

SSMU Council Meeting

Thursday, November 26, 2009

Attendance: Ivan Neilson, Alexandra Brown, Sarah Olle, Jose Diaz, Rebecca Dooley, Sebastian Ronderos-Morgan, Pauline Gervais, Janina Grabs, Lauren Hudak, Zach Newburgh, Joshua Abaki, Mark Bay, Emil Briones, Nicholas Drew, Connie Gagliardi, Marco Garofalo, Claudia Gucciardi, Daniel Keresteci, Annie Ma, David Marshall, Mitran Mehta, Joel Pedneault, Taunia Archer Rifai, Quyen Su, Zili Wang, Sarah Woolf, Sarah Lazure, Xiao Yu, Myriam Zaidi.

President Neilson: There is some housekeeping I would like to get out of the way about the procedure of the meeting. As a preface, we have been trying different procedures throughout the year. We have been experimenting, and it has been confusing for a lot of people and hard for the speakers, so we need to decide for one of the two systems. Just to remind you: System no. 1: The first meetings were like this. During meetings, there is one speakers' list, and councillors can Tf[()-13 llsr (x) -8 (p) 33(m) -13 (es)

Bay: Motion to adopt the latest agenda.
Motion to adopt the latest agenda passed.

4. Announcements

VP Brown: Happy Thanksgiving. Firstly, I would like to congratulate our new members to SSMU, and secondly I would like to remind people that the SSMU and Milton Holiday Fair will be happening on December 4th, and it will be a great chance to meet the community, snacks, music, etc.

Newburgh: Ghetto Shul is having a fundraiser, tickets are \$45, it will be Matisyahu, this Sunday at 9.30.

Hudak: Especially since last meeting all were so excited by the Sustainability Motion, please recycle or throw away your trash after the meeting.

Briones: Next week, there are a lot of concerts, on Tuesday there will be the Wind Symphony concert, on the third, there will be Chamber Music ensembles in Redpath Hall, and on the same day is MUSA Holiday Charolling, we have treats and we sing Christmas carols.

5. Guest Speakers

A. Elections McGill

Vallo: Last week, I announced all the results, they are attached to the report. I want to start with a quick note on transition from last year. Since last year's team resigned, we this year had very little transition period, so the beginning o

Gagliardi: I received a phone call to vote for referendum. Was that you?

Vallo: No, but I am glad it happened.

Mehta: Will you make these dates public for all students?

Vallo: Yes, we will put them on the website and send them out when it gets closer to them.

CEO Elections McGill report approved.

B. Lev Bukhman.....

Newburgh: I would like to introduce Lev Bukhman. He was a former SSMU Senator and VP Finance and Operations, and is now on the Faculty advisory board of the Faculty of Arts, and as well as on the BoD of the Sinah Hospital Toronto. He studied at McGill for his undergrad degree, and got a Law degree at the University of Western Ontario.

Bukhman: It's a real pleasure to come back tonight. It was very interesting to hear the report of the elections officer. We work with 50 student organizations, and it is amazing to have a turnout of 25%, it is commendable. To be here today, and witness

Bukhman: Yes, we have been looking into it. Another topic that is very important to me is that mental health issues are a hidden problem on many campuses. It is a problem for the whole community, and on many other campuses as well. It is my personal mission to advocate and draw attention to the fact, which is often overlooked by people in leadership positions. There is a pattern that I have noticed – the people that are leading are often in the spotlight and not always aware of people who are in the shadows, so I urge you to be aware of that. I believe it is an important issue for the whole community.

VP Diaz: could you talk about the continuum plan?

Bukhman: It was launched last year. There are many students who enjoy the coverage when they are students, but when they graduate, the coverage terminates. We wanted to have an option for people to voluntarily choose to be covered by the plan, with a higher cost than the student group plan, but approximately 40% less than comparable individual plans, you can automatically choose to switch into the plan without going through a medical. It is meant to be a simplified option for people, and we have had last year's results that were very positive, and 5% of revenue go back to SSMU which you can use for whatever projects you wish. It is a good program because it allows people who would otherwise have no coverage at all to stay in the plan.

6. Question Period

Newburgh: I would like to introduce another member of SSMU in the gallery, Anushay Khan, she is IGC of SSMU. Are there any questions on the floor?

No questions on the floor.

7. Reports of Officers

A. VP External, Sebastian Ronderos-Morgan.....

VP Ronderos-Morgan: As for TaCEQ – I spoke about the AFELC referendum last time, it didn't achieve quorum, so maybe they are going to have a GA later on to decide on that issue. We will be meeting for the annual general assembly on December 5th and 6th, it is not a very useful time because it curtails my plans to invite more students to see the TaCEQ operate, but these are the days that everybody can be there. I am working on the website right now. Earlier this week, I had a phone conversation with the political attaché of the education minister, and unfortunately the governance bills are going ahead, they were

VP Brown: There are exciting things happening, and it is looking as though they are being confirmed, we will be the best and most badass SSMU ever. You might have heard them on the radio or a party, and we will bring it to you for much cheaper.

Garofalo: What are your thoughts for students not showing up to the coffee and chat event?

VP Brown: I have no idea, which is why I want to have feedback. There was a huge facebook event, and ads in both the Daily and the Tribune, it was well promoted, I don't know why people didn't come.

D. President, Ivan Neilson.....

President Neilson: Moving along, we had some excellent results in basketball. We did get in the student-run food service report, and we are hoping to get it up on the website soon. The H1N1 vaccine is now available for general public, so I would encourage you to get vaccinated. At the Presidents' roundtable, we talked about career services, and we will look into strategies for that. I also learned that McGill Faculty Relations is dealing with their MoAs, and McGill is requiring professional audits which can be very costly, so we will get an update on the 5 year plan. One of our environment commissioners will be leaving at the end of the semester, so we will have to find a replacement. As for the research policy – I e-mailed a memo outlining our comments to the McGill admin, and they were taken under advisement. I had a big two weeks for the board of Governors, we had a retreat and meeting on Monday. They want to start a series of Key Performance indicators for McGill. These were some of the meetings I attended. I stand for questions.

Pedneault: What is the MAUT delayed paycheck increases?

President Neilson: They delayed their pay increases, but also made a cut to the Faculty club. I didn't work on that, but I received this afternoon a memo of protest from MAUT, MUNACA and more – the benefits for staff was cut, the amount of coverage are reduced, and the out-of-pocket money that employees are paying is increased.

Mehta: Who can be talked to regarding research policy?

President Neilson: A lot of work is done at the senior table of Principle and vice-Principle.

8. Reports of Committees

A. Executive Committee.....

President Neilson: This is a little different, since we have regular business and extraordinary items. On the November 18th meeting, we gave our approval to a \$1,000 stipend for 100 Years of SSMU and the Holiday Fair. On November 24

President Neilson: Imagine something that would be in 302. It does feel that it is a completely different room.

Yu: Would it be possible to go through the budget? There is \$53,000 here, but there are additional costs on top of that

comprehensive budget, and it was hard to figure out how much they were asking for. Some even didn't include a letter what they were doing. The Daily Publication was tabled for their application for funds to go to a journalist conference, it was just an application without many details, we tabled it until receiving the rest of details. As for Conservative McGill – we decided to increase their funding to \$550, that didn't include the initial \$200, so this is going back to reports for accounting. We received applications for members at large, the committee selected these three members. I stand for questions.

Woolf: Friends for Food – isn't that the column in the Daily?

VP Diaz: Yes. Both students submitted application for turning the column into a cookbook, to distribute a t a suggested donation of 5\$. They submitted a detailed budget, and they were not asking for a specific amount. That is why after reviewing their budget, and when we saw that they had a deficit of \$1,500, we gave them \$1,000 to support the project.

Woolf: What about the Carnival Teams?

VP Diaz: AS a member of the team myself, I abstained, just as the VP C & S, but the other members decided it was not in the spirit of the CLF fund.

President Neilson: How is the Finance committee coordinator?

VP Diaz: She is pretty good so far. I am leaving it open whether she wants to present reports, since we never exactly know when to report.

Keresteci: What did the Red Herring request? Last year, they made fun of SSMU.

VP Diaz: They were requesting money for a cost differential between normal and past-consumer paper. We have had a lovely relationship last year. We are still figuring out our relationship this year.

Bay: Point of Information – the Ambassador Fee doesn't exist yet, does it?

VP Diaz: FinCom came up with guidelines for funding, and they said that the CLF should not fund trips to organizations. When we gave that money, it was a symbolic donation, so right now will come out of CLF, and once the Ambassador Fund will come into action next semester, it will give that money back to CLF.

Bay: Why didn't you table it?

VP Diaz: That is because both applications were received early in August and September, had been tabled several times, and for both of these things, the teams need to fundraise a certain amount of money. It is important to let them know how much they will receive in terms of fundraising.

VP Brown: Motion to approve the report.

Finance Committee Report approved.

D. Operations Committee.....

Marshall: Operations Committee has been meeting several times. We have been focusing on a couple of different things, primarily Gerts. We have been looking at advertisement, and looking at more efficient facebook usage. We have 2 donated pool tables, and should get permits for them so that we are not doing anything illegal. The food is going great, we are having a 20 – 24% profit margin. So that is something we will continue. We are looking to spice up our drinks and introduce the Gert's. It will be Gert's signatory drink – either a drink or a specific way of serving it. As for renovations – the renovation campaign slogan is 'Raising the Bar'. We have three different documents – one that outlines three components of challenges which we are opening up to students, and we are inviting students to input ideas, a slogan, and the selection panel will be comprised of Operations committee and 4 members at large. The timeline for this is accelerated because it t T Q q 0.2400().240000Tf [(a29

for \$150,000. We will be offering undying gratitude, a wooden plaque, and 3 promotional kegs for party in the honour of people who win the design competition. Are there any questions?

Yu: Are we applying one of the proposals regardless of whether it will be in budget. And how does the mark-up work?

Marshall: We had a discussion about how to bring it to council. We will need to give an opinion and factoring in the decision of whether the idea can stay under budget.

budget, external affairs, community affairs budget, GA, etc. General administration is a separate budget. Gen admin does not include exec salaries, but does include salaries of permanent staff.

Yu: Isn't spending \$17,000 on telephones a little extensive?

VP Diaz: That is a little out of our control, SSMU pays to McGill for the usage of its lines and all telephone lines we have. Each of the 6 executives has a line, the LPAC, Accounts Receivable, Gerts has a different line, and many administrators too. Also, SSMU does cover certain other telephone expenses, and for example up to 80\$ per months for blackberry expenses.

Abaki: What are the future expenses for Haven?

VP Diaz: A lot of those expenses is a lot of the development fees of the new inventory system. That is a huge part of it. We are running 5 terminals, the manager's computer and server. At book drives, we will set up terminals in different residences. That would be the cost.

Abaki: Why is there that much of an increase?

VP Diaz: Last year, when we got the proposal for ProphetLine, we had 3 different options, there were pros and cons for each of them. The quotes was \$3,500, but we are spending at least \$7,500. All the customizations, and the work we had to put into it was much greater than planned. We are changing our website, incorporating the search feature, etc, making it more userfriendly. We budgeted for that.

Wang: H

Woolf: Many things are covered by the law, but that doesn't mean that SSMU shouldn't have a policy on it. We are a union. We are a corporation. If you go to any other business, you will find a harassment policy. Pauline told me that there was a process in 2004 to make one here as well, but it tapered out and nothing came out of it. So there is an institutional precedence in SSMU. We have not had to deal with it yet, but council should be proactive about it. If anything is addressed by the law, it should also be addressed internally, and thus should be harassment, specifically sexual harassment. This would include the appointment of a committee that would deal with this issue. It is ridiculous that we don't have a policy. We should have one.

Marshall: There is something to be said for a codified belief on our policies. If the individual does not know how our current process works, it is important to have an internal policy that is easily accessible to students. This concerns the protection of personal safety in the student environment.

President Neilson: For all the reasons stated, it is a good idea. Something stated in law doesn't mean we cannot have a policy, it should just be in line.

VP Ronderos-Morgan: I have come across a number of student associations with such policies, so the precedence exists at other universities.

Garofalo: Move to previous question?

Motion to previous question passed.

Resolution Regarding SSMU's Harassment Policy passed.

E. Update on the 5-Year Plan

Knight: We are supposed to report on the progress every semester. We have just gotten off the ground. We have a group of people working on it as volunteers with the execs and us environment commissioners. Is I

VP Diaz: In terms of Fincom, has there been a yardstick established? We all know how we get the applications, they get handed from one person to another, etc. Has there been a ratio of what would be the goal of it?

Knight: I haven't been working on the particular portfolio, it is definitely the goal to eliminate the obvious problems first and then enter in much more conversation, we are aware that this is an issue.

11. Confidential Session