February 10, 2011
      ii. Family Care Commissioner
         1. 9:00am, Thursday, February 17, 2011
         2. 2:30pm, Thursday, February 24, 2011
   d) Other meetings
      i. SSMU
         1. 7:00pm, Wednesday, February 16, 2011

2. Planning and reporting
   a) GRC report (see Council package)
   b) CMA report (see Council package)
   c) Budget Update (Appendix A)
   d) Work plan (see Appendix B)
e) GSLF Implementation Options (see Appendix C)
f) Monetary Affairs Initiatives (see Appendix D)
g) Possible Bylaw and Regulation Changes (see Appendix E)
h) Budget Format, Presentation, and Accounting Changes (see Appendix F)
i) Society Fund Allocation Procedures (see Appendix G)
j) Society Disbursement Issues (see Appendix H)
k) This very Council report

3. Upcoming events
   a) Meetings (other than regularly scheduled meetings)
      i. ASEQ
   b) Expected responses from enquiries
      i. Consultant for PGSS Daycare Feasibility Study
         ii. Response from lawyer about tax, liability, and not-for-profit status issues.

4. Further information/recommendations
   Please read the CMA Report and the GRC Report included in this Council package.

Appendix A – Budget Update

Included in the present Council package is an update of the PGSS budget. This update contains:

- The budget and actuals (from our audited and approved year end financial statements) for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.
- The budget for the present fiscal year including all the modification made by Council.
- Actuals for the present fiscal year which includes everything presently entered into our financial accounting system. WARNING: bear in mind that the sales figures for business lines are typically at least one month behind; Society line item actuals do not include accounts payable (that is, there is probably money in a number of line items that has been allocated but for which expenditure requisitions have not been made); projections are estimates based on last year's audited actuals, trends from the present fiscal year, and allocations that have been made from various line items (but which might not actually get used).

Appendix B – Work plan

As I assumed the position of VP Finance only a few weeks ago, and there are only three months left in the term, my work plan will largely come from resolving the issues presented in this report, and in the GRC and CMA Reports. The most important items to be completed are:

1) finalizing the new budget format and budget change proposals for the April meeting of Council;
2) producing the first draft of the budget for the next fiscal year for the May meeting of Council;
3) getting a definitive legal opinion that answers the tax, liability, and not-for-profit status issues discussed in these reports;
4) producing a formal proposal for the implementation of the GSLF should the referendum pass;
5) hiring the new accountant/bookkeeper within the next month and ensuring that we are fully prepared for our audit by the close of the fiscal year;
6) preparing the regulation and bylaw changes outlined in this report;
7) investigating the possibility of transitioning towards an (at least partly) self-insured model for our health and dental insurance plan;
8) correcting our fund allocation and disbursement procedures and protocols; and
9) analyzing and prioritizing capital expenditures.

Appendix C – GSLF Implementation Options

McGill wants to stop PGSAs from levying their membership fees. Instead, it wants the PGSS to levy a fee to assist PGSAs with funding their activities. This initiative has taken the form of the referendum question asking to create the GSLF. If this referendum is successful, the PGSS will have to determine how to distribute these funds in a sensible manner. There are a number of issues to take into consideration:

1) If we distribute funds to PGSAs:
   a) Do we distribute funds to non-PGSS recognized PGSAs?
   b) Do we modify recognition criteria?
2) If we choose not to directly transfer funds to non-PGSS recognized PGSAs, is there a way that we can still provide them funding?
3) How can we use this initiative to encourage PGSAs to seek and obtain PGSS recognition?
4) In distributing funds, how do we manage the fact that there are PGSS members that are members of multiple PGSAs?
5) How can we make funding available for PGSS members that are not members of any PGSA (PGSS recognized or otherwise)?
6) A number of McGill’s PGSAs collect significantly more in membership dues than the fee levy we are considering can accommodate (e.g. the PGSAs for the Department of Music, and MBA students). How can these PGSAs be accommodated?
7) However we choose to distribute funds, we must ensure that the PGSS is either not held liable for the activities resulting from the use of those funds, or that it has appropriately insured itself against potential liability.
8) The PGSS must ensure that it complies the governments rules regarding the accounting and reporting of its financial activities, and that it does not jeopardize its not-for-profit status.

The following is tentative proposal for solving a number of these issues that I will be presenting to the EC:

1) Proportional fund allocation to PGSS recognized PGSAs that exclusively represent the PGSS members of entire academic units and/or departments. There are two implementation options for this part of the proposal:
   a) The PGSS could provide full service to PGSAs in order to mitigate liabilities and ensure proper record keeping. These would include:
      i. full accounting and bookkeeping services;
      ii. expenditure requisition procedures; and
      iii. possible liability coverage.
   b) The PGSS could require that the PGSA sign a contract with the PGSS absolving of its liabilities.
2) Active development of PGSAs in departments and academic units that do not have a PGSA.
3) Getting non-PGSS recognized PGSAs to take the steps necessary to obtain PGSS recognition.
4) In departments or academic units where the PGSA is not PGSS recognized or does not exist, funds will be proportionally allocated for use by the department or academic unit. Allocated funds will be accessible to PGSS members upon receipt by the PGSS of a funding request endorsed by University appointed staff. Funding will be transferred to and administered by the department or
academic unit.

5) If the funds collected in the GSLF are not entirely allocated in a given year, PGSS members will be asked via referendum to lower the levied fee such that the amount collected in the following year combined with the retained funds in the GSLF are sufficient to maintain the original $10/student of funding for the next year.

6) PGSSAs that levy extraordinary fees that cannot be fully accommodated by this procedure which still benefit from the program's allocation scheme, but will have to negotiate with the University for an exemption from their plans which will allow them to acquire the balance of operating funds.

Under option 1.a above, the PGSS will need to develop its human resources to provide this increased level of member service. This could be accomplished in a number of ways:

1) The VP Internal role could be modified to assume these responsibilities.
2) A Commissioner could be created.
3) A staff person could be hired.

In all cases, a portion of the funds allocated to a given PGSA would need to be retained for administration purposes.

**Appendix D – Monetary Affairs Initiatives**

There are a number of financial and monetary affairs initiatives which are being considered for inclusion in the upcoming budget. Much of this is discussed in the CMA Report included in this Council package. Some items of note (either not fully covered or not mentioned in that report) include:

1) A specific fund for a daycare centre will be established and Council will be asked via the budgeting process to determine how to build it up. Presently, the FCP is preparing a feasibility study for the implementation of a PGSS daycare.
2) Pending the resolution of certain tax, liability and not-for-profit status issues (see the CMA Report included in this Council package, and CONFIDENTIAL Appendix H of this report), a fund for family care will be included in the next budget. This is in anticipation of the institutionalization of procedures similar to our other trust funds for the FCP disbursements to parents in need of financial assistance.
3) The PGSS will finally be given a contingency fund. Both the Council and the BoD will be allowed to transfer revenue into the contingency fund to build it up. This fund will be maintained at a reasonable level to ensure that the PGSS can handle unforeseen expenses both from the Society and the Business. Likely, I will ask that a financial rule be adopted requiring a resolution of the Council or the BoD in order to use money from the contingency fund. Proposals will accompany the presentation of the new budget format (see Appendix F), hopefully in the next meeting of Council.

**Appendix E – Possible Bylaw and Regulation Changes**

A number of Society Bylaws and Regulations might require some changes as a result of this month's financial activities:

1) The GRC has identified a number of possible changes to Society rules. Most notable are requirements for wheelchair accessibility and “family friendliness” of PGSS funded events, and an ambiguity in restrictions for travel allocations (see GRC Report in this Council package). The former might best be embodied in a new regulation covering all PGSS funded events, not only
those funded by the Grants Program.

2) The CMA has identified problems with the way we monitor fund allocations and requisitions. The committee will be considering whether or not the Society's bylaws governing financing should be modified or whether these issues can be resolved via internal procedures (see CMA Report in this Council package, and Appendix G below).

3) As discussed in this report (see Appendix C) possible changes to Society rules and regulations will be considered if the GSLF referendum passes. This will likely include change to the Society's PGSA recognition procedures, financial rules and regulations about the fund's management and implementation, and possibly changes to officer duties.

Appendix F – Budget Format, Presentation, and Accounting Changes

In the next Council package, the Society will be presented with a new budget format. The goals of this formatting change are discussed in the CMA Report included in this Council package. Some of the features of the new budget presentation shall are:

1) The division between Society activities (advocacy, outreach, support, governance, services) and Business activities (bar, restaurant, event catering, room and equipment rentals, administration and accounting services) will be finalized by requiring the Society to explicitly pay for its use of the Business. In so doing, we will obtain an accurate reflection of what the cost of running the Society's activities truly are, and the Business activities accounts will not be penalized for having to incur Society activity costs. For instance, the Business currently assumes approximately $100,000 of opportunity cost by providing free room rentals to PGSS members. The PGSS as a whole will continue to give free rentals to its members, but in the process of recording activities, the Society will be debited this cost, and the Business will be credited.

2) The Society (i.e. PGSS's Council) will be given full authority over the spending of the revenue it generates via the fee levies it controls.

3) The symbiosis of the Society activities and Business activities will take the form of transfers between the two accounting systems. The Society will be credited with any surpluses generated by Business activities as is required by the Constitution. However, if Business activities are projected to run a deficit, the Society controlled budget will afford for a business subsidy. In this way, the Society can clearly monitor the business and ensure that it is always operating in the interests of its members as determined by the Council.

4) The BoD, which (in many cases personally) assumes the liability for the PGSS' activities, will be afforded a transfer for the management of those Society activities for which it is liable.

5) By enforcing this delineation in accounting and bookkeeping, we will finally and clearly be able to separate BoD purview, and Executive and Council purview. Via the budgeting process, the Board will ultimately be limited by the Council's budget, but it will be explicit that it maintains authority over all corporate matters for which it is liable (e.g. labour, salaries, benefits, taxes, legal matters, financial accounting, etc.).

6) The manner in which the budget is presented will be changed as well. Presently, the budget presentation format is unnecessarily confusing. Several items are recorded and reported in multiple locations, there is no clear explanation of revenues and expenses, the purview of the two principal governing bodies of the PGSS are not clearly delineated, there is insufficient mention of fund balances.

7) The last item in that list, fund balances, will see an important reporting change. The Society will be explicitly notified of every fee levy it collects, where they are transferred to, and what amounts are retained in specific funds. Fund balances will be reported, and the Society will be given the opportunity through the budgeting process of making specific withdrawals from and deposits to the
funds under its purview in order to monitor and control their balances, while allowing the Society to fund its activities and initiatives.

In terms of accounting, the PGSS will be hiring a full-time accountant/bookkeeper. I have been appointed to the hiring committee by the BoD along with an external Board member, and the Business Manager. This staffing change will move the PGSS into a new era of professionalism with respect to its financial operations.

**Appendix G – Society Fund Allocation Procedures**

Proper monitoring of fund allocation and disbursement is lacking at the PGSS. The details of this problem are described in the CMA Report included in this Council package. The following is a tentative set of procedures which might relieve the identified problems. Ultimately, some of these procedures might require codification in the Society's rules and regulations:

1) Any motion to allocate funds from a budget line item must include:
   a) a date by which the funds are to be used. The funds will be automatically de-allocated after that date;
   b) the specific individuals allowed to make requisitions for expenditures from the allocated funds, and who are responsible for furnishing receipts and answering VP Finance and PGSS Management enquiries into the use of allocated funds;
   c) the budget line item as it appears in the approved budget from which the allocation is to be made; and
   d) a preamble statement indicating that appropriate enquiries have been made of the VP Finance and/or PGSS Management as to whether or not there are sufficient funds remaining for the allocation.

2) Expenditure requisitions must identify the budget line item and/or the motion which approved the allocation of funds from which the expense is to be paid.

3) All requisitions for Society funds must be provided exclusively to the VP Finance and/or the Services Coordinator for entry into the appropriate allocation and expenditure monitoring tools.
Thanks to... 

Caitlin Doyle, Kaywana Raeburn for your help with trivia, 
Pooja Tayagi, Yoon Chi, Kaywana, Halim, Zahra for making the speeddating a success 
Marieve Isabel, Ann-Marie Hansen and other members of ADFIES as well as SSMU 
Commission des Affairs de Francophone for pulling off the Dumas concert and other 
Francofete events!

Portfolio: Duties of the Vice-President (Internal)

Acronyms: IAC = Internal Affairs Committee; SC = Social Commissioner; BoD = Board of Directors; GSA = graduate student association

Activities

- IAC meetings (Feb.3,10)
- Feb. trivia (Feb.17)
- Dumas concert on Feb.4
- Speeddating, Jan.31, Feb.1
- Valentine’s party Feb.11

Communication

- Handling of Newswire submissions and general inquiries (various)
- Executive meeting (Feb.3) and several email exchanges incl. e-meeting (various)
- Liaison with Environment Committee (Feb.3,10,22) and other commissioners (Feb.21)
- Executive, BoD, and Council communications (Feb.4,7,10,23-25)
- IAC meetings and communications (Feb.4,10,22,23,24)

Other duties

- Correspondence with Sustainability office (Feb.1,16,21,22,23)
- Establishment of new IAC listserv (Feb.10)
- Review and prioritization of promotions candidates (Feb.2,4,16)
- Planning March events (Feb.2,10,16,22)
President’s Report March 2011

Submitted to Council by Alexandra Bishop

Meetings Attended in February:

University Representation
  • Student Consultation and Communication Working Group: Feb 3rd, Feb 15th
  • Committee on Student Services: Feb 14th
  • Conversation with Student Accounts regarding fee structure change: Feb 3rd
  • Conversation with Deputy Provost Student Life and Learning: Feb 18th

Senate
  • Senate Steering Committee: Feb 8th
  • Senate Nominating Committee: Feb 2nd
  • Senate: Feb 16th

Board of Governors
  • BOG Executive Committee: Feb 8th - cancelled

Executive
  • Executive Meeting: Feb 3rd, Feb 17th
  • Executive Commissioner Caucus: Jan 31st, Feb 14th

PGSS Activities
  • PGSS Council: Feb 2nd
  • Board of Directors meeting: Feb 7th
  • Meeting to consult on TLS projects: Feb 22nd
  • FEUQ Congress at Concordia: Feb 12th-13th
  • Knowledge Exchange with SSMU Executives: Feb 16th
  • Presentation to CHEGSS regarding fee levy structure change: Feb 18th
• Meeting with Environment Commissioner regarding standard PGSS practices: Feb 18\textsuperscript{th}
• PSAC: Feb 24\textsuperscript{th}
• PGSS Steering: Feb 25\textsuperscript{th}

**Important Upcoming Dates**

I have listed the following important meetings that I will be attending in March. If you have any issues that you would like me to address at these meetings please don’t hesitate to contact me.

**University Representation**

- Student Consultation and Communication Working Group: Mar 4\textsuperscript{th}
- Committee on Student Services: March 14\textsuperscript{th}
- Campus Community All Members Meeting: March 9\textsuperscript{th}
- Information Session on Course Evaluations: March 10\textsuperscript{th}
- Meeting with Principal: March 11\textsuperscript{th}
- Meeting with Provost, Deputy Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies: March 22\textsuperscript{nd}

**Senate**

- Senate Steering Committee: March 16\textsuperscript{th}
- Senate Nominating Committee: March 9\textsuperscript{th}
- Senate: March 23\textsuperscript{rd}

**Board of Governors**

- BOG Building and Property Committee: March 14\textsuperscript{th}
- Board of Governors: March 15\textsuperscript{th}

**Executive**

- Executive Meeting: March 3\textsuperscript{rd}, March 17\textsuperscript{th}, March 31\textsuperscript{st}
- Executive Commissioner Caucus Meeting: March 24\textsuperscript{th}

**PGSS Activities**

- PGSS Council: March 2\textsuperscript{nd}
- PGSS Ski Trip: March 5\textsuperscript{th}
- Annual General Meeting: March 16\textsuperscript{th}
During the February 2nd 2011 council meeting, Mr. Adrian Kaats was elected in council for the position of VP Finance.
1. MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS:
   
i. February 8th: Meeting with the Student Support Commissioner
   
ii. February 9th: Meeting with the Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity (JBSCE)
   
iii. February 9th: Meeting with Equity Committee
   
iv. Email communication with the Office of the Dean of Students and the ED of Student Services in order to clarify the feedback process for students receiving services they are dissatisfied with.
   
v. February 28th: Meeting with Equity Committee and Committee on Graduate Student Support (CGSS)

2. PROJECTS:
   
i. Continued planning for the panel on Islamophobia, *Exposed: The role of the media in promoting Islamophobia*, taking place March 25th from 4-6pm.
   
ii. With SSMU, hired a student researcher to help in preparing a proposal for a McGill Equity Teaching Award.
The PGSS Environment Commissioner Report
Prepared by Alexandre Poisson
PGSS Council Meeting March 2, 2011

EVENTS:

- **Green Drinks Montreal**
The PGSSec hosted a Green Drinks Montreal event on February 22 at the Thomson House restaurant: a screening of the award-winning documentary “Dirt”. Attendance was between 20-25 people.

MEETINGS:

I (Alex) attended several informal meetings this month to sort out access to web/editing and web-communication tools, promote the up-coming sustainability symposium, plan an upcoming “Green Month” coinciding with the province-wide “Défi Climat” month, and move forward with the SPF-PGSS “Greening Thomson House” project. The Environment Committee held a meeting on February 22nd to plan up-coming activities for March. The next meeting of the Environment Committee will be on March 2nd, at 5pm.

INFORMATION:

**Green Month:**
- The Environment Commissioner and VP Internal propose to organize a PGSS “Green Month”, from March 15 to April 12.
- Many of the events and workshops for Green Month would be organized in partnership with PGSS’s Internal Affairs Committee, Environment Committee and Social Committee, and McGill’s Office of Sustainability.
- Green Month will be timed to occur during the Province-wide annual climate challenge “Défi Climat” (http://www.deficlimat.qc.ca/deficlimat2011/en/home/). McGill and SSMU have been institutional participants of Défi Climat in past years, and PGSS could also be one this year (pending confirmation from Council).
- This period will also correspond to the launch of the initial phase of the “Greening Thomson House” project, funded by the Sustainability Projects Fund.

**What is “Défi Climat”?**
- The largest awareness-raising and mobilization campaign in the fight against climate change in Quebec;
- Hundreds of businesses, public institutions and organizations across the regions of Quebec participating by mobilizing their employees or students;
- Close to 60,000 citizens committed to reducing their greenhouse gas emissions by changing their lifestyle at home, at work and when travelling.

We are still waiting for a response from the government regarding the status of the Family Care Programme. There are two issues that need clarification, the first and simpler one being the tax status of the stipends. It is unclear what sort of income it would be considered, and what the responsibilities of the PGSS are in terms of supplying tax documents to awardees. The second issue is concerning the not-for-profit registration status of the PGSS with the Registaire des entreprises Québec, and the legality of collecting fees from members and then using those fees to provide income to other members.

As far as this is concerned, the aim of the program is clear: to provide financial assistance to some of the more vulnerable members of our society. We believe that someone shouldn’t have to choose between having children and advancing their studies, and the assistance we provide alleviates the burden of having to raise them a graduate student salary. The same should be true for those of us who have other forms of dependents, such as ill or elderly family members. We are confident there is a way the PGSS can provide this support legally. However, until we hear back from the government and are told exactly how to do it, we are forced to delay notice of the results from the Fall 2010 application period. We are doing everything we can to expedite this process, as we know that some of those who had applied are in a desperate situation and this wait is not fair to them.

Other than that, we organized a financial planning workshop, which was held on February 17. In total, we had about 20 people attend, including some who had brought children with them and had taken advantage of our free childcare. The Family Care Committee would like to thank Bronwyn Rice, of the McGill Scholarships and Student Aid Office, for teaching the workshop.

We are working on holding a CPR training course near the beginning of April.

Hadley Myers, Family Care Commissioner
March 2, 2011
Report of the Grants Review Committee (GRC)
Friday, February 18, 2011
Adrian Kaats

Meeting Time: 12:30pm – 1:30pm, Thursday, February 17, 2011
Meeting Location: Thomson House, Restaurant

General Comments

As of the time of the meeting, the GRC had allocated $31,403. The total budget for grant allocations this year is $36,600. There remains only $5,197 to be allocated for the 4 months left in the Society's fiscal year. However, the GRC is allowed to allocate 15% more than the budgeted amount because, despite allocations, recipients often do not use the total amount of money offered. The total possible allocations for the year are thus $42,090. To allow for equal opportunity to grant applicants in the remaining months, the GRC decided to allocate the remaining funds almost equally across the 4 remaining months. Consequently, we chose to allocate approximately $2,670 this month.

To ensure that the PGSS funds the maximum number of grants possible, we have chosen to invoke Society Regulation 3.6.1 which requires grant recipients to submit their receipts for reimbursement within 2 weeks of the end of the event for which funding was allocated. As such, all grant recipients that are past due for receipt submission were notified that they have a 1 week period in which to submit their receipts or the unclaimed portion of the grant which they had been allocated will be de-allocated. This measure is expected to increase the amount of available funding in the coming months.

Changes to Procedures and Regulations

The unused allocated grant issue has prompted the consideration of a regulation change that will indicate the de-allocation of unused grants within a given period after the event end. In terms of procedure, the spreadsheet that tracks grant allocations will need to be modified in order to easily monitor grant recipient compliance with deadlines for furnishing documents.

An ambiguity in Society Regulation 3 has been identified regarding funding of transportation. On the one hand, the Society may not fund transportation for conference attendance, but it can field trips. Regulations concerning the funding of travel shall be reviewed at a future GRC meeting.

After consultation with the Family Care Commissioner, the GRC will consider proposing an amendment to Regulation 3 which will require events seeking PGSS funding to be family friendly. This consideration has led to identification of another potential requirement: wheelchair accessibility.
### Accepted Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant ID</th>
<th>Rationale &amp; Comments</th>
<th>Allocation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10--11--46</td>
<td>• Of the grant requests accepted, this application has the greatest budget but expects almost no shortfall should all alternate sources of funding be secured.</td>
<td>$625.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10--11--47</td>
<td>• This event occurs off-campus and thus, by Regulation, has a lower priority for funding.</td>
<td>$625.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 10--11--52 | • Of the grant requests accepted, this application has a high expected rate of PGSS member participation.  
• Of the grant requests accepted, this application has the greatest budget shortfall despite significant effort to secure alternate funding sources.                                                                                                                                                             | $800.00    |
| 10--11--54 | • All requests for PGSS funding are accepted except “Secretarial Costs.”  
• The applicant is to be informed that PGSS requires the purchase of Gold Standard Carbon Offsets in the purchase of transportation.                                                                                                                                                                                                 | $620.00    |
|           | **Total** $2,670.00                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |            |

### Delayed Applications (requests for additional information)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant ID</th>
<th>Rationale &amp; Comments</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 10--11--51 | • Application is incomplete.  
• Expected sources of revenue section incomplete.  
• Section identifying budget items for which PGSS is asked for funding is incomplete.  
• Upon submission of complete application, event to be given low funding priority due to low expected PGSS member participation.                                                                                                                                                                           |          |
| 10--11--53 | • Application incomplete.  
• Total expected number of participants not provided.  
• Section identifying budget items for which PGSS is asked for funding is incomplete.                                                                                                                                                                                                         |          |
| 10--11--55 | • Application details unclear.  
• Date of event for which PGSS funding sought is not clearly specified.  
• Applicant is asked to clarify SSMU involvement (applicant identified as a SSMU club or service, but group name is School of Urban Planning Graduate Students).  
• If application is accepted, applicant is to be notified that PGSS requires the purchase of Gold Standard Carbon Offsets in the purchase of transportation.                                                                                                                                                                         |          |
| 10--11--56 | • Application details to be reviewed.  
• Request for transportation funding for a field trip is a grey area. On the one hand, PGSS cannot fund transportation to conferences, but can fund a field trip. The applicant is requested to review Society Regulation 3 and perhaps change which items PGSS funds are to be used for.  
• The applicant is also to be notified that PGSS requires the purchase of Gold Standard Carbon Offsets in the purchase of transportation.                                                                                                                                                   |          |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant ID</th>
<th>Rationale &amp; Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10--11--45</td>
<td>• Expected sources of alternate revenue already exceeds expected expenses yet PGSS is asked to fund the entire event.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Report of the PSAC
Feb 24th 2011

Present: Vikrant Bhosle, Caitlin Mouri, Jonathan Mooney, Micheal Dodge, Alexandra Bishop

The following motions are for council’s consideration. Some of the motions were previously included in PSAC reports. The motions below have had minor alterations and we wish that they be considered instead of the previously submitted motions.

Motion #1

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 #2

Whereas the PSAC recommends the following changes to Society Article 2.3.f 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.f 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 #3

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 #4**

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 for read “non-voting chair”

Motion #5

**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 #6

**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 with out 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”.
Report of the PSAC
December 14 2010
In attendance: Vikrant Bhosle, Caitlin Mouri, Jonathan Mooney, Alexandra Bishop

The PSAC recommends the following motions based on the business referred to it by council.

**Motion #1**
Whereas constitutional amendments may be submitted through petition as well as through council,
BIRT the words “through council” be removed from Society Article 12.1.1

**Motion #2 - Petition Percentages**
Whereas the PSAC has reviewed the following
proposed revision to Society Article 12.1.1 d

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.”

BIRT Society Article 12.1.1 d be amended to:

“Through petition, whereby notice of the proposed enactment, amendment, or repeal of an Article, signed by at least **seven percent (7%) or 525 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** shall be given to the President.”

**Motion #3 - Petition Percentages (Bylaw)**
Whereas the PSAC has reviewed the following
proposed revisions to Society Bylaw 8.11.3

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.”

**BIRT Society Bylaw 8.11.3 be amended, in first 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 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 #4**

**Motion for committee of the whole on new Article 17**

Whereas the following motion was refereed to the PSAC for review,
Whereas council should be able to call an AGM with a motion of no confidence on the agenda;
Whereas such a motion should not have an unreasonable threshold;
Whereas a 2/3 vote of ½ of the voting membership of council is an obtainable but high threshold;
Whereas council should not be able to impeach an officer elected by the general membership directly;

BIRT council enter into committee of the whole for 10 minutes to discuss the following revised recommendations of the original motion:

**Original Motion as Referred:**

5.7. Motion R11-10-#36 Removal from Office (J. Mooney/ Joseph)
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.

Proposed New Motion From PSAC:

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 **525 members or 7%**, plus
addition of Council vote.]

After the receipt by the Elections Commissioner of a petition signed by at least seven-
percent (7%) or 525 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 **1/2 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 All appointed or elected representatives not referred under item 1 of this Article 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.

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**Motion #5 - Steering Committee**

Whereas the PSAC has reviewed the referred motion regarding alterations to the steering
committee
Whereas the PSAC has added the following recommendations in bold below:

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 "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 “to 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 for read “non-voting chair”

Motion #6

BIRT council enter committee of the whole for 10 minutes to discuss the following suggested bylaw amendments:

5.6. Motion R11-10-#35 Executive Attendance at Council (J. Mooney / Jason)
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 may include but are not limited to Society business, illness or bereavement, or being on an approved leave-of-absence.
Motion # 7
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.

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 “x” 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”.
General Comments

There is a great deal of work to be done in order to get the Society's finances in order in preparation for the upcoming budget cycle.

Activities

1. Family Care Program (FCP) Funding and Planning

The CMA has made a number of decisions regarding the funding of the FCP that will be proposed in the coming budget. These decisions include:

a) Maintenance of the SSMU Daycare Contribution. This is funding to ensure access to a limited number of daycare spots in the SSMU daycare (note that this is a contractual obligation of the Society).

b) Maintenance of the Student Parent Activities line contingent upon submission to the CMA of an appropriate budget by the Family Care Commissioner (FCC).

c) Funding for the Maternity Leave Pilot Project will be terminated. Although substantial funds were allocated for this initiative, the plan for implementation was ill-conceived. Ultimately, PGSS funds were re-allocated by Council.

d) Continued funding for the Support Fund for Graduate and Postdoctoral Student Parents. This level of funding, however, is a contentious issue. A recent report from the FEUQ indicates that in Quebec, over 17.3% of graduate students are parents. Although PGSS members likely exhibit a lower rate of parenthood, the margin of error in our last survey coupled with the FEUQ's study does suggest that our estimated rate of 6% is significantly lower than reality. A crucial consideration is that members of this population can be in a situation of particularly acute financial need. It is often the role of advocacy and support organizations, such as the PGSS, to provide what might appear to be disproportionate support to its most vulnerable members. That a number of our student parents are in acute need is beyond doubt. The questions we must answer are:

i. What is an appropriate level of funding for this population given the PGSS' limited resources, and its need to maintain and develop a wide range of advocacy and support programs?

ii. What are appropriate criteria for establishing the needs of, and allocating support funds to, members of this population? We must ensure that those in need receive support while prevent the abuse of this funding initiative by those that are not in acute need.

iii. Should this program be designed to provide one-time support or should it allow multiple requests?

iv. Do we want to include funding for maternity/paternity leave?

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1 Most significantly, matching funding from the office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies was required for the financing of the initiative, but this funding was never secured.

2 This figure does not include Postdoctoral Scholars.

3 I believe the margin of error for this survey was 5%.
While these questions are being considered, we must continue to bear in mind that there are significant issues concerning taxation, liabilities and the PGSS' not-for-profit status which must be resolved before we continue to disburse these funds in the present fiscal year, and before we engage in the budgeting process for the coming year.

2. Taxes, Liabilities and Not-For-Profit Status
The committee identified a number of problems with how the Society manages its tax obligations, and potential problems concerning how the Society disburses funds which must be investigated. These problems include the following:

a) Disbursement of FCP support funds. Presently, disbursement of support funds has been frozen by the Executive Committee pending professional advice about whether or not the Society is within its legal mandate as a not-for-profit corporation to distribute these funds. Although we began this initiative in good faith, believing that it is within our mandate to make disbursements in support of student parents, it is possible that the laws governing PGSS Inc. do not permit these types of activities. Further, if the disbursements are legitimate, it is possible that the funds distributed need to be considered as income by the recipients. Before further disbursement, we must ensure that the Society is neither jeopardizing its not-for-profit status, and that it is prepared to issue appropriate documentation as required by the various levels of government to which we are beholden. (see VP Finance report in this Council package for further details)

b) The FCP issue has highlighted potential problems with other disbursements such as those made through the Trust Fund for Student Support. These are being investigated as well (see VP Finance report in this Council package).

c) If the referendum implementing a fee levy for the Graduate Student Life Fund is successful, the Society must ensure that it has an appropriate plan for how to distribute these fees, and it must ensure that it has properly arranged to manage its accounting and reporting requirements with respect to disbursement (e.g. what documentation will be required of fund recipients so that we can satisfy our government reporting requirements), ensure that use of distributed funds satisfies PGSS' Memorandum of Agreement with McGill University, and ensure that the Society's liability for the activities of fund recipients is limited.

d) Executive and Commissioner honoraria. It appears as though the Society's requirement that elected officials not be treated as Society employees was implemented so that said officials may make their own decision about income reporting for tax purposes. As a consequence, officials are made to sign contracts as consultants. These contracts are problematic because they add a layer of complexity to the relationship between officials and the Society which is uncharacteristic of organizations of this kind. That is, the Society's rules and regulations are not the sole authority in governing this relationship (that includes salary considerations, terms of employee and termination of said employment, duties and responsibilities, etc.). Changing the status of these officials to employees of the Society would relieve the contract issue, and allow tax deductions at source, but would subject the employment relation to labour laws unless the employees are designated as management. A whole other issue is whether or not a potential official has permission to be considered an employee in Canada (although this may not be a limitation for campus employment). All of these issues are being investigated.

3. Issues Concerning Fund Allocation
a) The CMA has identified a systemic problem in the way in which we manage fund allocations. When committees vote to allocate funds from a line item for a particular purpose, the motion is recorded in minutes, but there is no formal process for tracking allocations and ensuring that expenditure requisitions remain within the bounds of fund allocations. The CMA will create formal administrative procedures for monitoring allocations.
b) The two committee members (Jonathan Mooney and Daniel Simeone) have scoured this year's Executive-Commissioner Caucus, Executive Committee, and Council meeting minutes, and have compiled a list of all allocations. The PGSS' Services Coordinator has taken this work and converted it into a comprehensive spreadsheet for the purpose of tracking allocations from all of the PGSS governing bodies including the Board of Directors. Consequently:
   i. the VP Finance and PGSS Management have been able to provide an updated budget with this year's actuals and projections, and
   ii. the Executive Committee has been able to de-allocate a number of funds (totalling $10,500) from the Executive Special Projects fund to ensure that there is sufficient room left in the fund to make it to year's end within budget, and while maintaining the commitments made in the last Council meeting.
   iii. The good news is that no budget line has been exceeded. The bad news is that some are quite close to their caps.

   c) The final step in obtaining correct financial information is to review allocations, and to determine precisely what amounts have actually been spent from the allocations, whether there are outstanding expenditures to be recorded, and to de-allocate the remainders where applicable in order to refine projections, and determine exactly what funds truly remain for further allocations in the present fiscal year.

4. Unspent Funds
There are a number of funds that the Society has yet to spend or have plans on spending:
   a) PGSS Charitable Events Fund. This fund of $3,000 was proposed by PGSS Management in order to accommodate the occasional requests we receive from charitable organizations to use our facilities for events. The fund has not been used at all. A few alternate proposals have been made about how to disburse these funds:
      i. Host an event or competition where the winners can name charitable or not-for-profit organizations to which we can make donations. We propose that if such an option is pursued, that Council be allowed the final vote on whether the selected organizations and amounts to be disbursed are appropriate.
      ii. The CMA will accept suggestions from the Council and Executive-Commissioner Caucus in order to recommend what organizations might receive these funds. Please send suggestions to the VP Finance.
   b) Council Discretionary Fund. There is $1,000 in a fund to be disbursed at the discretion of Council. Council should consider how this fund might be used.
   c) Society Legal Fund. There is $500 remaining to be allocated in the budget line for Society legal expenses. We propose that this fund be used as the first resource in payment for the Postdoctoral taxation legal enquiries.

5. Science & Policy Exchange
The PGSS was the primary contributor and proponent of the widely acclaimed Science & Policy Exchange. Given the widespread appeal of this event, its broadening scope, and past success, the CMA has decided to increase the event's funding in the coming year. We have also decided to facilitate formalizing the organizational structure of the Exchange.

6. Budget Format
The CMA has decided to make significant changes to how the PGSS budget will be presented this year. The goals of these changes are to:
   a) develop budgeting tools and procedures which more accurately reflect the entities responsible for different parts of the budget (e.g. Council, Board of Directors, Executive, Commissioners);
b) clarify the divisions between the business activities of the PGSS (e.g. bar, restaurant, and event hosting/catering), and the advocacy, support, governance, outreach, and services of the Society (e.g. grants, TFSS, GSA fee administration, group health and dental insurance, courses, family care, etc.);

c) ensure that business operations continue to break even without resorting to subsidies from PGSS membership fees, as is the will of our membership as expressed by referendum last year;

d) connect budgeting documents directly to the Society's financial accounting system so that we can get accurate budget information at the “click of a button;” and

e) bring PGSS budget presentation in line with budgeting documents used by similar organizations.

The budget update currently being presented is a first step towards achieving these goals. We hope to reach these goals completely in time for next financial year's budget presentation (June Council meeting).

7. **Mobilization Funding**

On March 12th, the PGSS will be joining Quebec's labour unions, student unions, community groups, and provincial student lobby groups in a day of action against the privatization of the province's social systems. The CMA has agreed that this purpose is an appropriate utilization of the remaining $3,050 of the Cooperative Research with FEUQ line item.

8. **Health and Dental Insurance Plan**

A decrease in the cost of our group insurance after the fee levy had been set by PGSS referendum and implemented by the McGill Administration resulted in a significant accumulation in the restricted Health and Dental Insurance Fund. The CMA, PGSS Management, and the Health Commissioner will be investigating the possibility for significant economies which might be made by utilizing this surplus for the purpose of a transition towards a (possibly only partially) self-insured plan.

9. **Society Infrastructure and Initiatives**

Every year, the PGSS invests money in the maintenance of Thomson House. In addition, due to recent improvements in the management of PGSS' business activities, we have been able to make significant improvements in the Society's infrastructure (for instance, the Society's administrative offices have been renovated, the Thomson House bar has been renovated, major improvements have been made to telecommunications and computing infrastructure, an outdoor patio has been added to Thomson House, etc.). We are currently in a position to make even more improvements. This time, we would like to focus on improving the Society's infrastructure which supports the governance and advocacy work. The following are currently being considered:

a) Translation equipment for use at conferences and meetings, and the retention of translation services both for Society documents, and real-time translation at conferences and meetings.

b) Development of the Society's computing facilities allowing for online room bookings, scheduling, committee reporting facilities, document archiving, tele- and videoconferencing, etc.

c) Additional public computers at Thomson House.

d) Facilities for online registration and payment for Society related activities (e.g. courses, events, etc.).

e) An electronic voting system to facilitate Council meetings.

f) Renovation of the Coach House (an X sq foot building) to create offices and meeting rooms for use by Society representatives, and Society services employees. The goal here is to provide a space where Executives and Commissioners can work on Society business with access to appropriate space and office tools, as well as providing them a regularly accessible meeting
space. Presently, the Society officials have no meaningful space to do their work and this is a major bottleneck which can easily be relieved with appropriate planning and investment. None of the ideas we are considering are set, and other suggestions are welcome (contact the VP Finance).
Authors:

Ryan Hughes and Mariève Isabel

Acronyms

BTMM……………………………………………..Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal
CREM……………………………………………..Coalition régionale étudiante de Montréal
CREPUQ……….Conférence des recteurs et des principaux des universités du Québec
FEUQ……………………………………………..Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec
IRIS……………………………………………..Institut de recherche et d’information socio-économique
MELS……………………………………………..Ministère de l’Éducation, des Loisirs et des Sports

Introduction

A university education produces many tangible and intangible benefits to the individuals who earn degrees and the societies in which those individuals live and work. On top of expanding knowledge in all spheres of human activity and improving the well-being of people and cultures, it creates greater civic engagement, enhances political stability, affects the overall crime rate, and promotes a healthier, more environmentally conscious society. Decades ago, Quebec voted for an accessible education for all, made possible through a taxation system that was supposed to provide society with a determined set of public services. The provincial government has the responsibility to serve the interests of Quebec as a whole and to provide its citizens with those agreed upon services. As such, the price of an education is a demonstration of the Government’s commitment to the future growth and stability of Quebec society. The more you are forced to pay for a higher education as an individual is a measurement of the Government’s diminishing loyalty to serve the interest of Quebec as a whole.

Socioeconomic Context in Quebec

The Quebec economy is growing slowly in the wake of the 2008 economic crisis and following recession in 2009 when the province experienced a -0.3% contraction of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and an increase in the unemployment rate from 7.2% to 8.5%\(^1\). This downward trend will reverse in 2010 as GDP is expected to grow at a rate of 2.6% and at the time of writing the unemployment rate has already decreased by 0.6%\(^3\). The overall economic picture, however, remains precarious as rising GDP figures have been projected lower from earlier in the year and external pressures from a strong Canadian dollar continue to harm Quebec's manufacturing industries\(^5\). Plus, the financial situations in Europe and the U.S. could have harmful consequences for Quebec should those economies suffer further damage from continued volatility in the banking sector.

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\(^2\) http://emploiquebec.net/publications/pdf/00_imt_key-figures_2010_en.pdf
\(^4\) http://www.statcan.gc.ca/sujets/labour-travail/lfs-epa/t101203a3-eng.htm
and reduced consumption due to long-term unemployment\textsuperscript{6}. In addition, Quebec currently has a deficit of 4.5 billion dollars and a significant debt obligation of over $150 billion. The deficit should be eliminated by 2013-2014 when the government is legally bound to produce a balanced budget\textsuperscript{7}. Nevertheless, the budgetary deficit, coupled with the large debt is forcing Quebec to focus on deficit reduction over the next 4 years. In the 2010 provincial budget, the Liberal Government instituted austerity measures that included increasing user fees for government services, raising consumption taxes, and reducing departmental expenditures\textsuperscript{8}. Amongst these measures, a tuition fee increase in universities has been suggested.

**The rationale behind a raise in tuition fees, according to the Government and the industry**

With regard to the area of higher education, the Government has expressed a clear interest in significantly raising tuition fees for Quebec residents as a way to increase funding to universities without raising or creating new taxes\textsuperscript{9}. This would be the second increase in tuition fees since 2007. Tuition fees were frozen between 1996 and 2007. However, from 2007 to 2012, they have been increasing by 100$ a year, which is three times the rate of inflation\textsuperscript{10}. It remains to be seen to what extent those fees will rise again this time. The Government recently held a consultation with the province's education partners (Rencontres des partenaires de l'éducation, on December 6, 2010), such as university administrators and union leaders, for the purpose of discussing ways to address the financial challenges facing education in Quebec. The CREPUQ have estimated the level of university underfunding at $620 million. They have suggested a tuition fee raise of $1500 by 2014/15, which would equate to tuition fees of approximately $3668, if added to the current tuition fees of $2168\textsuperscript{11}. The BTMM echoes the CREPUQ assessment of university underfunding and have recently suggested an increase of $3000 by 2014/15 that would be differentiated by program\textsuperscript{12}.

The overall situation in Quebec is similar to trends in other developed economies. Many countries have been migrating toward a “cost-sharing” funding model for their higher education systems\textsuperscript{13}. In some states, national debt, deficit and the global recession have contributed to the acceleration of this process, like the United Kingdom, which has drastically increased tuition fees and introduced an income contingent funding model\textsuperscript{14}. Further issues symptomatic of globalization, like: massification, student mobility, international ranking systems, research funding, and private competition contribute to the pressure on universities and governments to maintain existing quality and level of

\textsuperscript{7} 7.3, Balanced Budget Act, R.S.Q. c. E-12.00001
\textsuperscript{10} FEUQ, “Comment les recteurs ont triché à leur examen… Le sous-financement des universités déconstruits”, http://www.feuq.qc.ca/spip.php?article167
\textsuperscript{11} http://www.crepuq.qc.ca/IMG/pdf/RPE_Declaration_version_finale_26NOV2010-revise.pdf
\textsuperscript{13} Higher Educational Accessibility and Financial viability: The Role of Student Loans D. Bruce Johnstone!
\textsuperscript{14} http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-BG-20101209-713639.html
academic talent at their institutions while ensuring the cashflow to do it. This is the case for Sweden, a formerly “free” or tax funded education system, which will begin charging tuition fees in 2011, citing competition as the primary reason. However, in other countries, education is completely free for students: it is the case in Norway as well as in Denmark, where education costs are covered by the government while the students are being offered a salary through Danish Education Support in order to pursue their studies.

Not only are universities competing for talented faculty, they are also trying to attract the growing pool of mobile, international students who represent substantially more revenue by virtue of tiered tuition fees. To date, international students represent approximately 6.5% of all those enrolled in tertiary programs in Canada, though this number fluctuates by province and institution. It is estimated that these students add more than $6.5 billion to the Canadian economy at both graduate and undergraduate levels. At McGill, international students represent about 20% of the student population and this number is targeted to grow to 22% of the overall population by 2016. With increasing trends toward mobility and the added economic incentive attributed to international student enrolment, it is financially prudent for Canada and Canadian universities to increase their attraction for prospective international students by increasing services and maintaining a high quality of education. In Quebec, along with a few scholarships and fellowships run through its various institutions, the Government is now offering a fast-track route to residency. It is likely this decision is also an attempt to address the retention of skilled students and future workers in Quebec as a large, upcoming labour shortage is forecast for Quebec in the next decade. MELS has estimated that approximately 700,000 positions will need to be filled, a “frightening number”, according to Line Beauchamp, the current Minister of Education.

Canada’s public universities must also compete internationally with private institutions, which currently represent approximately 30% of all higher education enrolment worldwide. More money and autonomy may allow private institutions to hire

18 http://eng.uvm.dk/Fact%20Sheets.aspx
21 http://www.aucc.ca/policy/quick-facts_e.html
22 http://www.mcgill.ca/about/quickfacts/students/
23 Strategic Enrolment Management Plan 2011 - 2016 Consultation Draft October 14, 2010
27 Line Beauchamp, « Encourager la réussite scolaire par l’implication des gens d’affaires », conference organised by BTMM, at the Sheraton, Montreal, Friday February 18 2011.
28 Trends in Global Higher Education: Tracking an Academic Revolution
better staff, offer more funding and services to students, and invest in better facilities than their public counterparts, leaving Quebec universities at a competitive disadvantage. Faced with these external pressures, a static revenue stream and mounting debt, universities must also adequately serve the student population that has expectations of quality, access and services. Additionally there are internal obligations like infrastructure maintenance, and the continuous reinvestment in technology. These factors prompt university budget cuts and the inevitable turn to non-governmental revenue. In the case of Quebec’s universities, tuition is set by the Government and as such MELS has been under considerable pressure from CREPUQ, the BTMM, and many influential people in the greater business, legal and political communities to increase tuition far beyond the $100 per year that is currently in place.

Universities have been described as economic engines of the Canadian and Quebec economies and as such, a decline in quality may have a direct economic impact upon the overall economy. McGill University, according to a self-sponsored study, contributes over $5 billion in value to the province, through things like knowledge transfer, improved productivity, and international student integration. Universities are also responsible for approximately 40% of the share and value of all research done in Canada. In fact, their influence is growing as domestic spending is rising in higher education, but falling amongst private enterprise. This is partly due to the Federal Government’s history of funding primary and early research to promote the creation of skilled labour and public innovation, which the OECD has calculated to be more beneficial to the overall economy than private research. This trend may be changing, however, as budgetary constraints are prompting universities to focus on “cost recovery, higher tuition and university-industry links…” McGill has a budgetary shortfall in their operating fund of $17 million and it will become increasingly important to monetize research to generate revenue via patents and licenses, while increasing the number of their industry partners. Some researchers have been raising concerns about the contracts between universities and the industry, questioning the consequences for academic freedom, an issue that does not fully register with university administrations.

References

32. http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/l01/cst01/scet01a-eng.htm
39. « La collaboration entre les entreprises et les universités : un levier de création de richesse au Québec », conference organized by the BTMM, at the Palais des Congrès, Montreal, Friday October 21 2010.
In Quebec, heavy debts in the governmental bodies and within the universities, higher competition between universities (internationally, but also between the private and the public), and the underfunding of universities seem to point toward raising tuition fees as the only politically viable solution, according to the MELS, the CREPUQ and organizations such as the BTMM. In addition to the legal necessity of balancing the budget and introducing austerity measures, other factors are affecting the decision to continue raising tuition fees: slumping exports, maintaining a lower tax rate and favourable incentives for businesses in order to support regional competitiveness, the presence of large social programs, and an ever aging population are influencing this decision. Plus, the presence of strong unions that are able to combat other government austerity measures and the lobbying from powerful interests, like the CREPUQ and the BTMM, will influence the government’s position regarding the raise of tuition fees. Nevertheless, all increases in fees have consequences that must be weighed carefully in order to assess the best possible outcome for everyone. This should give insight on whether or not increasing tuition fees is the best and only option in order to ensure the quality and the accessibility of higher education.

Consequences and meaning of raising tuition fees for students and society

Tuition is the amount of money charged to a student to cover all or a portion of their instruction. They are different from ancillary fees, which are specifically targeted to provide a distinct university service or product, like the McGill athletics fee. Tuition can be described as the sticker price of an education, but the financial burden of being a student is considerably more than the price of instruction. McGill estimates the cost of living for Quebec students to be between $12,700 and $16,800 annually. Couple that statistic with current tuition and ancillary fees which stand on average at $3,627 per year at McGill and the total cost of pursuing an education at McGill ranges from $16,327 to $20,427 for one year. This situation is attenuated by tax credits and grants and these two combined can erase the tuition costs altogether, but in the case of living expenses it does not go far enough to overcome the gap in financing. Graduate students have the option of working as a teaching and/or research assistant or as sessional lecturers, but this too is not sufficient, nor desirable, if it removes the focus from learning and research.

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47 http://www.gouv.qc.ca/portal/demi/quebec/pag/publics/contribution/etat_demographique/lang=en
49 http://www.mcgilldaily.com/articles/37515
50 Tuition Fee Policies in Comparative Perspective: Theoretical and Political Rationales
Pamela N. Marcucci and D. Bruce Johnstone*
51 http://www.mcgilltribune.com/2/12329/caps-placed-on-ancillary-fees-1.1628387
52 http://www.mcgill.ca/firstyear/moneymatters/costoffeering/
Clearly, raising the cost of tuition will only add to the financial strain experienced by students and their families.

Intuitively, when tuition fees go up the accessibility for lower-income students goes down, but the evidence and methodologies used to gather this kind of data is difficult to assess given the quantity of variables that need to be considered\(^{55,56}\). Factors like, demand, income, parental education, proximity, financial aid, language, employment opportunity, education policy, and a host of others contribute to the conscious or unconscious decision to attend university. Those who support the tuition fee increase often use the example of Ontario, where tuition has dramatically increased over the past decade, but has not affected the rate of enrolment\(^{57}\) (amongst all, including students from low-income families?). This is in contrast to the Quebec example for the same time period when enrolment and tuition remained relatively low\(^{58}\). Some argue that the data is taken out of context, whereby immigration and the double graduating year (2003) may explain the phenomenon\(^{59}\). This argument would support the far lower enrolment figures for Ontario in terms of percentage change in more recent years\(^{60}\). However, the numbers from Ontario do not indicate why lower-income students actually increased in number in relation to middle-income students, though it is thought that increases to student aid and inequities of aid distribution have contributed to this fact\(^{61}\). Nevertheless, it is difficult to compare higher education in Quebec to other provinces and countries as there is no centralized education policy in Canada and Quebec is cited as an outlier because of the CEGEP requirement for university admission. Plus, language is a relatively unknown, but suspected factor with regard to inter-provincial mobility, making international and national comparisons with difficult to make\(^{62}\).

The main argument to justify a raise in tuition fees despite the already important financial burden of students and the dangers of reducing accessibility has been the underfunding of $620 million (claimed by the CREPUQ), a number that has been recently questioned by the FEUQ. According to the Fédération, the methodology behind this calculation is misleading\(^{63}\). The CREPUQ estimated this number based on a comparison of the amount of money received by the universities from the student fees in different provinces, based on the year 2007/2008, before tuition fees were unfrozen in Quebec. Moreover, this method of calculation does not consider the differences between provinces in terms of revenue sources for universities, philanthropic donations, the

\(^{55}\) Tuition fees and equality of university enrolment
Michael B. Coelli  Department of Economics, University of Melbourne

\(^{56}\) Tuition fees and the demand for university places
Christine Neill

\(^{57}\) http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/81-004-x/2006001/9183-eng.htm

\(^{58}\) http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/81-004-x/2006001/9183-eng.htm


\(^{60}\) http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/100714/t100714a3-eng.htm

\(^{61}\) http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/81-004-x/2006001/9183-eng.htm

\(^{62}\) Economics of Education Review journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/econedurev

\(^{63}\) FEUQ, “Comment les recteurs ont triché à leur examen… Le sous-financement des universités déconstruits”, http://www.feuq.qc.ca/spip.php?article167
funding provided by industrial sectors for applied research, and the allocation of
resources. More importantly, according to the FEUQ, this number fails to take into
consideration new recurrent money that has been added to the universities’ budget since
2007, such as the 6% increase in tuition fees per annum, as well as the money transferred
from the federal government to the provinces, a total sum that could represent 319$M\textsuperscript{64}. This underfunding has also been questioned by the Institut de recherche et d’information socio-économique (IRIS), which underlines that the total revenues of Quebec universities have gone from $2.4 billion in 1997 to $4.1 billion in 2005, an increase of 71%\textsuperscript{65}. IRIS has suggested that investment in infrastructure rather than in research as well as a reallocation of research money toward departments of applied science and instrumental research have contributed to this perceived underfunding\textsuperscript{66}. Eric Martin, an IRIS researcher, has suggested that the commercialization of universities is an important factor in the discourse held by the proponents of a tuition fee raise: “Au final, ce n’est pas les hausses de frais de scolarité qui serviraient à combler un sous-financement, mais le discours sur le sous-financement qui sert à légitimer une hausse des frais, laquelle va de pair avec un processus de reconversion commerciale de l’université […]”, a statement partly supported by research published in University Inc (2005)\textsuperscript{67}.

The fundamental question to ask is the following: why are universities experiencing such a funding gap in this province? Is it, as it has been suggested, because of low tuition fees, or could it be because of a combination of different factors, such as poor financial management by both universities and the Provincial Government over past decades, corruption, a heavier bureaucracy, reallocation of funds in specific lucrative programs to the detriment of other departments, etc.? If so, perhaps the Government should start by addressing these major problems and refrain from asking students to pay for any perceived funding gap.

This current financial crisis is catalyst to an untenable situation that pits a weak
economy and questionable leadership with the realities of the global marketplace and yet there are some arguments (for and against) that accompany the decision to raise tuition fees regardless of circumstance. Some are specific to the Quebec situation and others are more general in nature. Raising tuition fees can be described as a battle in an old war resulting from one party attempting to determine the scope of higher education. On the one hand it is seen as a public good and on the other it is individual benefit that creates skilled labour\textsuperscript{68}. One side is idealistic, while the other is utilitarian and both are right to certain extent. There are three parties that benefit from an education: the individual, the society in which the individual lives and the agency or institution for which the individual works. A problem arises however, when there is an attempt to place value on an education because the total impact of that education upon society is unknown. An

\textsuperscript{64} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{66} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{67} For a summary: http://www.campusprogress.org/articles/university_inc_10_things_you_should_know_about_corporate_corruption_on_cam#
\textsuperscript{68} The Idea of a University John Henry Newman
education can create greater civic engagement, enhance political stability, reduce the overall crime rate, and create a healthier, more environmentally conscious society, but how do you effectively measure those contributions\textsuperscript{69}? It may not be possible. However, we are able to determine the tax revenue generated by an educated person versus the alternative. The FEUQ has calculated that every dollar invested in higher education yields $5.30 in return for the Provincial Government if those graduates remain in Quebec\textsuperscript{70}.

There is an argument that those who share in the benefits shoulder some of the cost, but our relationship with government is not a business relationship. Many graduate students not enrolled in professional programs receive negligible private benefits that are a result of their advanced degrees in comparison to those with only a bachelors degree\textsuperscript{71}, while still bringing advantages to society through increasing knowledge or through continuing research. With the economic benefits that universities have on the economy and the taxable rates of return, the question remains, why are we asking students to indebted themselves, for an education when society receives a net benefit either in additional tax revenue, social well-being and expanded research capacity?

**Conclusion: a choice to make**

In Quebec, we are experiencing a time of austerity and students have been asked to pay their fair share to make our universities world class\textsuperscript{72}. In other words, we are being asked to fund the future success of Quebec. The ultimate decision to raise tuition fees resides with the Government, though McGill has recently shown it can unilaterally raise the tuition fees for their MBA program without the consent of the Government\textsuperscript{73}. As we move forward into the future, it is likely that the provincial government will reduce its investment in universities by merely holding the current rate and allowing tuition fees to meet future needs. The arguments being put forward on all sides are not absolute and needless to say, no one party has the answer. The language being used in most arguments are economic in nature, but as mentioned before, we do not have a business contract with the Government; we have a social contract. We all give a portion of our income to the Government to invest in things like security, infrastructure, education and healthcare on our behalf. These social goods are guided by public principles and if we capitulate on our societal rights to good health and education, we inevitably serve the needs of the government instead of the other way around. This is clearly a choice… a government can choose not to charge fees; it can raise taxes or reallocate current revenue to overcome the deficit of funding higher education. Students have to position themselves in the debate.

\textsuperscript{69} Higher learning, greater good: the private and social benefits of higher ... By Walter W. McMahon
\textsuperscript{70} Propositions pour le budget du Québec 2011-2012 FEUQ
\textsuperscript{71} \url{http://www.cdhowe.org/pdf/ebrief_79.pdf}
\textsuperscript{72} \url{http://www.montrealgazette.com/news/Freeze+tuition+rates+thaw+Quebec/2745556/story.html}
\textsuperscript{73} \url{http://www2.macleans.ca/2009/10/01/mcgill-m-b-a-program-goes-private/}
Issues policy: On tuition fees

Preamble: In 2007, the Quebec Government allowed tuition fees to rise by $100 per year representing an average increase of 6% per year. During the 2010 budget speech, Finance Minister Raymond Bachand indicated the Government of Quebec’s interest in significantly raising tuition fees beginning in 2012 when the $500 increase over 5 years expired. Both the CREPUQ and business interests like the BTMM have advocated for an increase of $1,500 and $3,000 respectively over the course of 3 years ending in 2015. As we enter the next budget cycle, it is clear the Government intends to dramatically increase tuition fees.

The PGSS recognizes:

1. There are financial concerns in the province of Quebec, but the allocation of public revenue is a choice;

2. There are alternative sources of governmental revenue that can be used to fund higher education instead of raising tuition fees;

3. That the burden of financing tertiary education should not fall upon Quebec resident, graduate students, who are among the most economically vulnerable groups in Quebec.

The PGSS supports:

1. The elimination of tuition fees for Quebec resident, graduate students;

2. The implementation of a freeze on tuition fees for Canadian and international students at current levels where Canadian and international student tuition fees are adjusted annually to correct for inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI);

Recommendations

1. The PGSS should create a policy regarding ancillary fees.
Défi Climat : Frequently asked questions


What is Défi Climat?

Défi Climat is the largest civic awareness-raising and mobilization campaign in the fight against climate change in Québec. The campaign is conducted primarily in the workplace or place of study. Défi Climat invites citizens to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through routine lifestyle changes at home, at work and when traveling. To help citizens, some twenty simple and significant means are proposed, such as using public transit, recycling at home or opting for local foods produced in Québec. Environmental repercussions linked to taking such action are quantified and compiled as CO₂ emission equivalents.

What are the factors of success for Défi Climat?

The success of Défi Climat resides in the turnkey formula offered to campaign directors and their teams to support the planning and organization of the Défi Climat campaign within their organization. A host of communications tools and a custom file featuring a number of resources and assistance services are offered free of charge.

The determination of campaign directors and their teams is instrumental in the success of Défi Climat. Campaign directors are the drivers within their organization. They are responsible for planning and coordinating awareness-raising and communications activities among staff or the student body.

The success of Défi Climat also lies in the participation of employees, students and organization members who reflect seriously on their lifestyle and traveling habits and choose to make changes to reduce their impact on the environment.

What issues does Défi Climat address?
Since the Earth Summit was held in Rio in 1992, there has been growing international recognition of climate change issues. Accelerated climate warming caused by greenhouse gases (GHG) released through human activity is a serious threat to our future.

From the signing of the Kyoto Protocol in 1997 to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in 2009, scientific conclusions are relentlessly alarming. The United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is calling for a 25% to 40% reduction of GHG emissions by 2020 to avoid serious, irreversible planetary changes\(^1\).


**How are actions quantified?**

For most Défi Climat actions, greenhouse gas (GHG) emission equivalents are granted in kilograms of carbon dioxide (kg of CO\(_2\)). Calculations are made and validated by Quantis, a company offering life cycle analysis consulting services that was created by the Interuniversity Research Centre for the Life Cycle of Products, Processes and Services (CIRAIG).

Parameters used to quantify each action are the average consumption or frequency in Québec, Canada or North America.

**What interest is there in Défi Climat?**

Défi Climat is the collective movement that makes a real difference! By cumulating GHG reductions resulting from each participant’s commitment, citizens see that their efforts have a significant impact as a whole in the fight against climate change.

By bringing together all individual actions, a momentum and the will to do likewise are fostered not only within the workplace, but also among partner organizations.

In addition, the actions proposed have a genuine impact on society, health and the economy.
What are the goals of Défi Climat?

The Défi Climat campaign has three goals:

- Raising awareness of the role and responsibility of citizens and businesses in the fight against climate change and in protecting the environment;
- Creating a collective movement fostering greenhouse gas emission reduction measures;
- Significantly reducing GHG emissions on an individual and collective basis in Québec.

What are the results of former campaigns?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2008 Montréal</th>
<th>2009 Montréal and Québec City</th>
<th>2010 Across Québec</th>
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<td><strong>Number of Organizations</strong></td>
<td>132</td>
<td>290</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Number of Committed Citizens</strong></td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>36,597</td>
<td>58,684</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tonnes of Reduced GHG (estimate)</strong></td>
<td>26,000</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>73,445</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Why do organizations register with Défi Climat?

- To contribute actively to the fight against climate change
- To show their commitment to society and the environment
- To benefit from the expertise of organizers and take part in a collective success story
- To join forces with hundreds of participating businesses, public institutions and organizations across Québec
• To benefit from networking opportunities and increased visibility
• To strengthen good will between employers and employees and foster a sense of belonging to the organization
• To participate in free training workshops

**What kind of organizations can participate in Défi Climat?**

Any business, public institution, educational institution or organization with operations in Québec can register with Défi Climat.

The main leverage of the Défi Climat campaign is its wide network of participating organizations from all areas, such as:

• Arts and Technologies
• Insurance
• Engineering
• Education (e.g., CEGEP, universities, elementary and secondary schools, professional training centres)
• Finance
• Government (e.g., ministries and provincial or federal agencies)
• Public Health (e.g., hospitals, CSSS)
• Labour Unions
• Transportation

To see the list of organizations registered in 2010, [click here](#).

**Is a financial contribution required?**

No. The Défi Climat campaign is free and offers turnkey, ready-to-use communications tools. Information sessions and practical workshops on climate change topics are also offered free of charge, allowing organizations to network with each other.

However, a minimum investment of human resources is required to plan the organization of the campaign based on the kind and size of the organization and the mobilization of employees, students or members within the organization.
Who are the financial partners of the project?

The 2011 Défi Climat is made possible mainly through the financial contribution of the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs (MDDEP). The Société de transport de Montréal (STM), Ville de Québec, Ville de Montréal and the Agence métropolitaine de transport (AMT), as well as other provincial and federal partners, will soon confirm the renewal of their financial support.

How to become a financial partner of the Défi Climat project?

Organizations wishing to contribute financially to the 2011 Défi Climat campaign (through funds or services) may do so at the regional or national level.

Based on the contribution of your organization, you may benefit from visibility among 800,000 people in more than 1000 organizations across Québec.

For more information, please contact Défi Climat Coordinator Lucie Taliana, at 514 842-2890 ext. 223.

Who is organizing Défi Climat?

Défi Climat is a joint organization by the Conseil régional de l’environnement de Montréal (CRE-Montréal), the Regroupement national des conseils régionaux de l’environnement (RNCREQ), the Conférence régionale des élus de Montréal (CRÉ de Montréal), Équiterre, the Conseil régional de l’environnement de la Capitale-Nationale (CRE-Capitale nationale), ENvironnement JEUnesse (ENJEU), the Coalition Jeunesse Sierra (CJS) and the Fondation Monique-Fitz-Back (FMF).
The regional environment councils of each region of Québec are responsible for mobilizing participating organizations in their area. The CRÉ de Montréal ensures the mobilization of organizations in the Montréal region, while the CRE de Montréal is responsible for the provincial coordination of the project. University student mobilization is ensured by the CJS, while CEGEP students are mobilized by ENJEU. The FMF is responsible for the special youth program and mobilization of elementary and secondary schools.

Who are the spokespersons of Défi Climat?

Assistant General Coordinator of Équiterre Mr. Steven Guilbeault and President of the Conseil patronal de l’environnement du Québec Ms. Hélène Lauzon have once more accepted the role of spokespersons for the 2011 Défi Climat campaign across Québec. Local campaign supporters will also be recruited.

What turnkey promotional tools are offered by Défi Climat?

A host of interactive communications tools were developed for the campaign and are available free of charge.

- **An interactive Web site**
  It is the primary tool where citizens can register by taking some of the proposed actions and where campaign committees will find all the information and tools they need to conduct the campaign. Each organization has its own custom page for their employees, students or members to register individually.

- **The Flyer**
  This detailed paper tool includes a registration form for those without access to a computer. The Défi Climat team will compile such registrations at the end of the campaign. However, the campaign director or an assistant may enter paper registrations directly in your organization’s file on the Défi Climat Website to monitor the progress of participation in real time.
• **Promotional Posters**
  Colourful and interactive posters provide widespread visibility for Défi Climat within your organization.

• **The “Thermometer” Posters**
  These posters show progress in the number of commitments within your organization and display your campaign goal for everyone to see. They are not printed, but organizations interested in displaying the posters will be able to print them themselves by downloading a file created for this purpose.

• **E-Newsletters**
  Sent every week to campaign directors from March 15 to April 30, the newsletters contain loads of information on campaign development, results achieved and an email to send to employees, students or organization members to invite them to participate. They help maintain momentum within the mobilization effort and interest within the organization.

The 2011 communications tools are currently under development. You will be able to order them at Step 7 of your registration. For an overview of the 2010 Edition achievements, [click here](#).

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What are the Collectives challenges?

Collective challenges are stimulating and dynamic mobilization activities to conduct within your organization. They will help you to encourage employees or students to take collective actions to reduce greenhouse gases on site. The number of participants and the amount of reduced GHGs can then be assessed.

Participation in Collective Challenges does not replace individual registration by employees and students with Défi Climat; these activities are complementary. For each of the four types of challenges, we suggest some ideas and resources to organize them. From March 15 to April 30, 2011, you may click on the “Collective Challenge Results” icon at the top of your organization’s file to assess the number of participants and reduced GHGs.
What should I do before registering my organization?

• Learn more about 2011 Défi Climat (Presentation document).

• Obtain authorization from your organization to act on its behalf as campaign director (the person responsible for coordinating the implementation of Défi Climat within the organization).

• Choose the type of campaign based on options available.

What type of campaign should I conduct within my organization?

Option A: Your organization is present in a single region

1. If your organization has a single office, a single director is to conduct the campaign.
2. If your organization has several offices in the same region, two options are possible:

   a) a single campaign director is to coordinate all the campaigns of all the offices, OR

   b) each office has its own campaign director to coordinate Défi Climat on the premises. The director registers the office independently from the overall organization by adding the city to its name.

Option B: Your organization is present in several regions

Three choices are possible:

1. Conducting a campaign centralized at your head office – One campaign director is to coordinate all the campaigns held in all the regions where the organization has offices. The director is responsible for registering the organization, ordering campaign materials for each region, sending emails to employees, planning the campaign, and so on.
OR

2. Conducting independent, regional campaigns – One campaign director per region is to coordinate Défi Climat for the office(s) in his or her region. Each director is responsible for registering the organization for his or her specific region, ordering campaign materials, sending emails for the region, and so on.

OR

3. Conducting an independent local campaign – One campaign director per office or institution is to coordinate Défi Climat. Each director registers his or her office separately from the other participating offices of the same organization in the same region by specifying the location (city). For local campaigns, please specify the city in the name of your organization.

In any case, a Défi Climat contact person is associated to the campaign director’s administrative region.

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**What is a campaign director?**

The Défi Climat campaign is primarily conducted at the workplace or place of study. The campaign director is the person responsible for planning the Défi Climat campaign and mobilizing employees or students within the participating organization during the registration period from March 15, 2011 to April 30, 2011.

The campaign director may appoint an assistant director to help to implement the campaign within the organization. In addition, for Défi Climat to stand a greater chance of success within your organization, a campaign team may be formed. Team members as well as the assistant director will receive all organizational communications regarding Défi Climat.

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**What is a participation goal?**

A participation goal is an estimate of the actual number of employees, students or members from your organization to register with the 2011 campaign.
During Défi Climat, a list of top campaigns will be posted to highlight them. To compare participation rates, organizers will weigh their goal against the total number of participants from their organization.

In addition, the number of employees, students or members approached corresponds to the number of people from your organization whom you plan to invite to participate in Défi Climat, whether through emails, thematic activities, conferences, information stands or Collective Challenges.

How should I register my organization with the 2011 Défi Climat campaign?

- Go to the “Registering my Organization” Web page.

- If you are registering your organization for the first time, open an organization file and enter a password.

- If your organization participated in 2010 and you have forgotten your password, select your organization from the drop-down list, and press the “Forgotten your password? Click here” button. You will receive your password by email.

- Please note that the information contained in your organization’s file is confidential, and only you and Défi Climat organizers will have access to it.

How should I complete Steps 1 and 2 for registering organizations?

Step 1

- Complete all the fields with an asterisk (*).

- Identify your assistant campaign director and, if needed, your campaign team members. The members will also receive organizational Défi Climat communications.
• Specify the region(s) where you are to conduct the campaign within your organization, based on your type of campaign:

• If you are to conduct a campaign in a single region (Options A1 and A2), an independent, regional campaign (Option B2) or an independent, local campaign (Option B3), check ONLY the region for which you are campaign director.

• If you are to conduct a centralized campaign from your head office (Option B1), check ALL the regions where you will conduct the campaign.

Step 2

• Indicate the number of employees, students or members you will approach and invite to participate in Défi Climat (this number may differ from the total number, although you are encouraged to approach all the employees, students or members of your organization).

• Specify target participation goals. These are estimates of the actual number of employees, students or members from your organization to register with the 2011 campaign. If you are to conduct a campaign centralized at head office, you may either:

  o Define a participation goal for each region, or
  o Define a single participation goal for all the selected regions.

• Indicate the start and end dates of your in-house campaign. You are strongly recommended to start March 15, 2011 when Défi Climat 2011 will be launched across Québec. You will then benefit from media attention and keen interest for Défi Climat. The campaign will end April 30, 2011. Official results will be made public in May 2011 during the closing ceremony of Défi Climat.

Once Steps 1 and 2 are completed, click on the “Submit your registration” button. You will receive an official confirmation of your registration by email. Once you receive confirmation, you can complete your organization’s file (Steps 3 to 7). You may either proceed at that time or choose to return later at any time to complete, specify or modify this information essential to the success of your in-house campaign.

How can I separate participants’ registrations (Step 3)?

Complete Step 3 of the registration procedure (optional).
You may create categories such as departments, directions, divisions or teams to separate participants’ registration based on the corporate structure of your organization. Therefore, because the names of the participants are to remain confidential, at least you will know in real time how many people have registered in each category.

Please note that a maximum of 30 categories per region may be registered.

If you are to conduct a centralized campaign from your head office, two options are available:

- Create separate categories for each region (maximum of 30 categories per region).
- Create consistent categories for all the regions where you will conduct the campaign. In this case, you will receive regional statistics on participation.

The purpose of creating registration categories is to enhance real-time monitoring of participation to target your mobilization efforts. For instance, categories could help you to create friendly competition, step up promotional efforts where participation is lower or reward a particular group of participants who have made outstanding efforts.

How can I customize my organization’s page on the Défi Climat Website (Step 4)?

Complete Step 4 of the registration procedure (optional).

**Adding Your Organization’s Logo**

If you wish, you may add your logo to Your Organization’s Home Page on the Défi Climat Web site. During the campaign, your employees, students or organization members will be directed to this page to complete the Défi Climat Commitment Form.

Your logo should be in JPEG (.jpg or .jpeg) or GIF (.gif) format. The name of your file should not contain any spaces, accents, special characters or slashes. The size should not exceed 300 pixels in width and 300 pixels in height.

**Adding a Word of Welcome to Your Organization’s Home Page**

To make your home page stand out even more, display a word of welcome. Your message with a maximum of 600 characters, spaces included (about 100 words) may take the form of words of encouragement, a presentation of the organization’s motivations for taking part in the campaign or the important dates of your mobilization activities. The
message should address employees, students or members who will visit Your Organization’s Home Page when registering.

**Recording a Video**
You may also add a video to Your Organization’s Home Page on the Défi Climat Web site by copying the embedded code of your organization’s video. You should first save this video on a video hosting and sharing Web site (e.g., Viméo, Dailymotion, Youtube) and make sure your employees, students or members are authorized to access the selected broadcasting site.

**Displaying the Virtual Thermometer**
The virtual thermometer shows real-time progress in registrations within your organization on Your Organization’s Home Page. If you prefer not to display it on Your Organization’s Home Page, please uncheck the “I want the thermometer to be displayed” option.

You may also add the Défi Climat virtual thermometer from Your Organization’s Home Page to your own organization’s Website by copying the embedded code and pasting it to a page of your site.

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**How can I plan a Défi Climat campaign within my organization (Step 5)?**

The campaign plan is a practical tool to help you plan mobilization activities efficiently in order to encourage registrations within your organization between March 15 and April 30, 2011. Planning will also help you to determine the quantity of promotional material you will need. Complete Step 5 of the registration procedures by selecting the mobilization activities that you intend to organize during the campaign. You may update this section any time.

With your authorization, Défi Climat organizers could use your campaign plan to refer your organization to particular media in search of dynamic campaign examples.

**A Few Ideas**
See the Campaign Kit for a host of tips and examples of activities for your campaign to be a success.

**Organize a Collective Challenge (new!)**
Collective challenges are stimulating and dynamic mobilization activities to conduct
within your organization. They will help you to encourage employees, students or members to take collective actions to reduce greenhouse gases on site. The number of participants and the amount of reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) may then be assessed.

**What are organizational actions (Step 6)?**

Défi Climat offers an opportunity to organizations to improve their carbon footprint by providing a list of suggested actions. Through commitment to concrete action in the fight against climate change, your organization shows its employees, students, members or the general public that it is truly adopting sustainable management measures.

At Step 6 of the registration procedures (optional), choose the action(s) that your organization is ready to undertake among those proposed and identify the actions already taken by your organization. All official actions will be posted on Your Organization’s Home Page and in the Your Organization’s Actions section of the Défi Climat Website.

**How can I order Défi Climat communications tools (Step 7)?**

Several promotional tools (flyers, posters, etc.) are offered at no charge to foster participation in Défi Climat within your organization.

Please note that Step 5 should be completed before ordering promotional tools.

Starting January 2011, you are encouraged to place your order as soon as possible by specifying the quantity of tools you need at Step 7 of the registration procedures (optional).

If you are conducting a centralized campaign, place an order for each region by indicating the separate quantity of promotional material needed and the mailing address of the person designated to receive the material. This information is needed because the regionalized content of the promotional material features the logos of regional organizers and funding partners.

To reduce the use of paper whenever possible, you are encouraged to complete the on-line Commitment Form instead of using the paper flyer. Please note that some participation prizes are reserved for on-line registrations.
Starting the first week of March 2011, the material ordered will be directly delivered to the regional campaign director and managers.

How can I hold a draw of prizes?

The “Draw” option can be accessed from your organization’s file on the Défi Climat Website. It allows you to draw prizes among participants from your organization registered with Défi Climat based on the categories you created previously. You may draw as many prizes as you wish during the campaign or after registration is over.

Please note that paper registrations mailed to the Défi Climat team will not be compiled until after the end of the campaign. To monitor the progress of your registrations in real time and draw prizes before the end of the campaign, you may enter paper registrations yourself by using an electronic form provided in the campaign directors’ section to be accessible during the campaign.

How can I access the section reserved for campaign directors?

By logging on, you may access a section reserved for campaign directors. The section contains information and tips to help you plan and monitor the development of your Défi Climat campaign. This space will be enhanced regularly.

It is also in this section that you may access your organization’s file to complete your registration, monitor the progress of registrations, draw prizes and complete compilation forms for Collective Challenges.
How can I monitor the progress of registrations during the campaign?

The virtual thermometer shows real-time progress in registrations within your organization. This tool is accessible on Your Organization’s Home Page and in your organization’s file. You may configure it at Step 4 of your registration.

If you use paper flyers in addition to the on-line registration form, you may monitor progress in the number of participants in real time by compiling such registrations yourself. Instead of mailing paper registrations to Défi Climat organizers, you may enter the data in an electronic form provided available during the campaign in the campaign directors’ section.

Whom should I contact to obtain more information about Défi Climat?

You may contact the Défit Climat contact person of your region at any time.
Défi Climat: Organizations Committed to Fighting Climate Change

Organizations may now register for the 2011 edition of the Défi Climat campaign

Montréal, October 21, 2010 – Starting today, businesses, institutions and organizations across Québec are invited to make a commitment and register with Défi Climat, the largest civic awareness raising and mobilization campaign in the fight against climate change in Québec.

“Businesses across Québec are pursuing their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions,” explained Hélène Lauzon, President of the Conseil patronal de l’environnement du Québec and co-spokesperson of the campaign. “By participating in Défi Climat, organizations demonstrate their social and environmental commitment while taking advantage of a great opportunity to network and increase their visibility. I invite every organization to join the movement,” she added.

“It is stimulating to see that the economy and the environment go hand in hand and that businesses are willing to get involved, even in the absence of a carbon market or other economic mechanisms allowing the reduction of GHG in Québec. In 2010, over 250 organizations across Québec made a commitment to improving their carbon footprint as part of Défi Climat,” stated Steven Guilbeault, co-spokesperson of the campaign and Deputy Executive Coordinator of Équiterre. “I invite them to mobilize their employees, but also to adopt the actions proposed for 2011; they are significant measures to reduce greenhouse gases,” he highlighted.

In 2010, 1191 businesses, institutions and organizations across Québec were involved in this collective effort and convinced 58,684 citizens to make a commitment by taking action to reduce their GHG emissions. Overall, close to 75,000 tonnes of CO₂ were reduced in 2010 owing to their mobilization efforts, amounting to the withdrawal of some 20,000 vehicles from circulation.

To support organizations, the Défi Climat team is proposing Collective Challenges this year. These are mobilization activities aimed at encouraging employees, students and organization members to take collective action to reduce greenhouse gases, such as avoiding solo driving to commute to work or eating meatless lunches. The greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduced during such significant activities held within the organization during the campaign will be quantified.

The success of Défi Climat resides in its integrated approach, its free, turnkey formula adapted to each organization and a local presence through the participation of 16 regional environment councils across Québec. The Défi Climat organizers support and guide promotional teams formed within each participating organization in planning and conducting the campaign.

The Défi Climat campaign is conducted at the workplace or place of study. Défi Climat
invites citizens to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through routine lifestyle changes at home, at work and when traveling. To help citizens, some twenty simple and significant means are proposed, such as using public transit or carpooling to commute to work, lowering heating temperatures or composting organic residue.

The fourth edition of the campaign will take place from March 15 to April 30, 2011. Organizations wishing to take part in Défi Climat 2011 may register on line now at: www.deficlimat.qc.ca.

About Défi Climat
The Défi Climat project was launched in 2008 by the Conseil régional de l'environnement (CRE) de Montréal in partnership with the Conférence régionale des élus (CRÉ) de Montréal and Équiterre. In 2009, Défi Climat organizers joined forces with the CRE de la Capitale nationale, which conducted the DéfiQuébec.com climate change project with its partners for two years in Québec City. ENvironnement JEUnesse and CJS also became partners to reach the student population. In 2010, two organizations joined the campaign, including the Regroupement national des conseils régionaux de l'environnement du Québec (RNCREQ), entrusted with the mission to coordinate the provincial campaign and ensure mobilization of all the other individual regions in Québec through the Conseils régionaux de l’environnement (CRE) and the Fondation Monique-Fitz-Back, entrusted with the mission to mobilize elementary and secondary students across Québec.

Défi Climat is made possible mainly through the financial contribution of the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs (MDDEP).

– 30 –

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Conseil régional de l’environnement de Montréal
514.842.2890, ext. 222
Défi Climat
Chaque geste compte

Campagne 2011 - 4e édition
En bref

- La plus vaste campagne de sensibilisation et de mobilisation pour la lutte aux changements climatiques à l’échelle du Québec

- Un engagement des citoyens à poser des gestes individuels et collectifs concrets pour réduire leurs émissions de GES

- Une campagne en milieu de travail et d’étude, ainsi qu’un volet jeunesse pour les élèves du primaire (3e cycle) et du secondaire

- Une campagne gratuite et clés en main offrant une diversité d’outils de communication prêts à utiliser

- Le Défi Climat 2011 aura lieu du 15 mars au 30 avril
Objectifs

✓ **Prise de conscience**
  du rôle et des responsabilités des citoyens, des entreprises et des institutions dans la lutte aux changements climatiques

✓ ** Création d’un mouvement collectif**
  favorable aux mesures de réduction des émissions de gaz à effet de serre (GES)

✓ **Réduction significative**
  des émissions de GES individuelles et collectives au Québec
## Taux de participation

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<td>Nombre de citoyens engagés</td>
<td>25 000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tonnes de GES épargnées</td>
<td>26 000</td>
<td>60 000</td>
<td>73 445</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Gestes de réduction de GES

✓ **Gestes citoyens**
  ✓ habitudes de vie et de déplacement
  ✓ au travail, à l’école et à la maison
  ✓ adaptés aux réalités régionales
  ✓ indicateurs des bénéfices liés : environnement, santé et économie
  ✓ gestes plus poussés pour les intrépides

✓ **Gestes corporatifs (optionnels)**
  ✓ engagements pour améliorer le bilan carbone
  ✓ affichés dans la page personnalisée sur le site et dans une section destinée au grand public
Pourquoi participer?

➢ **Se joindre** aux centaines d’entreprises, d’institutions publiques et d’organismes de tous les secteurs d’activités qui font partie de la campagne

➢ Profiter des opportunités de **réseautage** et de **visibilité**

➢ Resserrer les **liens** entre employeurs et employés par la mise en place de **défis collectifs**

➢ Contribuer activement à la **lutte aux changements climatiques**

➢ Participer à des **ateliers de formation** gratuits
Marche à suivre

- **Former** un comité de campagne Défi Climat

- **Inscrire** votre organisation en ligne au [www.deficlimat.qc.ca](http://www.deficlimat.qc.ca)
  - Étape 1 : Informations générales
  - Étape 2 : Objectifs de participation et dates de campagne
  - Étape 3 : Découpage des inscriptions (optionnel)
  - Étape 4 : Personnalisation de la page de votre organisation (optionnel)
  - Étape 5 : Plan de campagne
  - Étape 6 : Gestes corporatifs (optionnel)
  - Étape 7 : Commande du matériel promotionnel (optionnel)

- **Planifier** les activités de promotion ou les défis collectifs à l’aide de la trousse d’accompagnement

- **Commander** le matériel de communication

- **Lancer** votre campagne
Outils de communication

- Thermomètre virtuel
- Blogue (avec commentaires)
- Contenu vidéo
- Témoignages
- Facebook, Twitter et Fil RSS
- Dépliant
- Affiche thermomètre
- Affiche promotionnelle générale
- Messages aux participants
Les porte-parole

Pan-québécois
- Steven Guilbeault, coordonnateur général adjoint d’Équiterre
- Hélène Lauzon, présidente du Conseil patronal de l’environnement du Québec

Régionaux
- Des ambassadeurs régionaux parraineront le Défi Climat à travers le Québec
Dates importantes

- Inscription des entreprises :
  18 octobre 2010 au 15 avril 2011

- Livraison du matériel de communication :
  1ère semaine de mars 2011

- Conférences de presse et cérémonie de lancement :
  15 mars 2011

- Fin de la campagne :
  30 avril 2011

- Dévoilement des résultats et cérémonie de clôture :
  12 mai 2011
Organisateurs
Appui financier

Autres partenaires financiers à confirmer

- Fonds vert
- Québec
- Coalition bois Québec
- Fondation Alcoa
- Canadian Heritage
- Patrimoine canadien
- Partenariat jeunesse
  Pour le développement durable
C11-02-#07
TO BE APPROVED

PGSS
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
Gina Zhou – Faculty of Science
Adrian Kaats - Faculty of Engineering
Hesam Dadafarin - Faculty of Engineering
Hasan Nikopour Deilami - 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 walkout. 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.

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.
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

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. Trojan, 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 nomineees 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 give 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. The CMA decided to allocate this money to help student parents. Although he recognizes that we should also help our postdoc members.

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  
BIRT 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
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 spend 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.
BIYFRT 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

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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.
AGENDA

1. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

2. **SPEAKER’S REPORT**

3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

4. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

4.1 C11-03-#08

5. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES AND STANDING ORDERS**

5.1. **MOTION R11-04-#110 - TO ACCEPT NOMINATING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

5.2. **MOTION R11-04-#111 - TO ELECT CANDIDATES TO THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

5.3. **MOTION R11-04-#112 – PGSS-GPS GRANTS PROGRAMME**

5.4. **MOTION R11-04-#113 TO DISCUSS FEUQ ELECTIONS**

5.5. **MOTION R11-04-#114 RESIGNATION OF THE VP-EXTERNAL**

5.6. **MOTION R11-04-#115 INTERIM ELECTIONS**

5.7. **MOTION R11-04-#116 ELECTIONS**

5.8. **MOTION R11-04-#117 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO DISCUSS THE BUDGET**

5.9. **MOTION R11-04-#118 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO DISCUSS DISBURSEMENT PROGRAMMES**

5.10. **MOTION R11-03-#102 TO EXTEND FAMILY CARE PROGRAMME TO ELDERLY AND ILL FAMILY MEMBERS AND EXPECTING PARENTS**

5.11. **MOTION R11-03-#104 REPORT OF THE PSAC: EXECUTIVE STIPENDS**

5.12. **MOTION R11-03-#106 REPORT OF THE PSAC: REMOVAL FROM OFFICE**

5.13. **MOTION R11-03-#107 REPORT OF THE PSAC: STEERING COMMITTEE**


5.15. **MOTION R11-03-#109 REPORT OF THE PSAC: MEETING ATTENDANCE**

6. **EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

6.1 VP EXTERNAL

6.2 VP ACADEMIC

6.3 VP FINANCE

6.4 VP INTERNAL

6.5 PRESIDENT

7. **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

7.1 ELECTIONS COMMISSIONER

7.2 EQUITY COMMISSIONER

7.3 SENATE COMMISSIONER
7.4 ENVIRONMENT COMMISSIONER  
7.5 HEALTH COMMISSIONER  
7.6 SOCIAL COMMISSIONER  
7.7 STUDENT SUPPORT COMMISSIONER  
7.8 FAMILY CARE COMMISSIONER  

8. OTHER REPORTS  
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8.2 AD HOC COMMITTEE ON ROOM SPONSORSHIP  

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10.5. MOTION R11-03-#123 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON THE RAE ..........................................................10  

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.]  

5.2. Motion R11-04-#111 - To elect candidates to the Nominating Committee  
(... / ...)  
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
### 5.3. Motion R11-04-#112 – PGSS-GPS Grants Programme

**(VP Finance/..)**

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).

### 5.4. Motion R11-04-#113 to discuss FEUQ Elections

**(President/..)**

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

### 5.5. Motion R11-04-#114 Resignation of the VP-External

**(President / ...)**

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.
5.6. Motion R11-04-#115 Interim Elections

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 members 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: Mariève Isabel

5.7. Motion R11-04-#116 Elections

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.

5.8. Motion R11-04-#117 Committee of the Whole to Discuss the Budget

BIRT Council enter committee-of-the-whole for up to 15 minutes to discuss the budget

5.9. Motion R11-04-#118 Committee of the Whole to Discuss Disbursement Programmes

BIRT Council enter committee-of-the-whole for up to 15 minutes to discuss disbursement programmes
5.10. Motion R11-03-#102 to Extend Family Care Programme to Elderly and Ill Family Members and Expecting Parents

(Family Care Commissioner/..)

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.”

5.11. Motion R11-03-#104 Report of the PSAC: Executive Stipends

(President/..)

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.

5.12. Motion R11-03-#106 Report of the PSAC: Removal from Office

(President/..)

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.
5.13. Motion R11-03-#107 Report of the PSAC: Steering Committee

(President/..)

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/..)

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.
5.1.5. Motion R11-03-%#109 Report of the PSAC: Meeting Attendance

(Chair/..)

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”.

10. New Business

10.1. Motion R11-04-%#119 To modify the role of the Equity Commissioner

(Equity Commissioner/..)

BIRT Bylaw 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).

10.2. Motion R11-04-%#120 To modify Regulation 3: Grants
(Grants Review Committee)
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.”

10.3. Motion R11-04-#121 To modify Regulation 3: Grants
(Grants Review Committee)
WHEREAS grant applicants often do not satisfy Society Regulation 3.6.1, failing to deliver receipts in support of reimbursement requests for allocated grant funds within the time limit set therein;
WHEREAS there are presently no rules governing the consequences for failure to adhere to Society Regulation 3.6.1 and any applied repercussions are arbitrary; and
WHEREAS failures to comply with Society Regulation 3.6.1 result in undue penalization of grant applicants who suffer denial of funds due to PGSS’ inability to estimate remaining funds in the PGSS / GPS Grants Program budget;
BIRT Society Regulation 3.6.1 be amended to read,
“3.6.1 Funds shall be disbursed by the VP (Finance) upon receipt of sufficient receipts. Receipts are required to be delivered to the VP (Finance) within 2 weeks of the end of the event. Failure to comply with the receipt
10.4. **Motion R11-03-#122 To adopt the recommendation of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Room Sponsorship**

(Ad-hoc Committee on Room Sponsorship)

BIRT the motion “MOTION R11-10-#28 Corporate Sponsorship” referred to the committee by Council be rejected.

10.5. **Motion R11-03-#123 Committee of the Whole on the RAE**

(VP-External/..)

BIRT Council enter committee-of-the-whole for up to 10 minutes to discuss the RAE
Committee Meetings

March 1\textsuperscript{st} and March 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 2011: McGill School of Environment Review
McGill is currently reviewing all their units. I was part of the MSE review that included site visits downtown and at the Mac campus, as well as meetings with Deans, professors, staff and students. The reports are being drafted.

March 11\textsuperscript{th}, 2011: Meeting with the principal.
Topics brought up:
- Science and Policy Exchange – Update
- Student life fund – Update
- Supervision – The principal was surprised that we do not evaluate supervisors, and made a request to Dean Kreiswirth to look into the issue.
- Sanctions regarding the MBA tuition – at the time the sanctions were not announced and the administration did not feel that it would hurt the program.
- Milestone project – The issue came up again on how to properly put graduate students on a proper plan that will guarantee timely completion. Dean kreiswirth guaranteed that this will be in place by the next year and that it is the next priority.
- Skillsets – talked briefly about the importance of skills development at McGill and the importance of the skillsets program.

March 16\textsuperscript{th}, 2011: MSE Review related meeting
Report drafting.

March 22\textsuperscript{nd}, 2011: Meeting with the Provost
PGSS executive had a lunch with the provost, Prof. Mendelson and Dean Kreiswirth.

March 23\textsuperscript{rd}, 2011: Senate Meeting
Due to illness, I was unable to attend this meeting

March 24\textsuperscript{th}, 2011: Meeting with Dr. Philip Smith
I met with Dr. Smith from the provost’s office regarding the unit review for the Fall of 2011, and ways to fill the spots with graduate students representatives.

March 3\textsuperscript{rd}, 17\textsuperscript{th} and 31\textsuperscript{st}, 2011: PGSS Executive meeting
Due to personal issues, I was unable to attend the meeting of the 3\textsuperscript{rd}. 
Issues at hand:

1. PGSS’s Academic Webpage: I am currently working on revamping the page to make it more useful for our current and potential representatives to university committees.

2. Fall academic calendar review survey: SSMU is spearheading this project that involves reviewing the academic calendar for the fall semester. Graduate students are invited to fill out the survey that can be found in our weekly newswire.

Meeting that were not attended:

None.

Events Attended

None

Activities

None

Upcoming events

Meetings that are confirmed so far for the month of April:

Senate
PGSS Exec
PGSS-Commissioner caucus
Dean of Graduate Studies

Further information/recommendations

Committee recruitment

We need to fill the Executive Evaluation committee and the Council Review committee urgently.
VP Finance – Council Report
Adrian Kaats
March 30, 2011

Acronyms used in this report

- Committee on Monetary Affairs (CMA)
- Grants Review Committee (GRC)
- Executive Committee (EC)
- Board of Directors (BoD)
- Family Care Program (FCP)

1. Meetings
   
a) Committee meetings
   i. GRC
      1. 5:00pm, Wednesday, March 9, 2011
   ii. EC
      1. 3:00pm, Thursday, March 3, 2011
      2. 10:00am, Wednesday, March 16, 2011
      3. 3:00pm, Thursday, March 31, 2011
      4. Several “e-meetings”
   iii. Executive Commissioner Caucus
        1. 6:00pm, Thursday, March 24, 2011
   iv. Annual General Meeting
       1. 6:00pm, Wednesday, March 16, 2011
   
b) Meetings with PGSS staff
      i. Business Manager
         1. 11:00am, Regular meetings on Thursdays
         2. + several impromptu meetings per week
      ii. PGSS Researcher
         1. 4:00pm, Thursday, March 24, 2011
         2. Afternoon, Friday, April 1, 2011
   
c) Meetings with PGSS officers
      i. Council Commissioner
         1. 11:00am, Thursday, March 24, 2011
      ii. Family Care Commissioner
          1. Several, didn't record dates and times.
   
d) Meetings with McGill Administration
   i. EC, Provost, Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning), Dean of Graduate Studies
      1. 12:30pm, Tuesday, March 22, 2011
   ii. PGSS Family Care Commissioner and Executive Director, Student Services
       1. 10:00am, Thursday, March 24, 2011
   
e) Other meetings
      i. ASEQ
         1. 8:30am, Thursday, March 17, 2011
      ii. Legal Counsel (Spiegel Sohmer)
         1. 10:15am, Thursday, March 17, 2011
iii. Science and Policy Exchange
   1. 11:00am, Friday, March 25, 2011

iv. Accountant Hiring Committee
   1. 4:30pm, Thursday, March 10, 2011
   2. 12:00pm, Thursday, March 17, 2011

v. EEGSS
   1. 4:00pm, Tuesday, March 15, 2011

vi. MBASA
   1. 11:30am, Wednesday, March 16, 2011

2. Planning, reporting, communications

   a) GRC Report
   b) New Budget Format
   c) Letter to applicants for direct funding from the FCP
   d) The Graduate Student Life Fund and Development of the PGSS-PGSA Relationship (submitted to the EC for initial review)
   e) This very Council report

3. Upcoming events

   a) Meetings (other than regularly scheduled meetings)
      i. ASEQ
      ii. Legal Counsel (Spiegel Sohmer)
      iii. Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning)
      iv. Director, Scholarships, Student Aid & Int. Student Services
   b) Expected responses from enquiries
      i. Consultant for PGSS Daycare Feasibility Study

4. Further information/recommendations

   See GRC report and attachments to this report. I have made significant progress on all of the items listed in the work plan presented in my report to the March meeting of Council except for item 8 (“correcting our fund allocation and disbursement procedures and protocols”), and I have been slightly delayed in item 1 (“finalizing the new budget format and budget change proposals for the April meeting of Council”).
President’s Report April 2011

Submitted to Council by Alexandra Bishop

Meetings Attended in March:

University Representation

• Town Hall with Principal: March 2\textsuperscript{nd}

• Student Consultation and Communication Working Group: March 4\textsuperscript{th}

• Committee on Student Services: March 14\textsuperscript{th}

• Campus Community All Members Meeting: March 9\textsuperscript{th}

• Information Session on Course Evaluations: March 10\textsuperscript{th}

• Meeting with Principal: March 11\textsuperscript{th}

• Meeting with Provost, Deputy Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies: March 22\textsuperscript{nd}

• Meeting with Dean of Students regarding student leaders workshop: March 21\textsuperscript{st}

Senate

• Senate Steering Committee: March 16\textsuperscript{th}

• Senate Nominating Committee: March 9\textsuperscript{th}

• Senate: March 23\textsuperscript{rd}

Board of Governors

• BOG Building and Property Committee: March 14\textsuperscript{th}

• Board of Governors: March 15\textsuperscript{th}

Executive

• Executive Meeting: March 3\textsuperscript{rd}, March 16\textsuperscript{th}, March 31\textsuperscript{st}

• Executive Commissioner Caucus Meeting: March 24\textsuperscript{th}

PGSS Activities

• PGSS Council: March 2\textsuperscript{nd}
• PGSS Ski Trip: March 5\textsuperscript{th}
• Annual General Meeting: March 16\textsuperscript{th}

**Important Upcoming Dates**
I have listed the following important meetings that I will be attending in April. If you have any issues that you would like me to address at these meetings please don’t hesitate to contact me.

**University Representation**
• Meeting with Deputy Provost Student Life and Learning: April 12\textsuperscript{th}
• Food and Dining Advisory Committee: April 7\textsuperscript{th}
• Graduate Advisory Committee: April 11\textsuperscript{th}
• Graduate Student Skills Development Advisory Board Meeting: April 12\textsuperscript{th}

**Senate**
• Senate Steering Committee: April 12\textsuperscript{th}
• Senate Nominating Committee: April 5\textsuperscript{th}
• Senate: April 27\textsuperscript{th}

**Board of Governors**
• BOG Executive Committee meeting: April 18\textsuperscript{th}
• Board of Governors: April 27\textsuperscript{th}
• Joint Senate Steering-BOG Executive meeting: April 18th

**Executive**
• Executive Meeting: April 14\textsuperscript{th}, April 28\textsuperscript{th}
• Executive Commissioner Caucus Meeting: April 18\textsuperscript{th}

**PGSS Activities**
• PGSS Charity Night: April 15\textsuperscript{th}
• GG13 Conference: April 28\textsuperscript{th}-May 1\textsuperscript{st}
1. MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS:
   i. March 24th: Meeting with Equity Committee
   ii. March 24th: Exec-Commissioner Caucus
   iii. March 24th-25th: Attended the PGSS-SSMU Equity & the Media Conference
   iv. March 30th: Meeting with the Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity (JBSCE)

2. PROJECTS:
   i. The panel I organized, **Exposed: The role of the media in promoting Islamophobia**, held March 25th from 4-6pm, was a great success. The Thomson House restaurant was overflowing with people, suggesting both that this is a popular topic and that the space that we had was too small. Most of the feedback I received from students
Both of the referendum questions posed to members in the annual referendum by the Health and Wellness Committee passed. As of September 2011, mental health services between graduate students and undergraduate students will be equalized by raising the student service fee for graduate students. Additionally, the PGSS Health and Dental Plan was renewed with the recommendations of the Health and Wellness Committee.

Meetings attended

- 11 March 2011 – Advisory Committee on International Students (ACIS) meeting
- 16 March 2011 – PGSS Annual General Meeting
- 17 March 2011 - Meeting with ASEQ (*Alliance pour la Santé Étudiante au Québec*) to discuss issues involved with moving to a self-funded insurance plan
- 29 March 2011 – Discussed referendum results with McGill Daily reporter
- 30 March 2011 Health and Wellness Committee (HAWC) meeting
  - Discussed referendum results
  - Updates from representatives to McGill health-related committees
  - Discussed PGSS response to specific complaint
  - Discussed option of moving toward self-funded insurance plan

Communication

- Late March 2011 – Correspondence with McGill Daily regarding referendum question results
- Mid-March 2011 - Communication with student regarding complaint
- Mid-March 2011 - Communication with VP Finance regarding complaint
• Mid-March 2011 – Responded to e-mails with queries regarding referendum questions
The Family Care Committee is working together with the University on a set of guidelines for students who are caring for dependents. Those of us caring for dependents, whether they are young children or elderly family members, understand that our academic responsibilities occasionally come into conflict with our responsibilities as parents and caregivers. These guidelines, when adopted, will provide a framework for students and faculty to negotiate such conflicts.

In order to help us to understand the conflicts some of us may be faced with, we have invited everyone on the Family Care mailing list to a discussion on these guidelines. This discussion will be held on March 31 (before the deadline for admission in the council package). I am very grateful to Laura Risk, one of the committee members, for volunteering to lead the discussion. The committee would also like to extend thanks to Jana Luker (executive director – services for students) and to Jane Everett (dean of students) for working with us to help establish these guidelines.

The committee has also been working to get baby-changing stations installed around both campuses. We sent out a request to our mailing list for possible locations for the changing stations (large bathrooms in reasonably high-traffic areas, where the stations would have the highest impact), and we received an overwhelming response which, in many cases, included messages of gratitude that this was being done. We would like to extend thanks to Jim Nicell (associate vice-principal – university services) for agreeing to install them (as soon as we brought this issue up, the response from Prof. Nicell came very quickly: “No problem, consider it done.”). The committee has also been in contact with Dean Everett and Diane Koen (director of libraries) to install child-friendly play areas in the library.

We are also planning a CPR and first aid course aimed at those caring for young children. We have not yet solidified the date yet, but it will likely be sometime early next week (April 4, 5 or 6).

Finally, Laura (also mentioned above) did a fantastic job of bringing to light some of the issues which those of us caring for dependents are faced with at the Principal’s Town Hall meeting on March 11. Please take some time to see the video of this meeting (http://bcooltv.mcgill.ca/Viewer1/?RecordingID=65439, Laura’s question begins at about 28 minutes, and also notice the applause following the discussion).

Concerning direct financial support to PGSS members from the Family Care Programme, we are working (together with Adrian Katz and Jana Luker) towards a solution to the question of how to distribute this support to students, as it was determined that the support cannot come directly from the PGSS, but this may take some time to implement. We are hoping to have this done during the summer so that the program can continue in Fall 2011.

Hadley Myers, Family Care Commissioner
April 6, 2011
General Comments

As of the time of the meeting, the GRC had allocated $34,073. The total budget for grant allocations this year is $36,600. Funding previously allocated for three grants (Grant Ids 10--11--03, 10--11--08, and 10--11--11) for a total of $2,300 has been de-allocated as the recipients are far past due on receipt submission. Thus, there remained only $4,827 to be allocated for the 4 months left in the Society's fiscal year. However, the GRC is allowed to allocate 15% more than the budgeted amount because, despite allocations, recipients often do not use the total amount of money offered (as evidenced above). The total possible allocations for the year are thus $42,090. To allow for equal opportunity to grant applicants in the remaining months, the GRC decided to allocate the remaining funds almost equally across the 3 remaining months in the present fiscal year. Consequently, we chose to allocate approximately $3,600 this month (slightly above an equal distribution over the 3 months).

This month, the GRC had 14 grant applications to review. We decided to allocate funding to 8 of the applicants, reject 3 of them, and request additional information from the remaining 3 applicants for consideration next month.

For the 8 applicants allocated funds, the GRC decided to use the prioritization rules in the governing regulation to sort applications into 3 priority levels. This month's funding was divided proportionally between the applications depending on their priority level. There were 3 applications deemed high priority, 2 medium priority, and 3 low priority. Where X [$] is the base fund allocation unit, an high priority application received 3X, medium priority received 2X, and low priority received X. X was then calculated as $3,600 / 16 = $225. Thus, a high priority application received $675, medium received $450, and low received $225.

The funding decisions and rationale are listed below.

The final section of this report proposes that Council implement regulation changes (most of which were discussed in the last GRC report submitted to Council) that will make the process of prioritizing grant allocations less arbitrary, and allow for better estimates of the funds remaining in the grants budget in each allocation cycle.
## Accepted Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant ID</th>
<th>Rationale &amp; Comments</th>
<th>Allocation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 10--11--45  | • Medium priority  
             • Small # of PGSS participants  
             • Event occurs on-campus        | $450.00    |
| 10--11--53  | • High priority  
             • Large # of PGSS participants  
             • Event occurs on-campus        | $675.00    |
| 10--11--55  | • High priority  
             • Large # of PGSS participants  
             • Event occurs on-campus        | $675.00    |
| 10--11--56  | • Low priority  
             • Small # of PGSS participants  
             • Event restricted to a single department which is also receiving high priority funding for another event this month (Grant ID 10--11--55)  
             • Event occurring off-campus (out of country) | $225.00    |
| 10--11--58  | • Low priority  
             • Small # of PGSS participants  
             • Event occurs off-campus (out of country) | $225.00    |
| 10--11--60  | • Low priority  
             • Very small # of PGSS participants  
             • Event occurs off-campus (out of country) | $225.00    |
| 10--11--63  | • High priority  
             • Large # of PGSS participants  
             • Event occurs on-campus        | $675.00    |
| 10--11--56  | • Medium priority  
             • Large # of PGSS participants  
             • Event occurs off-campus       | $450.00    |

**Total** $3,600.00
Delayed Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant ID</th>
<th>Rationale &amp; Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 10--11--51 | • Second time this grant is being delayed. Previous requests for information (see below) unanswered  
• Application incomplete  
• Expected sources of revenue section incomplete  
• Section identifying budget items for which PGSS is asked for funding is incomplete  
• Upon submission of complete application, event to be given low funding priority due to low expected PGSS member participation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 10--11--59 | • Good application, no clarifications necessary  
• Since the event occurs much later in the year, we will reconsider the application next month (with higher priority due to the GRC imposed delay) when more funding will be available  
• GSAN already received a grant this year ($800 for Grant ID 10--11-33)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 10--11--62 | • Application incomplete  
• Must specify which items PGSS is being requested to fund  
• This is 1 of 4 grant applications received benefiting graduate students in neuroscience this year (see immediately above, and section for rejected applications below)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

Rejected Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant ID</th>
<th>Rationale &amp; Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 10--11--57 | • PGSS participation far too low (4 of 100)  
• Event occurs off-campus (Yukon)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 10--11--61 | • Application is incomplete  
• Event occurs before the GRC will be able to review resubmitted application next month  
• This is 1 of 4 grant applications received benefiting graduate students in neuroscience this year (see section for delayed applications above)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 10--11--64 | • Very small funding shortfall that can be recuperated by ticket sales                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

Special Considerations

The applicant for Grant ID 09--10--56 which was allocated funds in the previous fiscal year asked the GRC to reconsider a previous decision to deny reimbursement. It turns out that PGSS caused the applicant to be delayed in submitting receipts for reimbursement. Since the delay in receipt submission which caused his reimbursement to be denied is in part the fault of the PGSS, at least with respect to reimbursement for services invoiced by PGSS, the GRC decided to reimburse the applicant for PGSS invoiced expenses to a total of $371.00. The GRC further decided that if sufficient funds remain at the end of the year, the applicant will be considered for reimbursement of the remaining expenses. On behalf of the PGSS, the GRC would like to an issue an apology to the applicant for the undue delays in reimbursing expenses and the frustration the applicant must have suffered as a result.
Because the applicant for Grant ID 10--11--46 has notified the GRC well in advance of an anticipated delay in furnishing a receipt for reimbursement of one of the elements for which the application was awarded funding, the GRC has decided to afford the applicant an extension to the due date for providing receipts.

Changes to Procedures and Regulations

The GRC has decided to bring forth the following two motions to the PGSS Council for consideration:

1. **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.”
2. **WHEREAS** grant applicants often do not satisfy Society Regulation 3.6.1, failing to deliver receipts in support of reimbursement requests for allocated grant funds within the time limit set therein;

**WHEREAS** there are presently no rules governing the consequences for failure to adhere to Society Regulation 3.6.1 and any applied repercussions are arbitrary; and

**WHEREAS** failures to comply with Society Regulation 3.6.1 result in undue penalization of grant applicants who suffer denial of funds due to PGSS' inability to estimate remaining funds in the PGSS / GPS Grants Program budget;

**BIRT** Society Regulation 3.6.1 be amended to read,

“3.6.1 Funds shall be disbursed by the VP (Finance) upon receipt of sufficient receipts. Receipts are required to be delivered to the VP (Finance) within 2 weeks of the end of the event. Failure to comply with the receipt deadline shall result in notice of a five (5) regular business day extension of the deadline after which the VP (Finance) shall be authorized to de-allocate all unclaimed funds allocated for the event.”
AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON ROOM SPONSORSHIP

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Ideological justification:

- The purpose of an academic institution is to harbour independent thought and research
- The purpose of a student-run, not-for-profit service in an academic institution is to host activities and gatherings of a nature deemed necessary by the student members
- Corporate sponsorship leads to an element of control on the part of the sponsoring body
- Thompson House, as it exists today, is an important institution to all student members

Practical justification:

- **Motion R11-10-#28 Corporate Sponsorship** is unclear as to how corporate sponsorship would be carried out; in particular it does not mention the following:
  - What specific PGSS programs are lacking in funding so as to make corporate sponsorship a necessary option
  - How rooms would be selected for sponsorship or how long agreements would last
  - If or how corporate donors would be selected and what their relationship would be to Thompson House if selected

Given the justifications outlined above, BIRT the motion (MOTION R11-10-#28 Corporate Sponsorship) referred to the committee by Council be rejected.
Health and Wellness Committee

Report to Council

30 March 2011

In attendance: Jonathan Mooney (chair), Elizabeth Cawley, Iulia Iatan, Michelle Lamarche, Katie MacEntee, Quynh Nguyen, Alexandra Bishop

The Health and Wellness Committee aims to develop a plan over summer 2011 to educate members about the changes that were made to the PGSS Health and Dental Plan. The committee will focus in the coming year on better communication and promotion of the plan to PGSS members. Additionally, the committee will develop tools to assess the feedback of members regarding the changes made to the plan.

The committee briefly considered the prospects of moving toward a self-funded insurance plan. Although the details of such a proposal were not discussed, and the committee would be interested in discussing the issue further, the following motion was passed unanimously:

BIRT the following view held by the HAWC be included in its report to council

“At this time, The Health and Wellness Committee has serious reservations about moving to a self-funded insurance model”.

March 29th, 2011

BY EMAIL (finance.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca)

The Post-Graduate Students’ Society of McGill University Inc.
3650 McTavish
Montreal, Quebec
H3A 1Y2

Attention: Mr. Adrian Kaats

RE: Setting-up a payment program to members (the “Program”)
        Our File: 94536-01

Dear Mr. Kaats,

Further to our meeting of last, the following will review certain Canadian income tax issues related to the Family Care Programme payments made to members of The Post-Graduate Students’ Society of McGill University Inc. (hereinafter referred to as the “PGSS”).

Our understanding of the relevant facts is as follows:

- PGSS represents the graduate students and post-doctoral fellows at McGill University and is a university student association with approximately 7,500 members;

- PGSS is a non-profit organization constituted as a corporate entity. It qualifies as an organization defined in paragraph 149(1)(l) of the Income Tax Act (Canada);

- PGSS provides funds to members who meet certain conditions under various distribution programs such as the Family Care Programme (hereafter referred to as the “Program”) or financial distress assistance program;

- These funds are paid directly to members after the member demonstrates a financial need to a review committee of PGSS (by way of family budget, tax returns and receipt for past child care expenses);

- The payments are not granted as scholarships or bursaries to the members;
- The payments are not made in consideration of services from the recipient and the recipient is not employed by PGSS; 

For the reasons outlined below, PGSS should not make any payment under the Program until certain tax issues are addressed and the Program meets administration requirements set out by the Canada Revenue Agency (the “CRA”).

For income tax purposes, paragraph 149(1)(l) of the Income Tax Act (Canada) (the “Act” or the “ITA”) provides that the taxable income of an non-profit organization (“NPO”) is exempt from tax under Part I of the Act for a period throughout which the association complies with all of the following conditions:

a) It is not a charity;

b) It is organized exclusively for social welfare, civic improvement, pleasure, recreation or any other purpose except profit;

c) It is in fact operated exclusively for the same purpose for which it was organized or for any of the other purposes mentioned in (b); and

d) It does not distribute or otherwise make available for the personal benefit of a member any of its income unless the member is an association which has as its primary purpose and function the promotion of amateur athletics in Canada.

Whether a particular association meets all of the above conditions and qualifies under paragraph 149(1)(l) as a tax-exempt NPO is a question of fact that can only be determined after reviewing its purposes and activities.

In the case of the Program, as the funds used by PGSS to make payments are from its general funds and not from a segregated and dedicated fund, there is concern that such payment are from the capital and income of PGSS and accordingly would cause PGSS to no longer qualify as an NPO for purposes of the Act.

As paragraph 149(1)(l)(d) ITA provides that an NPO cannot make “income” available for the personal benefit of a member, it is possible to redistribute members’ annual fees under certain circumstances. To do so, certain steps are to be implemented to comply with the administrative requirements of the Canada Revenue Agency:

a) The Program must be funded solely by member’s fees i.e. a segregated fund dedicated to the Program would be established and invested in a separate bank

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1 Non-Profit Organizations, IT-496R.
account and all income earned on the amount invested from the fund shall be transferred to the general account of PGSS to ensure that no income is paid to a member;

b) Each year, as member’s fees are collected, the annual fees required to fund the Program would be set aside in this separate account. No income, interest or otherwise, would be attributed to the funds in this account. Payments from the Program to the members would be made only from the funds in this Account. Any excess amount in the Account at the end of the fiscal year would be carried over to the next fiscal year to be used to fund the Program in the subsequent year;

c) A T4A would be issued to the members receiving a payment under the Program. The amount paid would be reported on the T4A as “other income”. PGSS would inform the members that the payments received under the Program are intended to be taxable as such; and

d) No amounts would be paid out of any account of PGSS other than the specific account as payments to members under the Program. It might be prudent to make payment from the Program payable to a specific childcare provider or upon proof of childcare expenses incurred by a member of PGSS.

However, please note that tax authorities ascertain such distribution programs on a case by case basis. Considering distribution payments to members by NPOs are quite uncommon and to avoid any possible auditing uncertainties, we are of the opinion that PGSS should apply to the CRA for an advance ruling. The purpose of the advance income tax ruling service is to promote voluntary compliance, uniformity and self-assessment by providing certainty with respect to the income tax implications of proposed transactions. An advance income tax ruling is regarded as binding upon the CRA, subject to any qualifications stated in the ruling and the comments.

A review of the Trust Fund for Student Support should also be done to ensure that disbursements thereunder cannot be construed as constituting a distribution of income to members in light of the administrative guidelines of the Canada Revenue Agency.

We trust the above is satisfactory and invite you to contact the undersigned should you require additional services to apply for an advance ruling with the CRA, or any other matter relating thereto.
Yours very truly,

SPIEGEL SOHMER INC.

Per: __________________________

Martin D. Boily

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

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, Student Support Commissioner U. Trojahn, Equity Commissioner E. Sirett, AGSEM L. Lewis, Secretary M. Boudreau

Regrets
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 choice 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 our 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.f) (President/ J. Mooney)

Whereas the PSAC recommends the following changes to Society Article 2.3.f 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.f 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 Comissioner/ 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
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
AGENDA

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

2. SPEAKER'S REPORT

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
   4.1 C11-04-#09

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES AND STANDING ORDERS ................................................................. 2
   5.1 MOTION R11-05-#124 - TO ACCEPT NOMINATING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS ........................................ 2
   5.2 MOTION R11-05-#125 - TO ELECT CANDIDATES TO THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE ........................................ 2
   5.3 MOTION R11-05-#126 – PGSS-GPS GRANTS PROGRAMME ........................................................................... 2
   5.4 MOTION R11-04-#117 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO DISCUSS THE BUDGET ............................................ 3
   5.5 MOTION R11-04-#118 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO DISCUSS DISBURSEMENT PROGRAMMES ..................... 3
   5.6 MOTION R11-04-#120 TO MODIFY REGULATION 3: GRANTS .................................................................. 3
   5.7 MOTION R11-04-#121 TO MODIFY REGULATION 3: GRANTS ................................................................. 4
   5.8 MOTION R11-04-#122 TO ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON ROOM SPONSORSHIP ........ 4
   5.9 MOTION R11-04-#123 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON THE RAE ......................................................... 4

6. EXECUTIVE REPORTS
   6.1 VP EXTERNAL
   6.2 VP ACADEMIC
   6.3 VP FINANCE
   6.4 VP INTERNAL
   6.5 PRESIDENT

7. COMMISSIONER REPORTS
   7.1 ELECTIONS COMMISSIONER
   7.2 EQUITY COMMISSIONER
   7.3 SENATE COMMISSIONER
   7.4 ENVIRONMENT COMMISSIONER
   7.5 HEALTH COMMISSIONER
   7.6 SOCIAL COMMISSIONER
   7.7 STUDENT SUPPORT COMMISSIONER
   7.8 FAMILY CARE COMMISSIONER

8. OTHER REPORTS
9. QUESTION PERIOD

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.1. MOTION R11-05-#127 TO (ONCE AGAIN) CONSIDER THE MENTAL HEALTH REFERENDUM QUESTION

10.2. MOTION R11-05-#128 MOTION TO CREATE A REGULATION REGARDING PUBLICATION AND NOTICE

10.3. MOTION R11-05-#129 MOTION TO THANK RYAN HUGHES

10.4. MOTION R11-05-#130 MOTION TO BELITTLE THE COUNCIL COMMISSIONER

10.5. MOTION R11-05-#131 TO BESTOW A TITLE

5. Business Arising from the Minutes and Standing Orders

5.1. Motion R11-05-#124 - 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;

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

5.2. Motion R11-05-#125 - To elect candidates to the Nominating Committee

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

5.3. Motion R11-05-#126 – PGSS-GPS Grants Programme

(VP Finance/..)
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.

5.4. Motion R11-04-#117 Committee of the Whole to Discuss the Budget

(VP Finance/..)
BIRT Council enter committee-of-the-whole for up to 30 minutes to discuss the budget.

5.5. Motion R11-04-#118 Committee 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.

5.6. 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.”

5.7. **Motion R11-04-#121 To modify Regulation 3: Grants**
(Grants Review Committee)

WHEREAS grant applicants often do not satisfy Society Regulation 3.6.1, failing to deliver receipts in support of reimbursement requests for allocated grant funds within the time limit set therein;

WHEREAS there are presently no rules governing the consequences for failure to adhere to Society Regulation 3.6.1 and any applied repercussions are arbitrary; and

WHEREAS failures to comply with Society Regulation 3.6.1 result in undue penalization of grant applicants who suffer denial of funds due to PGSS' inability to estimate remaining funds in the PGSS / GPS Grants Program budget;

BIRT Society Regulation 3.6.1 be amended to read,

“3.6.1 Funds shall be disbursed by the VP (Finance) upon receipt of sufficient receipts. Receipts are required to be delivered to the VP (Finance) within 2 weeks of the end of the event. Failure to comply with the receipt deadline shall result in notice of a five (5) regular business day extension of the deadline after which the VP (Finance) shall be authorized to de-allocate all unclaimed funds allocated for the event.”

5.8. **Motion R11-04-#122 To adopt the recommendation of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Room Sponsorship**
(Ad-hoc Committee on Room Sponsorship)

BIRT the motion “MOTION R11-10-#28 Corporate Sponsorship” referred to the committee by Council be rejected.

5.9. **Motion R11-04-#123 Committee of the Whole on the RAE**
(VP-Finance/..)

BIRT Council enter committee-of-the-whole for up to 10 minutes to discuss the RAE.

10. **New Business**
10.1. Motion R11-05-#127 To (Once Again) Consider the Mental Health Referendum Question
(President/..)
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.

10.2. Motion R11-05-#128 Motion to Create a Regulation Regarding Publication and Notice
(J. Mooney/..)

BIRT a new Society Regulation 14, "Publication and Notice" be created:
14.1 "The schedule of upcoming regularly scheduled executive meetings shall be posted electronically in a manner accessible to all PGSS regular members.

14.2 "Within two weeks of each executive meeting, the approved meeting minutes shall be posted electronically in a manner accessible to all PGSS regular members. In the event that minutes are not posted within twenty (20) days of an executive meeting, an explanation shall be provided to Council."

14.3 "The meetings of all executive meetings approved since the previous session of Council shall be included in the council package."

10.3. Motion R11-05-#129 Motion to thank Ryan Hughes
(J. Mooney/..)

WHEREAS recently resigned VP External Ryan Hughes provided exemplary service to the PGSS membership.
BIRT up to $60 be allocated form the Council discretionary fund to purchase a bottle of Mr. Hughes' favorite whiskey from Thomson House to be provided to him as a token of our thanks.

BIFRT a recommendation be made to the Board of Directors to grant a lifetime PGSS membership to Mr. Hughes.

10.4. Motion R11-05-#130 Motion to Belittle the Council Commissioner
(J. Mooney/..)
Whereas the current Council Commissioner has discovered a novel interpretation of our constitution, to wit, "No person shall speak more than once during the debate on a particular motion, except for the Council Commissioner, who may speak as many times as he wants."

**BIRT** The Council Commissioner be thanked for his service to the PGSS.

10.5. **Motion R11-05-#131 To Bestow a Title**
(J. Mooney/...)

**BIRT** the departing VP-Internal be bestowed with the title "Magnus the Magnanimous."
Vice-President (Finance) – Council Report
Adrian Kaats
April 27, 2011

Acronyms used in this report

- Committee on Monetary Affairs (CMA)
- Grants Review Committee (GRC)
- Executive Committee (EC)
- Board of Directors (BoD)
- Family Care Programme (FCP)
- Committee for Graduate Student Support (CGSS)
- Trust Fund for Student Support (TFSS)
- Graduate Student Life Fund (GSLF)

1. Meetings
   a) Committee meetings
      i. GRC
         1. By email
      ii. CMA
         1. By email
      iii. EC
         1. 3:00pm, Thursday, April 14, 2011
         2. Several e-meetings
      iv. Executive Commissioner Caucus
         1. Not confirmed at the time of this report
   b) Meetings with PGSS staff
      i. Business Manager
         1. Regular impromptu meetings several times per week
      ii. Business Manager, PGSS Bookkeeper
         1. 2:30pm, Friday, April 15, 2011
      iii. Business Manager, Services Coordinator, and House Manager
         1. 11:00am, Thursday, April 14, 2011
   c) Meetings with PGSS officers
      i. Council Commissioner (and Vice-President (Internal)-elect)
         1. Several meetings
   d) Meetings with McGill Administration
      i. Morton Mendelson, Deputy Provost (Student Life & Learning), Robyn Witshire, Director, and PGSS President and Vice-President (Academic)
         1. 9:00am, Tuesday, April 12, 2011
      ii. Robyn Witshire, and Janice McGraw, Associate Director of Risk Management and Insurance
         1. 2:30pm, Wednesday, April 20, 2011
      iii. Judy Stymest, Director, Scholarships, Student Aid & International Student Services, and PGSS Family Care Commissioner
         1. 2:00pm, Wednesday, April 13, 2011
   e) Other meetings
2. Planning, reporting, communications

   a) GRC Report
   b) CMA Report
   c) Budget Update and Proposal
   d) This very Council report

3. Upcoming events

   a) Meetings (other than regularly scheduled meetings)
      i. ASEQ
      ii. Legal Counsel
      iii. Various McGill administrators in preparation for the GSLF implementation, potential switch in TFSS and FCP administration, and possible daycare implementation
      iv. Consultant for PGSS Daycare Feasibility Study

4. Further information/recommendations

See GRC report, and appendices and attachments to this report. I have made significant progress on all of the items listed in the work plan presented in my report to the March meeting of Council except for item 8 (“correcting our fund allocation and disbursement procedures and protocols”).

Appendix 1: 2011-2012 PGSS Budget (attached)

Background

This year, the PGSS is moving towards a new way of budgeting, and tracking and reporting its financing. These changes are the results of more than two years of work. The major elements missing in the way we used to govern and report our finances were: the establishment of a clear division between Society Activities and Corporate Activities, and the ability to perform the annual budgeting and expense tracking exercise in the context of fund accounting.

The PGSS Corporate Restructuring initiative begun in 2008 was far more than simply changing the structure of the BoD, Management, and reigning in runaway business costs. It was the beginning of a process that sought to reflect the reality of how the PGSS actually functions in the way it is governed. A distinction between Society Activities and Corporate Activities has always existed. However, the nature of that distinction was not reflected in the way we govern and manage PGSS operations, and how we budget and report the finances of these operations.
In the restructuring process, the following terminology has finally been settled: Society Activities refers to the governance, advocacy, services, outreach, and representation effected by the representatives of the PGSS (Councillors, Committee Members, Council Members, Commissioners, Executives, and BoD Members) and PGSS staff that are directly involved in these activities. Corporate Activities refers to corporate affairs, management and governance, which includes satisfaction of PGSS corporate responsibilities (as required by the laws, codes, and regulations of the land), as well as the management of the PGSS' Business Activities. Business Activities refers to the PGSS' restaurant, bar, catering and event services.

In establishing these distinctions, several difficulties had to be addressed: how do we ensure that the purview of PGSS various governing bodies adhere to the limits of their rights and responsibilities in the eyes of the law, while, to the highest degree possible, satisfying the rich governance traditions of the PGSS?

In attempting to resolve the 2008 PGSS financial crisis, it became clear that the PGSS had failed to develop its traditions with an eye to the requirements of the law while it grew. The chain of responsibility for the financial management of the PGSS told the tale: no governing or management body was able to determine the revenues and costs associated with any of the PGSS' various lines of activity. As such, no governing body could clearly assume responsibility for any of the PGSS' activities, their financing, or their governance.

Several years ago, when the PGSS was a very small organization, this ambiguity might have been acceptable because the number of activities and number of people involved was small. Relationships were easily identified, delineated and managed, and tracking finances was a simple ledger exercise. However, the PGSS now has roughly 7,500 members, 200 representatives, and 30 employees. The number of activities we manage has multiplied, and resolving the relationships between all those involved in the PGSS had become intractable. Thus, when faced with more than $100,000 deficit, which had more than doubled from the year previous, we quickly discovered that the current tracking and reporting mechanisms were not capable of determining from where the deficit arose. For instance, was it because the Council was costing too much to operate, or was it because we were spending too much on restaurant service staff? The number of possible causes was finite in theory, but there was no data available to isolate them. Worse, even if we knew, because the budgeting process entangled the authority over the management and financing of the different activities in which the PGSS was involved, who would we go to in order to make the decisions necessary to correct the problem? For instance, we asked, “Who has authority over the budget for service staff?” Both the BoD and the Council approve the budget with no codification in PGSS rules of which body is finally responsible.

Fortunately, the Vice-President (Finance) at the time, Eric Pollanen, was an experienced lawyer (member of the Quebec, Ontario and New York Bar Associations). Eric pointed out that although PGSS rules had evolved to ignore this reality, there are natural divisions in authority and responsibility over PGSS activities that arise from the laws and regulations governing corporations, and the PGSS is, for good reason, a corporation. For instance, the management of a multi-million dollar heritage building, Thomson House, and managing business activities with dozens of employees which generates on the order of one million dollars in annual revenue, is associated with a great deal of risk and liability. These risks and liabilities may be well treated by a corporate structure. However, the activities of a “Society,” its advocacy, outreach, and member services, although they too have associated risks and liabilities, are not well suited to a corporate governance model. The PGSS, like most student unions, is best served by a hybrid structure which employs both corporate governance and
management, along with basic democratic governmental and bureaucratic procedures. That this is true, however, should not belie the need for a clear division between the operations and responsibilities of both substructures, while clearly defining how they interact. Although both substructures existed at the PGSS, these divisions and definitions are missing or poorly implemented.

Although the reality of these divisions already exist as a result, to a large degree, in applicable laws governing corporate purview and responsibility, they are only obvious to a trained legal eye, an exceptionally rare skill in a PGSS officer. This problem became especially clear when, in dealing with the deficit problem, the management of the PGSS was restructured by the BoD. This restructuring required changes to PGSS employment. The PGSS Council attempted to participate in this restructuring. However, the Council, as Eric pointed out, had no actual purview to do this: it holds none of the liabilities associated with the solvency of the corporation or for its employment practices. The BoD, which at the time was the EC, held all responsibility and liability for these matters, but because PGSS statutes made the EC responsible to Council, the Council felt it had the right to force the Executive to take actions in their role as Directors. However, liability for the operations of the corporation lies with the Board of Directors, in several cases personally, and not the Council or any of the with which it is comprised. How then could the Council which holds no responsibility for the corporation's health prevent the BoD from taking action to guarantee that health when it is the BoD which is exclusively responsible for it?

Careful inspection of the PGSS' rules and history indicated that a division of powers and responsibilities in keeping with the law appeared to have been intended, but in the absence of situations which required these divisions to be, maintained and enforced, they had been slowly lost in time and evolution. In 2008, the BoD was forced to assert its authority over corporate matters. The debacle that ensued was less than pleasant, but the results speak for themselves. The restructuring of the PGSS management turned the finances around. Escalating deficits were turned to escalating surpluses. The BoD was able to implement regulations on the financing and budgeting of the PGSS' Business Activities, and ultimately enforce the PGSS' constitutional imperative requiring the operations of Thomson House to break even, or return profits for use in financing Society Activities.

In so doing, three consecutive ECs since have succeeded in establishing a number of definitions and divisions which have yet to be codified. These include the definitions of the Society, Corporate and Business Activities described above. The BoD was also restructured to include non-EC members. Equiped with a new, professionalized, structure for the BoD, a lean and competent management team, and clearly defined divisions in PGSS activities, Eric, over a two year period, was able to drastically alter the way in which PGSS financing, revenue and expense tracking, and budgeting is performed, and greatly advance the elucidation of authority and responsibility for the different activities of the PGSS. The major changes can be summarized as follows:

- The financing of Society Activities shall occur under exclusive control by the Society's governance apparatus over how membership fees and revenues from Society Activities are spent.
- The financing of Corporate Activities shall occur under the exclusive control of the BoD over how revenues from Business Activities are spent.
- The relationship between Society and Corporate Activities and governance shall occur as follows:
  - Business Activities shall “break even,” and any surpluses shall be made available for the financing of Society Activities.
Should Business Activities run a deficit, in the process of financing Society Activities, the appropriate governing bodies may choose to subsidize the Business.

These divisions have resulted in a dramatic change to the amount of money available for Society Activities. Before these changes, poorly managed Business Activities had been allowed (in the absence of any ability to appropriately monitor their financing) to absorb over 60% of the PGSS membership fees. In the absence of the funding intended for Society Activities, they had become anaemic. As a result, the bodies concerned with governing Society Activities were incapable of mandating meaningful services for our members. Even representation had suffered as the PGSS could not afford the support staff necessary to help the Executive manage their substantial responsibilities. Through years of painstaking work, these limitations have been relieved and the financing of Society Activities now benefits from the availability of all of the PGSS' membership fees, and in some cases, Business Activities surpluses, in developing its activities.

Unfortunately, the PGSS as a whole is still adjusting to this new culture. We are only beginning to re-organize so that we can manage our growth responsibly. For instance, the availability of funds allowed us to finally begin implementing a greatly needed FCP. However, having little experience in implementing such things, we were not in a position to accurately assess the legal requirements, liabilities and risks associated with its implementation. Once again, the Council created a programme which did not take into consideration any of its legalities, nor clearly defined how it would operate. The BoD, which was not appropriately consulted in creating this programme, is ultimately responsible for the repercussions of this failure to consider the law. The extreme end of this neglect became the not-for-profit status which allows the PGSS exist. In correcting for this, the BoD was forced to put a moratorium on the FCP (by way of the EC). Again, many of the governing entities responsible for Society Activities have reacted negatively to the necessary execution of legitimate corporate authority. This reaction likely lies in the way the PGSS fosters an incorrect notion of the divisions between and limits on the authority of its various governing bodies.

Another example of this unresolved pre-condition for conflict will likely be evidenced in the upcoming implementation of the GSLF. Here, the governance bodies responsible for Society Activities have created a fee levy which is supposed to be used to fund Post-Graduate Student Associations. However, this fund was created precisely because the University administration wished to end its liability for PGSA activities, and to turn that liability over to the PGSS. Again, the BoD was not appropriately consulted as to how the PGSS planned to limit the liability it would be saddled with in implementing the GSLF, nor has it been appropriately consulted on how the fund will operate. The PGSS will need to resolve how it will mange its new responsibility for PGSA financing, liability associated with PGSA activities and events, etc. This is a very big problem that needs to be solved before a penny of the GSLF is turned over to PGSAs (don't worry, though, there is plenty of time).

These examples serve to highlight a persistent misunderstanding about the relationship between Society Corporate Activities. This misunderstanding will continue to put the bodies responsible for the governance of these activities at odds with each other rather than seeing them cooperate to fluidly advance the purposes of the PGSS as set out by the general membership. Although these problems will ultimately have to be addressed with a full review of the PGSS' rules, as Eric pointed out, a great deal of the ground work is already done by simply acknowledging the division of powers between the general membership, corporate executives, and the BoD as prescribed by law. As Eric also pointed out, even more can be done on an ongoing basis by establishing appropriate financial controls and divisions of authority over budgeting and monitoring of lines of activity. Although much has already been accomplished in this regard, the PGSS has yet to codify these procedures. This should be a priority in
the coming year.

In the present budgeting exercise, the PGSS will be presented with a new budget format. This format has been a long time in the making, and has involved extensive consultation with legal and accounting professionals, and the PGSS management staff. The following sections will present the features of the new budget format.

**Divisions of budget authority**

In finalizing the distinctions between Society, Corporate and Business Activities, it is important to acknowledge that both the Society and Business Activities rely on the sound implementation and governance of PGSS' as a corporation. The governing body and individuals composing it which are liable for the activities of the corporation is, by law, the BoD. Regardless of what the PGSS' rules are, nothing can alienate that responsibility. Nor can the authority and rights of the BoD set out by law be alienated by PGSS rules no matter how or who establishes them. That, in many instances, the PGSS fails to recognize this reality by virtue of the way its statutes have evolved, has no real impact on the actual situation. All this serves to do is to give a false sense of authority to various actors within the PGSS. When problems arise, as they inevitably do, that requires the identification of the actual authorities legally responsible in order to correct the problem, those embued with a false sense of authority feel disenfranchised. This happens most often between the EC and the Council, the BoD (which is partially composed of select members from the EC) and the Council, and now between the BoD, EC members, and Commissioners.

The question naturally arises as to who has control over what. The beginning place should be what corporate laws prescribes. This is largely restricted to the rights of the general membership, and the rights and responsibilities of corporate directors (the BoD). The rest can then be deduced in the context of PGSS' rules provided they aren't unlawful. In matters of employment, adherence to applicable laws and corporate regulations, financial activities, the BoD holds the responsibility for whatever any arm of the PGSS does. With that responsibility comes the right to govern the affairs for which is it is responsible. This liability structure is what makes (or is supposed to make) corporations responsible to society in general because the directors are individually and personally liable if they fail to perform due diligence resulting in corporate misbehaviour. Further, if the corporation becomes insolvent, in certain circumstances, directors are personally and individually liable for satisfaction of the corporation's debts. By law, nobody else within the PGSS holds that responsibility, and equally nobody else within the PGSS that is not squarely under the purview of the BoD has the right to decide how the corporation manages its affairs. The rights of the general membership are largely to determine the composition of the BoD.

When it comes to how the PGSS finances its activities, the general membership's authority comes into play once again. On the one hand the general membership has decided that the PGSS shall engage in Business Activities. However, these activities are subject to the PGSS' contractual obligations to the University and to the laws and regulations governing their operations. Once the general membership issued this mandate to the corporation, its implementation falls directly under the purview of the BoD. On the other hand, the general membership imbued a third body with the power to invoke procedures to levy fees from the corporation's membership. The PGSS' referendum procedures are governed by rules under authority of the PGSS Council. However, the ability to levy fees of its members is, once again, a right granted contractually by the University and must satisfy a number of obligations. Upon satisfaction of these obligations, the University will levy a fee, and transfer the funds to the PGSS. In doing so, all responsibility for and liabilities associated with the administration of these funds is
transferred between legal entities, the University, and PGSS Inc. That responsibility and liability lies, once again, with the BoD who also, once again, have the right to ensure that the funds are disbursed in a way that allows them to perform their due diligence. That is, they have control over how they are spent.

Where then does the “hybrid structure” referred to come into play? Ultimately, the general membership along with the Council and non-BoD entities the general membership has imbued with certain powers, has the ability to control fee levies, and to add or remove mandates given to the corporation via its authority over PGSS rules and regulations. It also, as indicated above, also has control over the composition of the BoD. As such, as long the BoD's ability to effect due diligence is not unlawfully hampered, it is ultimately under the control of non-BoD governance. Further, PGSS tradition affords yet another degree of control: the Council is meant to have the right to control how the corporation spends membership fees, and surpluses from its Business Activities. Previous to 2008, this right what implicitly removed because Business Activities were surreptitiously consuming membership fees. This was in contravention of PGSS rules established by the general membership. Council was not given the ability to truly engage in the budgeting exercise the membership had originally intended. Worse, the Council had no idea that this was the case until the 2008 “surprise deficit” because the different lines of PGSS activities were not separately accounted for. That is, all revenues, business and membership fees alike, were dumped into the same pot, and all costs were shared. This hid the multi-year mismanagement of Business Activities. The damage done has taken several years to repair.

A large part of the result of these financial practices was an ambiguity of the rights and responsibilities of the different governing bodies of the PGSS. The governance divisions go hand in hand with divisions in the rights of control over and responsibilities for administration of funds. Thus, the purpose of this long term project has been to separate accounting of all lines of PGSS activities, and to replace authority over each one with the appropriate governing body. The definitions of Society, Corporate and Business Activities has flowed naturally. Although the BoD has been forced to reaffirm its authority over Corporate Activities, as prescribed by law, we have yet to re-establish the lines of authority that the PGSS Council is meant to have.

The present budget format squarely hands control over all membership controlled revenue and derivatives thereof back into the hands of the PGSS Council. The budget is now structured in such a way that Council decides what Society Activities it wants implemented and how much it is willing to pay for this implementation. This occurs via the Societies Activities budget which must be approved by Council. The costs for the services that the BoD is asked to implement are set out in the Corporate Activities budget which is must be approved by the BoD. Thus, the negotiation of the expenses for Society Activities occurs as a basic transaction where the Council explains what it wants and price is negotiated based on what the Council is willing to pay for implementation, and what the BoD determines the cost to be. In this way, the BoD can incorporate the costs of appropriate planning and consultation services necessary to correctly implement Society Activities while satisfying the Directors' fiduciary duty and requirements for due diligence. Further, although the Council has full control over what it asks the BoD to implement, the BoD is explicitly granted control over how the implementation is effected and managed. Any Society Activities that explicitly involve the corporation in things that affect its contractual obligations, financial management, employment obligations, satisfaction of tax obligations, legal proceedings, changes in capital assets, or legal proceedings, will be paid for by the Society, but managed by the individuals liable for their implementation, namely the BoD.

The budget for PGSS' Business Activities is entirely under the purview of the BoD under the Corporate Activities budget. However, any surpluses generated via Business Activities are transferred in part for
Society Activities budgeting, and in part to a Contingency Fund. Should Business Activities run a deficit, the Council may choose to subsidize those activities, but unlike in the past, this will have to be done explicitly, and with the full knowledge that this is specifically against the will of the general membership both as set out in PGSS rules, and via the mandate given by referendum: Business Activities shall “break even.” Furthermore, this allows the BoD to charge fair market value for implementation of Society Activities, without unduly accumulating the surpluses that arise from the fact that fair market value includes a profit margin. These three items, the creation of the Contingency Fund, the application of fair market value in charging for the implementation of Society Activities, and the Corporate Activities surplus transfers, are very important feature of the new budgeting procedures.

The PGSS should always be in a position to satisfy the obligations it has made to its membership regardless of whether or not the management of Corporate Activities is bungled. The Contingency Fund is designed to buy enough time in that event so that a rational choice can be made as to whether or not the the BoD should be entrusted with management and implementation of Society Activities. The fact that the Council is paying fair market value for that implementation means that at any time, it should be sufficiently financed to “purchase” the services necessary to keep the PGSS running from any combination of third parties that can implement them properly.

With these budgeting practices in place, the purview of PGSS governing bodies is significantly more clearly delineated. Further, the question of how the Council and BoD interact is more clearly defined. The role of the EC is also addressed: in creating the Society Activities budget, the monies that are not transferred to the BoD purview are used in satisfying all of the Society Activities that do not require direct corporate oversight. These monies may, as has always been the case, be allocated by motions of the EC. Given that EC quorum requirements imply the inclusion of at least one member of the BoD in making any decision, there is a direct line of contact between the EC and BoD. Moreover, all transactions are supposed to be monitored by the Vice-President (Finance) who is also a member of the BoD. In the past, these relationships were not sufficient to help avoiding unfortunate situations where potential conflicts between the requirements of corporate governance and the decisions made in non-corporate governance go unaddressed. The new budgeting procedures help to mitigate this problem, but there is more work to be done in implementing reporting procedures between PGSS' governing bodies. This should be addressed in the coming year as PGSS rules undergo a complete revision.

Splitting shared costs

The budget under the purview of the BoD is divided into three sections: Corporate, Business, Society. The reality is that all of the affairs of the PGSS are implemented by staff and with infrastructure that is used by both Society Activities and Business Activities, and should be divided proportionally between the two based on use. Further, the costs of maintaining the corporation itself should be borne by the budget for both lines of activity.

In terms of the affairs required to maintain the corporation (“corporate affairs”), including legal and professional services, and certain legally required bureaucratic costs (e.g. corporate registration and insurances), given that both Society and Business Activities equally rely on the fixed costs associated with maintaining the existence of the corporation, these costs are split equally between the two budgets.

However, in staffing and administering the implementation of Society and Business Activities, there is a difference in the consumption of resources. Several years of trying to nail down the relative consumption has indicated that Business Activities consume the majority. The exact numbers are not yet entirely clear, but estimates suggest a ratio of 1 : 2 (Society Activities : Business Activities) which
Harmonization of budget and financial statements: implementation of fund accounting

At the end of each financial year, the PGSS undergoes an auditing process which produces an end of year financial statement. These statements present the PGSS' financial situation by way of a number of funds for which beginning and end of year balances are presented, along with debits and credits made from and to the funds along a number of lines of activity. In contrast, the PGSS has always been presented with a budget providing no indication that it is engaged in fund accounting, and no clear indication of what happens to surpluses, or where deficits are drawn from at year's end.

Since the budget does not reflect the way our finances are managed, mapping the actual accounting information to the budget in order to give meaningful updates has always been an unnecessarily labour intensive procedure. Equally, mapping between the end of year financial statements and the end of year budget actuals, is a nightmare.

Fortunately, the solution to both of these problems is the same: present the budget in the same format as the end of year financial statements produced by the auditor which maps directly to our financial accounting procedures. There is an added bonus in doing this. We will finally know how much money has been accumulated in (or is missing from) the PGSS' coffer, and we will be able to decide what to do about that. For instance, if we have been accumulating surpluses, we should be able to track that, and perhaps choose to use some of those surpluses for projects. However, if we are running deficits, we should know how that might be affecting our solvency and reliance upon credit instruments. Ultimately, we should be able to create a budget which sets end of year target fund balances and then track our progress to achieving those targets.

In order to make the transition toward fund accounting, the PGSS is being presented with a number of new funds in addition to the old ones. As discussed above, a Contingency Fund has been created, but we are also adding a Daycare Reserve Fund, the referendum required GSLF, and most importantly in terms of functionality, we are splitting what was previously referred to as the Operations Fund into a Societies Activities Fund, and a Corporate Activities Fund.

In the same vein as the discussion above, the split of the Operations Fund implements the division between Society Activities budgeting, and Corporate Activities budgeting, and explicitly identifies all transfers between the two so that they can be controlled under the purview of the body with authority over those funds.

The first step in doing this has been to project all of the PGSS' expenses until the close of the present financial year, add in the end of year balances of restricted funds, and subtract that number from the sum of PGSS' current cash holdings and projected revenues yet to be collected. The result should be the end of year balance of the Operations Fund. Presently, calculations indicate that in the three years since the PGSS' restructuring, we will have accumulated an operational surplus of approximately $380,000. But don't get too excited. Remember that this isn't just the result of prudent management, it's also a result of the failure to spend money allocated to “Society Initiatives” such as the FCP.

Because we have to start somewhere in establishing the Society Activities Fund, Corporate Activities Fund, and Contingency Fund. Thus, in consultation with the PGSS' management staff, we are proposing to set the beginning of year balance target for the Corporate Activities Fund at $75,000. This amount is expected to allow our management staff in conjunction with the Vice-President (Finance) to
minimize our reliance upon credit instruments, and to allow for unexpected budget overruns. The target beginning of year balance for the Contingency Fund shall be maintained at 3.5% of the expected revenue of the PGSS as a whole in the financial year. The remaining amount will be attributed to the inaugural beginning of year balance of the Society Activities Fund. Unlike the Contingency and Corporate Activities Funds which have been given target beginning of year balances, the Society Activities Fund does not. In future years, its beginning of year value will be determined by its end of year balance plus any end of year surpluses above to the target beginning of year balance in the Corporate Activities Fund and plus or minus the amount required to maintain the target beginning of year balance of the Contingency Fund.

The two primary budgets, that for Society Activities and Corporate Activities are then produced with three sections each: revenues, fund transfers, and expenses. Revenues and expenses are attributed to the appropriate funds, with fund access within each budget restricted by the purview of the governing body responsible for the fund. Similarly, another section allows for transfers between funds with similar restrictions. For instance, only the Society Activities budget can debit from the Society Activities Fund, or the Library Improvement Fund, and only the Corporate Activities budget can debit from the Corporate Activities Fund, or the Capital Assets Fund. As we transition towards this new budgeting format we will need to adjust restrictions to funds following the rationale presented here. For instance, since the Library Improvement Fund entails contractual obligations, how and under which body's purview should its budget be managed and restricted? Consider that the fee levy for the Library Improvement Fund is controlled by the general membership by way of the Council, but its implementation involves corporate activities which are under the jurisdiction of the BoD. Note that had we treated the FCP with this rationale, we might have avoided the troubles we have had to deal with this year. The same will need to be considered as we resolve similar issues with the TFSS.

Finally, the PGSS Special Projects budget which must be jointly approved by the Council and BoD, delineates “one off” expenses for the implementation of projects that will not necessarily be maintained in the PGSS' standard budget. For instance, this year, we plan to invest in an archive project that will incur a one time cost of $13,000 this year.

Now that the new budget has been explained, we turn our attention to what is being budgeted for this year.

Society Activities old and new

You will likely note that some of the elements present in the old budget no longer appear in the same form in the new budget. Similarly, there are several new items that are present. Here we will explain the changes, and also indicate how funding has been changed.

• In the old revenues sections
  ○ Designated Grants has been eliminated. Usually, the designated grant is a small contractual obligation from ASEQ which is now entirely reflected in the Health and Dental Plan Insurance Fund.
  ○ Insurance Administration is now lumped into the transfer of the entire cost of administrating the Health and Dental Plan to the Societies Activities Fund (which contributes to the Corporate Activities Fund transfers for the implementation of PGSS Services).
  ○ Fee Collection Service no longer exists as all PGSA fees have been eliminated by the University and the PGSS will now be implementing the GSLF.
CGSS transfer has been converted to a fund transfer from the TFSS to the Society Activities fund, most of which is used directly in the implementation of the Student Support Programme, but part of which is included in the transfer to the Corporate Activities Fund for the administration of the fund.

Other still exists, but it no longer contains the funds the PGSS receives from the University for the administration of the government's General Alliance Accident Insurance program. That amount is now specifically indicated as Society Activities Fund revenue, and is incorporated into the transfer to the Corporate Activities Fund. Other is now set to zero as we have attempted to attribute all expected sources of revenue specifically. In this way, if there is unexpected revenue, we should be able to easily identify it and its source.

**In the old expenses sections**

- The Council discretionary fund has been eliminated because it is almost never used. Further, given the present rationale, it doesn't make sense for the Council to be directly controlling PGSS' spending via allocation procedures.
- Since we received so many complaints about the food at Council this year, the budget is being increased to improve food quality and quantity.
- The budget for Travel Awards has been brought down to a value a bit above what it was the 2009-2010 budget. Last year we decided to increase the Travel Awards budget, but the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS) has failed to claim even the money we usually gave them in years previous, let alone this year's amount which is five times more than that. Further, GPS is making noises about removing funding for the PGSS/GPS Grants Programme.
- The PGSS no longer collects fees for CFS so those lines have been eliminated.
- Cooperative Research with FEUQ has been replaced by simply Research with the same budgeted amount.
- Researcher/Archivist has been replaced by Researcher and the budget increased to reflect a half-time employment position for which funds are transferred to the Corporate Activities Fund for implementation.
- Society Legal has been replaced with Professional Service Consultation and the budget. This Society Activities line is only to be used for consultation, and may not be used to take legal action on behalf of the corporation. To do that, the BoD must be transferred funds and must implement the legal action.
- Recognition Referendum has been eliminated as the initiative will not be implemented. The Council choose to pursue this, it must take into consideration the extreme draw on human resources required in comparison with the benefits of accrediting the PGSS, and if it goes forward, must budget for this in the Special Projects Budget with BoD approval since it changes the legal status of the corporation.
- Referendum to consider joining FEUQ was a one time expense and it has been eliminated as a line item.
- Charitable Events has been decreased since its current use only occurred after it was pointed out near the end of the year that there was money left. Further, its current use is not for what it was originally intended. Originally, this line was meant to subsidize charitable events occurring at Thomson House so that the PGSS administration would be able to give charities price breaks. Although this didn't occur because of neglect, the PGSS management has indicated that they still receive these request. Thus, the funding will be included (albeit at a reduced level compared with last year), with the restriction that these monies be used for the purpose of subsidizing charitable organization access to Thomson House.
- CFS Referendum Legal Expenses has been converted into a Corporate Activities Fund transfer bundled into Professional and Legal Services. This is how the PGSS must go forward in
managing its legal proceedings under the purview of the BoD which is responsible for the corporation's legal matters. Although this amount is not expected to be used in the lead up the CFS trial, there are no guarantees given the history of the CFS and the PGSS needs to remain prepared to defend the rights of its members.

○ Recognized PGSS PGSA Core Funding Initiative has been replaced with a transfer from the GSLF of a lower amount to be used in implementing the PGSA funding initiative.

○ Support fund for graduate and post-doc student parents has been replaced with FCP to reflect the change in the notion of family care from only concerning care for children to concerning care for all family. This is listed under the Special Projects budget since the program implementation is still in flux. Its funding has been maintained.

○ Student Parent Activities is now listed in the Special Projects budget since its implementation is also under flux. It's name has been changed to Family Care Events for the reason listed in the previous point, and its funding has been maintained.

○ Maternity Leave Pilot Project has been eliminated. The money that was originally budgeted for this initiative has been put towards the Special Project of establishing a Daycare Reserve Fund for the purpose of implementing a PGSS Daycare Programme.

○ Separate Executive portfolio budgets have been eliminated and replaced with an agglomerated executive portfolio budget. The division of portfolio allocations will be made after the incoming Executive team has had an opportunity to plan their year's activities. Allocations will be made by EC motion after the presentation of a budget by each Executive. Although this isn't codified, it is sensible and we will try it this year. In this way, all Executives will have a clear idea of the year's plans, and won't be saddled with the burden of constantly allocating specific funds from each Executive portfolio. This was not the practice in the past, and I'm not quite sure where it came from or why.

○ The budget for Executive Retreats has been increased to a level commensurate with years previous to the 2008 PGSS financial crisis. The retreat is a very important team building exercise given that the PGSS does not elect its officers on a slate and team harmony needs to be established by other means.

○ Travel and Conference budget has been slightly increased given the increased costs of travel and the PGSS' more accurate understanding of the costs associated with participation in FEUQ's meetings.

○ Executive Special Projects has been increased to reflect the elimination of several line items and the decrease in certain budget elements (e.g. Society Legal, Charitable events, etc.).

- In the old Board Responsible budget sections

○ Society Service Staff and Benefits lines have been replaced with Staff and made into a transfer to the Corporate Activities Fund for implementation. The amount has been significantly increased to reflect the assumption of the partial staff costs incurred in administering Society Activities previously assumed entirely in Business Activities, and addition of the half-time researcher, half-time translation services, mini-course instructors, and full-time Graduate Student Life Coordinator who will be responsible for ensuring knowledge of, access to, and use of the GSLF by PGSSAs.

○ Expenses previously listed under the BoD responsible budget are now located under the Corporate Activities budget. All items have been maintained in roughly the same form and budgeted based on this year's projections (see attached budget projections), but details have been increased, and cost sharing between the implementation of Society Activities and Business Activities has been enforced as described above.

○ The Thomson House expense budget is largely maintained under the Special Projects budget and the Corporate Activities budget. As such details are increased with respect to Business and
Corporate Activities, and capital investment.

- **New items in the Society Activities budget**
  - The revenues section now lists all of the fees that the general membership has control over via Council regulated referenda.
  - Investment revenues for funds implementing Society Activities are now attributed to the appropriate funds as opposed to lumped into the former Operations Fund.
  - Revenues from all Society Activities, even if they “break even” are listed as well as the costs associated with implementation of those activities.
  - Recovery refers to revenue generated when a recipient of Tier 1 TFSS support wins their legal case and pays us back for the legal fees.
  - Translation services is a major concern for the PGSS. We have a sizable francophone membership, and we are now members of a largely francophone organization (FEUQ). PGSS regularly needs to translate documents between official languages, both documents we produce, and those produced by organizations that support Society Activities, and in attending meetings, the PGSS often requires simultaneous translation. Therefore, a significant allocation has been made for the engagement of professional translation services.
  - As indicated above, a new expense is being recorded in the implementation of Society Activities: the market cost of Thomson House use. This appears quite high, but one must bear in mind that the PGSS gives free room access to all members, and that the surpluses in Corporate Activities arising from this cost are directed back for the funding of Society Activities. The rationale for this is described above.
  - We will now be offering free equipment rentals along with free room bookings to its members.
  - We are budgeting for the implementation of campaigns in support of its outreach, advocacy and representation activities. Similarly we are now budgeting for mobilization so that we can get our members involved in voicing themselves on matters which affect member life and learning.
  - In being a very active member of the student organizing in Canada, the PGSS is often asked to support its partners when they find themselves unexpectedly under attack by opponents of our joint interests. For instance, in 2008 when AGSEM was negotiating its collective agreement with McGill, the PGSS should have been able to provide significant support to this critical ally.
  - The GSLF, its staffing and administration are now budgeted for in preparation for programme implementation.

- **New items in the Corporate Activities budget**
  - Both revenues and costs are now more broken down so that there is a clear ability to monitor Corporate Activities and allow the Board of Directors to enforce Business Activity standards (e.g. cost of goods sold and labour costs in various lines of activities).
  - Corporate Activities surpluses are used to maintain the Contingency Fund and the remainder is transferred back for Society Activities funding.
  - Salaries and corporate affairs expenses are split (as described above) between the Society and Business Activities budgets.
  - All monies required to satisfy contractual agreements arising from Society Activities are reflected in the Corporate Activities (as described above).

*Programme funding*

Although funding has been maintained for the FCP and Student Support Programme, the administration of these funds will be shifted in the coming year due to errors previously made in their implementation which violate corporate regulations governing the PGSS. Several meetings with University
administrators, consultation with legal counsel, and coordination with the Family Care and Student Support Commissioners has presented two viable options:

1. Pay approximately $10,000 for the legal procedures necessary in order for the PGSS to maintain total control over the disbursement programmes and modify PGSS rules governing their implementation; or
2. Endow funds with the Department of Alumni Relations which will create two new bursary programs administered by Student Services (under Financial Aid) with contractual agreements enforcing PGSS criteria for fund disbursement, periodic reporting to the PGSS of funding decisions and disbursements, and periodic PGSS moderated appeals to funding decisions.

Both the Family Care Commissioner and the Student Support Commissioner seem to be in favour of option 2 as it will relieve them and their committees of the excessively onerous task of assessing need, something which Financial Aid is more than capable of doing with their present infrastructure. Further, it appears as though the University will not charge us for the implementation of this service since it fits with their present operations. There is even a possibility (albeit remote) that the University might contribute some (at least partially) matching funds.

Implementation of the GSLF is going to be very difficult. An analysis of how this might work has been drafted and submitted to the EC for preliminary review. I've also met with University administrators multiple times to enlist their support in planning the mitigation of the various liabilities associated with providing funds to PGSAs that are not legal entities, and to plan the creation of a PGSS portal for facilitating PGSA event planning outside of Thomson House for which new University rules and regulations in accessing its infrastructure are being put in place. For the purpose of implementing the GSLF, funds have been set aside to hire a Graduate Student Life Coordinator (see above), and plans have begun for what will likely be PGSS administration of all PGSA financing, turn key event planning services, and implementation of liability mitigation (e.g. issuing event insurance).

Special projects

Given the newly created access to PGSS surpluses in this year's budgeting exercise, we are taking the opportunity to implement a number of major projects that have been waiting for several years. The Special Projects budget is special area of partnership in purview. This is the place where the BoD and non-BoD governing bodies can collaborate to test out new initiatives that must satisfy corporate governance regulations while meeting non-corporate objectives. This is also the place where the Council can mandate major capital investments. As such, the Special Projects budget will require both the approval of the Council and the BoD. Here are the projects on the slate this year:

- **Finalization of the archiving and document management project**
  This involves hiring a company to digitizes the more than 90,000 pages of PGSS' historical archives (which we already invested in organizing), incorporating them and our digital records into a document management system, and finding a permanent storage space for our paper records. We have already received a proposal from a well respected archive management company who has assessed our needs. The cost of satisfying our archive project requirements as met by the proposal is budgeted.

- **Information Technology project**
  Although the PGSS website has been updated, the content management system is not properly instantiated which is resulting in problems organizing and maintaining website content. We also have a multifaceted organization, governance administration, and communication problem which diminishes the effectiveness of our operations and membership communications. The PGSS also suffers from
major administration problems that are absorbing an inappropriate amount of human resources which are subsequently not available for the support of PGSS officers. The IT project seeks to develop computer systems that will resolve a number of these issues. The project is already underway and the company which is preparing the system proposal is in the process of requirement elicitation. The maximum cost of this multi-year project, including a long term service agreement as estimated by the company is budgeted.

- **Macdonald Campus shuttle**
  A persistent problem for PGSS members who study at the Macdonald Campus is access to the downtown campus. In discussion with the President of the MCGSS, we have a tentative plan to implement a summer shuttle service with priority for PGSS members. However, since our initial investigations, the possibility of implementing a year-round shuttle service at peak times only (e.g. early morning and evening) has arisen. Funds have been budgeted for this possible project.

- **Investment in simultaneous translation equipment**
  As described above, the PGSS frequently requires simultaneous translation when its members attend meetings. When there are multiple attendees, if we are going to pay for translation services, we need to be able to broadcast them to all participants and this requires a capital investment in equipment.

- **Offices for PGSS governance**
  The PGSS is the only student union of its size not to have offices where those participating in its governance and administration (e.g. Executives, BoD, Commissioners, Committee members, and dedicated staff) can work and meet, complete with basic office equipment. Upon completion of the archiving project, the approximately 1,000 square foot Coach House adjacent to Thomson House will be renovated to provide these offices. This is a major capital investment.

- **Health and Dental Insurance Plan premium reduction or stabilization**
  Due to awkward timing of the PGSS' request for a review of its insurance plan's underwriter, a fee was levied from PGSS members which was in excess of the plan's cost. This surplus has been retained and, coupled with an additional investment, can be used in one of several ways to either stabilize or lower the Health Dental Insurance Plan Premiums by altering the plan's financing model. Funds have been set aside based on ASEQ's estimate of the maximum requirements for implementing any of these options while their feasibility are investigated. A preliminary proposal will likely be made available next month.

- **Public Computers**
  The public computers available at Thomson House are old and failing. They will be replaced with three new computers.

- **Special Events**
  As indicated in the last CMA report to Council, a decision was taken to maintain funding of the Science and Policy Exchange. The funds reserved for Special Events reflect this commitment, with additional room for increased funding compared to last year.

- **Thomson House meeting room equipment**
  Now that Thomson Room equipment will be freely available, we want it to be really good equipment. Money has been set aside to install Smartboards in all of the meeting rooms.

- **Council governance system**
  The Alma Mater Society of the University of British Columbia has designed a software suite for the governance of large deliberative bodies. Money has been set aside for the maximum estimated cost of a single year licence so that we might test it.

- **Baby changing station**
  At the request of the Family Care Commissioner, a baby changing station will be installed in Thomson House.

- **Sustainability initiatives**
At the request of the Vice-President (Internal), monies have been set aside for the implementation of sustainability initiatives. Since these will likely affect infrastructure as well as operations, the cost has been split between the Thomson House fund, and the Society Activities Fund.

**Appendix 2 – 2010-2011 Budget Projections (attached)**

In this Council package, you will find projections for the end of year values of the 2010-2011 budget line items. This budget update is provided to contextualize the amounts provided in the preliminary 2011-2012 budget. The amounts listed are only projections (estimates) and should be treated as such. For the sake of consistency, this year's budget actuals will be provided in the same old format. This document (and likely that submitted along with the final PGSS budget next month) should be used in comparing this year's budget to next year's.
President’s Report May 2011
Submitted to Council by Alexandra Bishop

Meetings Attended in April:

University Representation
• Meeting with Deputy Provost Student Life and Learning: April 12th
• Food and Dining Advisory Committee: April 7th
• Graduate Advisory Committee: April 11th

Senate
• Senate Steering Committee: April 12th

Board of Governors
• BOG Executive Committee meeting: April 18th
• Joint Senate Steering-BOG Executive meeting: April 18th

Executive
• Executive Meeting: March 31st
• Executive Commissioner Caucus Meeting: March 24th

PGSS Activities
• GG13 Conference: April 28th-May 1st
• Post Doc Press conference with FEUQ: April 5th

Important Upcoming Dates
I have listed the following important meetings that I will be attending in May. If you have any issues that you would like me to address at these meetings please don’t hesitate to contact me.

University Representation
• Bravo Event: May 5th

Senate
• Senate Steering Committee: May 11th
• Senate Nominating Committee: May 4th
• Senate: May 18th

Board of Governors
• Building and Property Committee: May 19th
• Transition meeting with Board Member, PGSS and SSMU: May 9th, May 10th, May 11th, May 16th, May 17th,
Executive

- Executive Meeting: May 12th, May 26th
- Executive Commissioner Caucus Meeting: May 19th

PGSS Activities

- Board of Directors: May 3rd
- Student Leaders Workshop: May 13th
- PSAC: May 17th
- Council Appreciation Night: May 20th
Elections Commissioner Report for May 2011 Council Meeting:

On April 6th 2011 in-council elections were held for six commissioner positions.

Congratulations to the newly elected commissioners:

1. Equity Commissioner: Sara Houshmad
2. Student Support Commissioner: Lena Palacios
3. Health Commissioner: Elizabeth Cawley
4. Family Care Commissioner: Irina Pivneva
5. Council Commissioner: Jonathan Mooney
6. Elections Commissioner: Tarek Hamade

The term for the elected commissioners begins on June 1st 2011 with the exception of the Health Commissioner whose term has begun on April 7th 2011. They are elected for a 12 months term.

Respectfully,

Tarek Hamade

PGSS Elections Commissioner
Equity Commissioner’s Report to Council – April 2011

1. MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS:
   i. April 4th: Equity Committee meeting
   ii. April 6th: Meeting with Joan Butterworth, Leadership Training Facilitator with the Leadership Training Program - First-Year Office, to give recommendations on integrating equity issues into the “Leading Effective Discussions” workshop.

2. PROJECTS:
   i. The EqC prepared the content for the PGSS website. We are now waiting on the web developer to make necessary revisions.
   ii. Diversifying PGSS events: We contacted student groups to solicit feedback, however, no one replied. We are looking into other avenues for student input.
   iii. Provided feedback to Family Care Commissioner on making events family-friendly
Dear Councillors,

I am very excited to submit my first report as Health Commissioner. Below is a summary of activities over the past month. Also note, Pauline L'Ecuyer, manager of International Student Services, will be at our May Council meeting to take questions and comments on international student issues.

Meetings:

April 12th - Meeting with VP Finance

April 18th - Committee for Student Services (cancelled)

May 2nd - Exec-Commissioner Caucus

Communication:

April 11-13 - communication with ASEQ re: updating ihaveaplan.ca website.

April - communication with previous Health Commissioner on transition information.

April 20 - email update to HAWC on advisory board seats (who currently sits on what boards and who will be continuing in 2011-2012).

April - discussion with Service & Admin Coordinator regarding development of a Health Commissioner website.

Late April - communication with previous Health Commissioner and Exec regarding student complaint.

Seats available:

Health and Wellness Committee (1 seat beginning May; 1 seat beginning June)

Advisory Committee on International Health Insurance (1 seat currently vacant)

Other:

Clarity of information related to the PGSS Health and Dental Plan is a problem I will work to fix in the upcoming year. As a first step, the ihaveaplan.ca website has been updated to clearly outline restrictions related to dental work (specifically, bridges). HAWC will be working over the summer to develop more effective and clearer means to deliver information related to our insurance coverage. Comments or suggestions from council members on this matter will be welcome and appreciated!
First of all I have to thank the volunteers of the IAC and staff of Thomson House, without whom I could have never done my job. The current VP Internal though I find very hard to work with, since the VP Internal can take very long time to reply to my emails and calls and in my eyes has a definition of what are the Social Commissioner’s responsibilities and the VP’s responsibilities strongly varying from our constitution.

This is my first report, since at the last deadline for submitting my report the council; I had not been elected for a full month.

Here is a list of things I have done since I was elected Social Commissioner:

- Coordinate a Trivia night, which includes making up questions with the volunteers of the IAC, and promoting the event on Facebook.
- Promote St. Patrick’s day Party on Facebook
- Coordinate a Sugar Shack trip with staff, promoting it on Facebook, and with Posters going on the trip as leader.
- Promote End of Term Party using Facebook, Posters, and Fliers.
- Promote Casino Night on Facebook.
- Coordinate Registration of Softball league with Staff, coming up with an adapted rule set for 2011, take care of the “day to day business”, e.g. answering questions via email, and promote the event on Facebook. Coordinate with staff about the Captains meeting.
- Promote the Ottawa trip on Facebook.
- Plan a second trivial night for the 10th of May, promoting it on Facebook.
- Attend IAC meetings and meetings with individual PGSS members to plan future events.

Some notes for future improvement of events:

- Sugar Shack trip: We should choose a different Shack next time, LA GOUDRELLE is a very big and efficient business; something smaller might be nice next time.
- Trivia Night: We definitely need the ballroom for Trivia night, since it is a well attended event and it is easier to use the Sound system.
- General Events: Anything close to exam period seems to have the danger of being poorly attended.

Upcoming events, please attend and tell your friends!!!!:
- Trivia Night 10. Mai · 18:30. Partially revised question style, great fun, great prices!!!
- Day trip to Ottawa 15. Mai · 07:00 - 19:00
- Softball league registration ends 4th of Mai.
- BBQ at Thomson house mid May, check the Facebook group!!!
The Family Care Committee is very pleased that committee member Irina Pivneva is to be the new Family Care Commissioner for the 2011-2012. We know she will do an excellent job as commissioner, and I look forward to continue working for the benefit of PGSS members and their families as a member of the committee with her in charge.

The committee organized two activities in April. The first activity was a discussion on the proposed University guidelines for students caring for dependents. We would like to thank everyone who came out to help us understand what is important and what issues you’d like to see the guidelines address.

The issue of daycare accessibility continues to come up. Unlike some of the other issues that those of us caring for children have to face, such as a lack of changing tables around both campuses (when made aware of this, the University administration instantly agreed to install them around the campuses, and even agreed to cover the expense; the PGSS is extremely grateful for this), the creation of more daycare spaces is something the University has said they do not consider a priority. However, the PGSS recognizes that this is an issue of accessibility, and is committed to creating more spaces reserved for graduate and post-doctoral students so they are able to come back to work after their maternity or paternity leave has ended.

The second activity which we organized was a CPR course with an emphasis on administering first aid to infants and children. I’m happy to report that there was huge interest among PGSS members for this class. As well, many people (including me) took advantage of the free childcare we offered in conjunction with the class. This is definitely something we are going to be organizing again in the future. Ultimately, we would like to offer this class several times per semester, including at least once in the Macdonald campus. The Family Care Committee would like to thank Anna O'Kelly and Naomi Robert, the instructors, for the wonderful job they did creating the course for us.

In closing, the VP-Finance and I are continuing to work towards a solution to the problem which prevented us from distributing the funds allocated for the support of families of PGSS members. We met with Judy Stymest this month to discuss the possibility of setting up a restricted fund through the McGill financial aid office. We hope to be able to pull together with them in order to allow the support to get to the people for whom it was intended.

Hadley Myers, Family Care Commissioner
May 4, 2011
General Comments

As of the time of the meeting, the PGSS/GPS Grants Programme had allocated $37,673 for event funding. The total budget for grant allocations this year is $36,600. Funding previously allocated for one grant (Grant ID 10-11-56) for a total of $225 has been de-allocated. The GRC is allowed to allocate 15% more than the budgeted amount because, despite allocations, recipients often do not use the total amount of money offered. The total possible allocations for the year are thus $42,090. Therefore, there remains $4,642 from which the GRC can allocate funds. To allow for equal opportunity to grant applicants in the remaining months of the PGSS' financial year, the GRC decided to allocate the remaining funds almost equally across the 2 remaining months in the present fiscal year. Consequently, we chose to allocate approximately $2,325 this month (that's $4 more than a clean split between the two months because it makes the math a bit easier – see below).

This month, the GRC had 8 grant applications to review: 5 new applications, and the 3 applications delayed from the previous month. Of the 8 applications reviewed, we decided to allocate funding to 3 of them, to request additional information from 2 of the grant applicants for review next month. The remaining 3 applications were rejected. The rationale for these decisions is summarized in the tables below.

Since we the amount we decided to allocate this month is insufficient to fund all 3 accepted applications to the maximum amount, the GRC decided to use the similar prioritization procedures as those employed last month (based on the rules in the governing regulation) to sort applications into 3 priority levels: high, medium, and low. There was 1 application deemed high priority, 0 medium priority, and 2 low priority, as described in the table below. Where X [$] is the base fund allocation unit, a high priority application was allocated 3X, medium priority was allocated 2X, and low priority was allocated X. Therefore, X was calculated as $2,325 / 5 = $465 such that the high priority application would receive $1,395, and the low priority applications would receive $465. However, the amount for the high priority grant is in excess of the $800 required cap on recommended funding. Council has the choice to exceed this cap and so the GRC is asking Council to decide between the funding options presented below.

The GRC recommends that Council adopt funding option 4 (italicized in the table below). This month is exceptional in the number of accepted applications. Next month, we anticipate a higher number. In the past months, the GRC has established consistent funding decision procedures, and we would like to maintain them. In previous months, due to the volume of applications, we have recommended maintaining the $800 cap on event funding set by regulation. We have regularly resisted the urge to recommend additional funding for events that really would have benefited from it because we have been aiming at maintaining equal access to funding throughout the PGSS financial year. As such, just because we have experienced an unusually low number of accepted applications this month, that shouldn't result in an effective retroactive penalization of applicants accepted in previous months. Similarly, we believe that the prioritization scheme we apply fairly implements the prioritization considerations set out by regulation, and appropriately restricted funds for events which do not, as such,
merit a high degree of funding. With an eye to the future, it would be unfair to toss out the prioritization method simply because this month's applicants happen to have applied at a lucky time.

**Accepted Applications**

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<th>Rationale &amp; Comments</th>
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<td>10-11-59</td>
<td>• High priority</td>
<td>Opt. 1: $1,395.00</td>
<td>May 26, 2011</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• High # of PGSS participants</td>
<td>Opt. 2: $800.00</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Event occurs on campus</td>
<td>Opt. 3: $800.00</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Event organized by a recognized GSA</td>
<td>Opt. 4: $800.00</td>
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<td>• Low priority</td>
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<td>September 11, 2011</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Low # of PGSS participants</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Event not organized by a recognized GSA</td>
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<td>10-11-70</td>
<td>• Low priority</td>
<td>Opt. 1: $465.00</td>
<td>September 11, 2011</td>
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<td>• Low # of PGSS participants</td>
<td>Opt. 2: $762.50</td>
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<td>• Event occurs off-campus</td>
<td>Opt. 3: $800.00</td>
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<td>• Event not organized by a recognized GSA</td>
<td>Opt. 4: $465.00</td>
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**Total**

|           | Opt. 1: $2,325.00 |
|           | Opt. 2: $2,325.00 |
|           | Opt. 3: $2,400.00 |
|           | Opt. 4: $1,730.00 |

**Delayed Applications**

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<tr>
<th>Grant ID</th>
<th>Rationale &amp; Comments</th>
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| 10-11-51 | • Third time this grant is being delayed. The last request for information was answered, but it is incomplete  
|          | • Application incomplete  
|          | • Section identifying budget items for which PGSS is asked for funding is incomplete  
|          | • Upon submission of complete application, event to be given low funding priority:  
|          |   ◦ Low # of PGSS participants  
|          |   ◦ Event occurs on campus  
|          |   ◦ Event not organized by a recognized GSA  
| 10-11-68 | • Application incomplete  
|          | • Section identifying budget items for which PGSS is asked for funding is incomplete  
|          | • Upon submission of complete application, event to be given medium funding priority:  
|          |   ◦ High # of PGSS participants  
|          |   ◦ Event occurs on campus  
|          |   ◦ Event not organized by a recognized GSA  

Rejected Applications

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Grant ID</th>
<th>Rationale &amp; Comments</th>
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</table>
| 10-11-62 | • Application incomplete  
|          | • Event date will have passed by the time of the next GRC meeting |
| 10-11-66 | • Requesting entity is an SSMU club or service  
|          | • Event date has passed |
| 10-11-67 | • No PGSS member is involved in the organization of the event |

Special Considerations

The GRC would like to thank Lindsay Wiginton, the applicant for accepted grant with ID 10-11-56. Having received sufficient funding for the event such that PGSS funding would not be required, the applicant requested the de-allocation of the funds reserved by the GRC and Council.

Changes to Procedures and Regulations

In its report to Council last month, the GRC had submitted motions for the consideration of Council which appear in this month's Council meeting agenda. In order to fine tune allocation procedures, we would like to withdraw the first of those motions so that we may deliberate for the remainder of the financial year.
Report of the Nominating Committee

April 28, 2011, 19h
Present: Council Commissioner Daniel Simeone (Non-voting), Matthew Corbett, Rona Strasser, Erin Dodd, Finn Upham

The Nominating Committee considered two applications, and conducted an interview for a position on the PGSS Board of Directors.

The Nominating Committee is happy to recommend to Council that:

Laura Risk be appointed to the Family Care Committee
Laura Labonte be appointed to the Equity Committee, the Health & Wellness Committee, and to the PGSS Environment Committee.

The Nominating Committee is happy to recommend to the Board of Directors that Martin Lennox be appointed to the Board.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Type</th>
<th>2011 Revenues</th>
<th>2011 Budget</th>
<th>2012 Budget</th>
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**PGSS BUDGET 2011-2012**

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<th>Net Fund Transfers</th>
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**Beginning of Year Fund Balance**: $4,097

**End of Year Fund Balance**: $71,110
## Society Budget 2011-2012

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<th>Health &amp; Dental Insurance Plan Fund</th>
<th>Graduat e Student Life Fund</th>
<th>Trust Fund for Student Support</th>
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**FUND EXPENSES**

| 325,253 | 136,000 | 10,000 | - | - | - | 471,253 |

**NET CHANGE IN FUND DUE TO SOCIETY ACTIVITIES**

| 67,597 | 2,195,000 | (25,000) | 6,000 | (3,800) | 145,000 | 35,000 | 2,419,767 |
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### NET CHANGE IN FUND DUE TO SPECIAL PROJECTS

| (303,500) | 8,000 | 130,000 | - | - | - | (74,000) | 114,000 | - | - | (125,500) |
## PGSS Corporate Budget 2011-2012

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POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS’ SOCIETY OF McGill University

Minutes for the Council Meeting of
Wednesday, April 6, 2011, 18h30

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 members 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 Bylaw 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.
Main 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.

(President/ C. Ulmer)

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
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 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.