



## Agenda

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**Post Graduate Students Society of McGill University**

3650 McTavish Street, Montreal, Quebec

2015-09-16 - Agenda - September 16th Council Meeting

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# 1 Approval of the agenda

## 1.1 Applications sent from the Appointments Board Committee for Approval

Committee	Applicant	Status
International Students Caucus	<a href="#">Sukhmanpreet Kaur</a>	Approved
International Students Caucus	<a href="#">Abhishek Kumar</a>	Approved
Environment Committee	<a href="#">Abhishek Kumar</a>	Approved
Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee 2015-2016	<a href="#">Darren Neil Wagner</a>	Approved
Research Advisory Council	<a href="#">Ashley Chin</a>	Approved
Committee on Student Discipline 2015-2016	<a href="#">Ashley Chin</a>	Approved
Sustainability Committee	<a href="#">Colleen Cranmer</a>	Approved
Sustainability Committee	<a href="#">Lucian Moreira</a>	Approved
Health and Wellness Committee	<a href="#">Isabelle Scantland Lebel</a>	Approved
Food and Dining Advisory Committee	<a href="#">Isabelle Scantland Lebel</a>	Approved
Council of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies	<a href="#">Hao Yu Chen</a>	Approved
Environment Committee	<a href="#">Simon Giuseppe James Dobri</a>	Approved
Science Faculty Council	<a href="#">Kyle Michael Lewis</a>	Approved
International Students Caucus	<a href="#">Omar Shash</a>	Approved
Health and Wellness Committee	<a href="#">Rackeb Tesfaye</a>	Approved
Committee for Member Support	<a href="#">William Weiqian Liu</a>	Approved
3 Minutes to Change the World	<a href="#">Robert Shawn Cabral Amaral</a>	Approved
Ad-Hoc Mental Health Policy Working Group	<a href="#">Mina Naz Anadolu</a>	Approved
Committee on Student Services 2015-2016	<a href="#">Avik Ghoshdastidar</a>	Approved
Environment Committee	<a href="#">Avik Ghoshdastidar</a>	Approved
Equity Committee	<a href="#">Frédéric Armstrong</a>	Approved
Arts Faculty Council	<a href="#">Mark Mazumdar</a>	Approved
APC Subcommittee on Professional Programs	<a href="#">Mark Mazumdar</a>	Approved
APC Subcommittee on Courses & Teaching Programs	<a href="#">Elizabeth Joy Nash</a>	Approved
APC Subcommittee on Teaching and Learning	<a href="#">Elizabeth Joy Nash</a>	Approved
Internal Affairs Committee	<a href="#">Katherine Elizabeth Joy Hales</a>	Approved
Ad-Hoc Mental Health Policy Working Group	<a href="#">Wing Hoi Poon</a>	Approved
Health and Wellness Committee	<a href="#">Haley Charlotte Abugov</a>	Approved
Health and Wellness Committee	<a href="#">Sophie Katrina Huddart</a>	Approved
Health and Wellness Committee	<a href="#">Yau-Lok Austin Ong</a>	Approved
Health and Wellness Committee	<a href="#">Mei-Ni Belzile</a>	Approved



## **2 Approval of the minutes**

## **3 Speaker's report**

## **4 Announcements**

### **4.1 Student Parent Orientation (Sept. 17th)**

If you are a student parent, please see the Orientation invitation below and let us know if you can attend! The 1st Annual Student Parent Orientation will take place on September 17th, 2015 from 10am – 1:30pm in the Madeleine Parent & Lev Bukhman located on the 2nd floor of the SSMU building. This Orientation will include important information for students with family responsibilities, an interactive panel discussion with student parents who have been there and short presentations from the various resources you can access on campus. A free lunch will be provided. RSVP here: [https://www.mcgill.ca/equity\\_diversity/students/family-care/1st-annual-student-parent-orientation](https://www.mcgill.ca/equity_diversity/students/family-care/1st-annual-student-parent-orientation)

[Student Parent Orientation \(Sept. 17th\)](#)

### **4.2 Consent week (Sept 28th to Oct 2nd)**

[Consent week \(Sept 28th to Oct 2nd\)](#)

### **4.3 Fighting Sexual Violence by becoming an Active Bystander - the Workshop (Oct 6th)**

You have attended consent week and wonder what you can do to fight sexual violence? Learn to identify and intervene in potentially harmful situations by taking this active bystander workshop. This evidence-based program provides the skills and knowledge to intervene safely and educate peers on the different aspects of sexual violence.

[Fighting Sexual Violence by becoming an Active Bystander - the Workshop \(Oct 6th\) \(\)](#)

[Fighting Sexual Violence by becoming an Active Bystander - the Workshop \(Oct 6th\) \(\)](#)

### **4.4 Social Equity & Diversity Education Office (SEDE) 10th BBQ (Oct 1st)**

In 2015, SEDE is celebrating our 10th anniversary! To commemorate this milestone, we are reflecting on our first ten years, and looking forward toward the future of equity and diversity at McGill. We invite all



students, staff, and faculty to celebrate with us at a free barbecue being held from 12-2 during Community Engagement Day (October 1st) on lower field. RSVP here: [http://www.mcgill.ca/equity\\_diversity/sede-10th-anniversary-rsvp-form](http://www.mcgill.ca/equity_diversity/sede-10th-anniversary-rsvp-form)

[Social Equity & Diversity Education Office \(SEDE\) 10th BBQ \(Oct 1st\)](#)

#### **4.5 Call for the Creation of Referendum Committees & Call for Referendum Questions**

The CRO is calling on councillors to bring forth referendum questions for the Autumn by-election. This officer is also calling on members, including councillors, to volunteer to join referendum committees.

#### **4.6 Announcement: SLC Maternity Leave Replacement**

As many of you may know, Jacinthe, our Student Life Coordinator, will be leaving on maternity leave at the end of September. Mirka Rasoanilana will be filling the Student Life Coordinator position this year so you will all see her around council and in the office. Please say hi and make her feel welcomed!

### **5 Lottery for Appointments Board**

### **6 Business Arising**

### **7 Reports**

#### **7.1 Quarterly Financial report**

Here is the 3-month update of the actual expenses.

[2015-09-09 Quarterly Financial report](#)

#### **7.2 FAO report to the council, September 2015**

Here is my monthly report to the council and also the new template of the budget that I promised to deliver.

[2015-09-09 FAO report to the council, September 2015 \(\)](#)

[2015-09-09 FAO report to the council, September 2015 \(\)](#)



### **7.3 Equity Commissioner Report**

[2015-09-08 Equity Commissioner Report](#)

### **7.4 Member Support Commissioner Report**

- Discussions about on-going Member Legal Support Fund (MLSF) application from July
- New MLSF application approved (August)
- Orientation events!

[2015-09-09 Member Support Commissioner Report](#)

### **7.5 2015-09-16\_HealthCommissioner\_Report\_September\_Council**

[2015-09-09 2015-09-16\\_HealthCommissioner\\_Report\\_September\\_Council](#)

### **7.6 2015-09-16 Environment Commissioner Council Report**

[2015-09-09 2015-09-16 Environment Commissioner Council Report](#)

### **7.7 2015-09-16 Secretary General Report to Council**

I apologize for the delay in posting!

Lots of updates including proposed bylaw changes and a work plan!

[2015-09-09 2015-09-16 Secretary General Report to Council](#)

### **7.8 2015-09-16 Member Services Officer Report to Council**

[2015-09-09 2015-09-16 Member Services Officer Report to Council](#)



## **7.9 2015\_09\_16\_EAO\_Report**

[2015-09-09 2015\\_09\\_16\\_EAO\\_Report](#)

## **7.10 Report from the Academic Affairs Officer**

[2015-09-09 Report from the Academic Affairs Officer](#)

## **7.11 2015-09-16 Internal Affairs Officer Council Report**

Summary:

The first year of McGill Graduate and Postdoctoral Orientation Week is coming to an end and it has been very well received. Along with Graduate and Post-Doctoral Studies, Teaching and Learning Services, Campus Life and Engagement, the Post-Graduate Students' Society, Career Planning Services, and the McGill Writing Centre/Graphos, we have been working tirelessly to organize two weeks of events for incoming graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. Events included a Montreal Bar Tour, a Montreal Food Crawl, the Thomson House(Warming) Party, a Montreal Bike Tour, and more. There was also a Departmental Ambassador program to help give information about services to graduate students during Departmental Orientation Sessions throughout August and September.

[2015-09-09 2015-09-16 Internal Affairs Officer Council Report](#)

## **8 Question Period**

## **9 Discussion**

### **9.1 Discussion - Understanding the Enrolment Policies**

The Academic Affairs Officer will present a brief, less than two minute presentation, on his understanding of a complex situation regarding program enrolment and some of the unintended consequences. He will stand for questions following the short presentation.

### **9.2 Discussion of the 2015-2016 Executive and Commissioner Work Plan**

The 2015-2015 Work Plan of the Executives and Commissioners will be presented. The Academic Affairs Officer will first provide a brief overview of the work plan, and then take questions from the floor. Questions may be directed to any of the Executives or Commissioners regarding the presented work plan.



## **10 New Business**

### **10.1 Motion Regarding the Adoption of a Traditional Territory Acknowledgement Statement**

Whereas, McGill University is situated on land that has long served as a place of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabeg nations,

Whereas, the Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity, Subcommittee on Equity for First Peoples, developed a proposed Traditional Territory Acknowledgement Policy throughout the 2013-14 academic year in consultation with Indigenous McGill community members, the Kahnawake Cultural Centre, Indigenous Studies scholars, and offices of Indigenous affairs at peer institutions,

Whereas, this proposed policy states that “acknowledging the traditional territory and its history strengthens the relationship between post-secondary institutions and Indigenous communities ... [and] also educates the University community on Indigenous peoples in Canada, and provides a welcoming environment for Indigenous students, staff, and faculty to engage with the academy,”

Whereas, traditional territory acknowledgements are practiced and/or institutionalized by student associations and universities across Canada, such as the University of British Columbia and the Alma Mater Society, the University of Alberta and the University of Alberta Student Union, the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Saskatchewan Student Union, the University of Winnipeg, the Concordia Student Union, the University of Manitoba, and the University of Victoria and the University of Victoria Student Union, and the Students' Society of McGill University,

Whereas, it is a policy of the PGSS to promote equity and diversity,

Be it resolved, that the PGSS adopt the following statement, henceforth referred to as the ‘Traditional Territory Acknowledgment’:

“We are meeting together on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabeg nations. McGill University honours and respects the diverse Indigenous peoples connected to this territory on which we gather today.”

Be it resolved, that the Traditional Territory Acknowledgement be stated at all major PGSS meetings and assemblies.

Be it resolved, that the Traditional Territory Acknowledgment be stated at the beginning of all sessions of the PGSS Council.

Be it resolved, that the Traditional Territory Acknowledgement be featured in a prominent location on PGSS' website.

[Motion Regarding the Adoption of a Traditional Territory Acknowledgement Statement](#)

### **10.2 Motion Regarding PGSS Support of a Traditional Territory Acknowledgement at McGill University**

Whereas, McGill University is situated on land that has long served as a place of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabeg nations,





Whereas, the Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity, Subcommittee on Equity for First Peoples, developed a proposed Traditional Territory Acknowledgement Policy throughout the 2013-14 academic year in consultation with Indigenous McGill community members, the Kahnawake Cultural Centre, Indigenous Studies scholars, and offices of Indigenous affairs at peer institutions,

Whereas, this proposed policy states that “acknowledging the traditional territory and its history strengthens the relationship between post-secondary institutions and Indigenous communities ... [and] also educates the University community on Indigenous peoples in Canada, and provides a welcoming environment for Indigenous students, staff, and faculty to engage with the academy,”

Whereas, it is a policy of the PGSS to promote equity and diversity,

Be it resolved, that the PGSS supports the efforts of students and groups at McGill University seeking the adoption of a traditional territory acknowledgment by the university administration.

[Motion Regarding PGSS Support of a Traditional Territory Acknowledgement at McGill University](#)

### **10.3 Motion: Adoption of Bylaw Changes**

Whereas, the Bylaws, as currently written, contain some information that is vague, ambiguous, or incorrect.

Whereas, the current Bylaws have not been subject to a major overview since their adoption in 2012.

Whereas, the current Bylaws do not address issues such as virtual meetings and electronic motions.

Whereas, the proposed revisions include the addition of previously missing definitions, provisions for electronic motions and virtual meetings, and rephrasing of previously unclear articles.

Whereas, the proposed revisions have been approved by the Executive Committee.

BIRT, the PGSS Council adopt the proposed amendments to the Bylaws subject to their approval by the Board of Directors and then at the General Meeting.

BIFRT, the proposed amendments take effect immediately following approval at the General Meeting.

[Motion: Adoption of Bylaw Changes](#)

### **10.4 Referendum Dates**

Whereas the PGSS Executive is proposing referendum question(s) at this current September Council Meeting,

BIRT council approves the following referendum dates:

Oct 19 - 23 (2015).

BIFRT council permit the CRO to accept select referendum questions, approved by the executive, for this by-election, over the following two weeks. These questions will only go to ballot if approved at the October Council meeting.



## **10.5 referendum question; Membership Fee**

Whereas the PGSS membership fee was cut by about 37% (Approximately \$19 per term) between the 2011-12 and 2012-13 academic years;

Whereas the PGSS has consequently had to reduce its free services to members;

Whereas the current Membership fee does not sufficiently cover the costs of PGSS services;

Whereas a significant number of members have recently moved to the Glen site, where the PGSS does not have a presence;

Whereas accommodating services to all members, including the non-downtown campus based members, is becoming more challenging;

Whereas the PGSS is continuing to maximize cost savings and revenue generating measures to reduce costs to members;

BIRT the following question be put to referendum:

Do you agree that PGSS modify the non-optoutable membership fee of 32.59\$ per semester (excluding summer) to 35.85 (an equivalent of 10%), starting in January 2016, and continuing until such time that this fee is brought back to referendum. The membership fee funds general PGSS activities, including Services, Advocacy, and Events. This fee will apply to all PGSS members and be tied to inflation. A no vote will result in a reduction of PGSS Services to members.

[referendum question; Membership Fee](#)

## **10.6 Referendum question; Special Projects Fund**

Whereas the special projects fund is used for a variety of long term projects such as IT, daycare construction, external daycare priority placement for members, sustainability and legal cases;

Whereas since the inception of the special projects fund in 2012, it has paid out more money than it has collected in fees;

Whereas this fund is not tied to inflation;

Whereas the nature and reason of this fund (which is to support fiscally responsible long-term projects that make a major impact on the experience of Graduate Students at McGill) requires sufficient future funding;

BIRT the following question be put to referendum:

Do you agree that PGSS modify the non-optoutable Special Projects fee of \$4.60 per semester (excluding summer) to \$6.60, starting in January 2016, and continuing to and including this fees previously determined end date in 2027. This fee will apply to all PGSS members and be fixed to inflation. At any point, PGSS or its members may bring forward a referendum to reduce or modify this fee.

[Referendum question; Special Projects Fund](#)



## **10.7 Motion: Executive and Commissioner Work Plan Presentation**

WHEREAS, Individuals holding Executive and Commissioner positions report to the PGSS Council on their work; and

WHEREAS, The PGSS Council should be given the opportunity to approve an annual work plan; therefore,

BIRT, The attached documents represent the work plan for the 2015-2016 year.

[Motion: Executive and Commissioner Work Plan Presentation \(\)](#)

[Motion: Executive and Commissioner Work Plan Presentation \(\)](#)

[Motion: Executive and Commissioner Work Plan Presentation \(\)](#)

[Motion: Executive and Commissioner Work Plan Presentation \(\)](#)

## **10.8 Equity Amendments to the Society Affairs Manual**

Since I started my mandate as Commissioner, I came across a report assessing the sustainability of PGSS, including an assessment of its equity policies and structure. The report mentions that we only almost never mention diversity, in our policies and structure, and that we could broaden our mandate - this is the main purpose of the present amendments.

[Equity Amendments to the Society Affairs Manual \(\)](#)

[Equity Amendments to the Society Affairs Manual \(\)](#)

## **10.9 Motion - Establish the Intellectual Property Working Group**

WHEREAS, Under Chapter 5 Section 1 Article 2 of the Society Activities Manual (SAM) special committees may be created “for the purpose of examining specific questions and reporting about their answers when no appropriate standing committee exists or is available for doing so”; and

WHEREAS, Issues surrounding students’ rights to their own intellectual property have recently emerged; and

WHEREAS, The Policy on Intellectual Property (Attached to this Motion) has not been reviewed since June 26, 2001; and

WHEREAS, This policy outlines protections from academic staff, however, in Section 3 it clearly states the policy does not apply to students unless they have collaborated with an employee of McGill University; therefore,

BIRT, A special committee, henceforth named the Intellectual Property Working Group, be formed to review policies on intellectual property at McGill University and other sister universities; and



BIFRT, The composition of this working include the Academic Affairs Officer as Chair, and six graduate students with one being from the Faculty of Law; and

BIFRT, The Intellectual Property Working Group provide Council a report of their findings during the May meeting.

[Motion - Establish the Intellectual Property Working Group](#)

### **10.10 Motion to allocate \$600 Towards Fall 2015 PGSS Green Drinks Events and Thomson House Bee Housewarming Party**

Whereas the PGSS has historically hosted monthly Green Drinks events to promote educational and networking opportunities for the PGSS and larger McGill community,

Whereas the PGSS Environment Commissioners have schedule Green Drinks for the following academic year starting on Tuesday September 15 2015,

Whereas the Dandelion Collective would like to promote the bee hives at the Thomson House through a special "Bee Housewarming Party" with honey made available by the bees,

Whereas the PGSS Environment Commissioners would like to utilize a budget line item other than the join Exec-Commsioner budget for these events,

BIRT that \$600 be allocated from the Events category of the 2015-2016 budget to be spent on providing food for Green Drinks Events and a housewarming party for the Thomson House Bees during the Fall 2015 academic term.