

# SSMU Council Meeting

Thursday, February 18, 2010

Attendance: Alexandra Brown, Jose Diaz, Rebecca Dooley, Ivan Neilson, Sarah Olle, Pauline Gervais, Janina Grabs, Lauren Hudak, Zach Newburgh, Joshua Abaki, Tim Abdulla, Mark Bay, Myriam Desrosiers, Barbara Dourley, Nicholas Drew, Tom Fabian, Connie Gagliardi, Marco Garofalo, Daniel Keresteci, Annie Ma, David Marshall, Mitran Mehta, Joel Pedneault, Taunai Rifai Archer, Cathal Rooney Cespedas, Gloria To, Sarah Woolf, Xiao Yu, Miriam Zaidi.

1. Call to Order.....6:17

Hudak: As a member of the audience, you can ask questions pertaining to the contents of committee reports, and as well participate in the debate. You are also allowed to ask questions during question period.

2. Approval of the Minutes .....

President Neilson: Motion to approve the minutes.  
Minutes approved.

3. Adoption of the Agenda.....

VP Dooley: Motion to adopt the agenda.  
Agenda adopted.

4. Announcements .....

Marshall: We are not closing Gerts, we are closing Haven. My apologies for the report.

5. Guest Speakers.....

A. Daniel Simeone, President of PGSS.....

Simeone: I'm the president of the PGSS, the Postgraduate Students' Society. We represent graduate students. Our paths cross over joint policy issues. I would like to talk about the

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it will be referred to a committee that will look at the policy and see if it fits with the other policies. Informally,

Simeone: It probably increases accessibility, since councillors can bring the policy back to their faculty and show them. The longer period in which the policy is considered really reflects on better consultation with students. Thanks for having me.

6. Question  
Period.....

Yu: Did the Equity committee meet?

VP Dooley: Yes, the Equity Committee met last Friday. I will report on that in my report since

take into consideration that the more tickets they buy, the less fellow students can attend. I just don't want people to buy 10 tickets on the first day and then sell them for more.

Garofalo: What do you see as the one main problem of the GA? Where do you see it going?

VP Brown: We just had a workshop and discussion talking about this. I think that it will stay what people make of it, it will stay a battleground if people want to have that. As long as people want to fight over external issues, they will keep on doing that. If the next executive or student think that the GA should be abolished, that will be done, but until that happens, infighting might continue.

Mehta: What is the date for Iron Chef?

VP Brown: Registration ends on the 5<sup>th</sup>, you can e-mail me. You will pick up your mystery ingredient on the 10<sup>th</sup>, and we will have the closing ceremony on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

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

C. VP Finance & Operations, Jose Diaz .....

VP Diaz: FERC is meeting sometimes soon, Gerts is doing extremely well, and for Haven Books – we are in the process of finding the exit strategy, and I stand for questions.

VP Olle: When is the budget revision coming?

VP Diaz: It will be presented to council on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

D. VP Clubs & Services, Sarah Olle .....

VP Olle: Just a reminder: We only have three meetings left in the year. You had many grand ideas about transforming SSMU. Now would be the time and the final push for this. The execs are here to help you form a motion. Then, for the Student Life Survey – the responses I got are depressing, the suggestions that students make are often already happening. We only got 50 responses, of which many don't make sense. The energy audit is really helpful and awesome. There are some suggestions that I will present soon, but we are waiting for the final report, this is just the rough draft. We will receive that soon, and will then discuss the funding for retrofitting and making these adjustments.

Keresteci: Who approves what we will spend the money on?

VP Olle: Council. Hopefully, we will get most of the money from the Sustainable Projects Fund.

E. VP University Affairs, Rebecca Dooley .....

VP Dooley: Anthony Masi will be Provost for another 2 years. Nobody came for the McGill We Want-workshop. That was depressing. We have received a 'submission' from the Faculty of Arts, but your faculty did not make a submission to the Taskforce. You still have the possibility to do so, but it was interesting to me that Arts students should have no interest whatsoever to improve McGill. Then, for Equity Committee – this is actually going well. We had a meeting last Friday, where we put forward our preliminary recommendations. The exact words of their response: Choose Life is happy with the rate this is progressing. Thank





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can draw up the plan. Should Operations Committee see that there are issues with the traffic flow, we would graphically resolve those issues. It is a multi-step process.

Operations Committee report approved.

D. Finance  
Committee.....

Abdulla: I would like to stand for questions on the topic of the hard copy report.

Finance Committee report approved.

9. Old  
Business.....

10. New  
Business.....

A. SSMU Committee Review (I nformation & Discussion) .....

President Neilson: This was in development with the committee until yesterday. This is a sneak peak of what the committee review would look like. This report outlines all the functions of the committees, the frequency of meetings, the membership, etc. A big change is the creation of a Steering Committee. This committee helps to govern council. This is right now exclusively the responsibility of the President and the speakers. If I were more corrupt, I could do more undoing, but you don't know if I am not doing that right now. This will be give more responsibility to exec members, the speakers, and councillors. We would look at



are rewrites that we have done with Equity Committee's consultation. We have tried to improve the way we select members at large, and did not change much else. FERC also stays nearly the same, but they are also responsible for research on McGill's transactions. The GA motion wanted it to be an advisory board to McGill. I

VP Olle: The Committee on Student Life and Services is the hardest committee for me to grasp what they would do normally. What would they actually talk about? Would this rather be me and the VP Internal? And VP VP Diaz and I were talking about the melding of the Operations Committee and the Building Committee. If I was a less amazing VP Clubs and Services, I should maybe not be commenting on operations. And likewise, if the VP Operations had a crazy idea of the building, that should not be his responsibility. Building Committee usually hasn't met. We should talk about whether that should happen at the executive level.

VP Dooley: Maybe some concerns might be addressed through having SSPN and CAF be subcommittees of Student Life and Learning Committee. The fact that we are getting rid of nominating committee and the constitutional review committee is strange to me. Without the UA committee, there would be no committee reviewing student involvement in university committees. My position is not represented except for the Equity Committee.

Abaki: The VP UA will also be sitting on the Steering Committee, the Library Improvement Fund committee and the Awards committee. In the case of committees that don't meet as often, I think, the fewer committees we have, the more effective they are and the more responsible the councillors are.

VP Dooley: I think that there are some duties of committees that are being overlooked. I would like to make sure that all duties are covered.

Rooney: Would you be willing to make it that the working groups, even though there is no councillor representation required, would count towards the necessarily committee representation for students?

GM Gervais: I would like to ask whether it would be able to add the General Manager to the Committee on Student Life and Services? As well as to the FERC because of the acquisition of stocks, bonds, or financial assets – it would be important to have that opinion present.

President Neilson: Yes, we could certainly talk about that.

VP Diaz: I would like to say that my personal view is that having less committees would be not necessarily better. In Operations Committee, we have a heavy burden right now. Steering Committee is a good idea, although I hate that it sounds like McGill Senate. Also, I'd like to see that this does not make setting the agenda more bureaucratic. For Funding Committee, I would like to change the phrasing – the club fund is allocated in 2 parts, one in October and one in January. Finance Committee is the best idea ever. As to the Committee on Students Life and Services – I would put the Space fee either under the Executive Committee or Funding Committee. The internal portion should be dealt with by the VP C&S, VP FOPS and General Manager. We have SSPN existing – VP Olle brought up how that might be the end of the VP Internal. I don't know what the committee would do. There are many people on council that are doing events, so don't know what use the Students

VP Olle: I agree that FERC shouldn't be ad-hoc if it had more of an advisory role, it could look at ethical purchasing policies, and could really setting a vision for us. They could seek out things to do or to report on. I think that they could be a more influential committee if they weren't ad hoc.

VP Brown: Motion to move out of the committee of the whole.

Motion to move out of the committee of the whole approved.

B. Policy Formulation Review (Information & Discussion)

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VP Olle: Motion to move back into the committee of the whole.

**Motion to move back into the committee of the whole approved.**

VP Olle: I figured we should talk about our policy formulation. I think PGSS's is super. I do not think that we should get rid of the GA. They don't have a GA, the only way that policies come to them is through their council. But the question is: How could we take strengths from PGSS's policy formulation? Maybe we should only take stances at GA. Maybe we could have better descriptions what policies are. Maybe steering committee should look at policies. This would be a longer process, but that ensures that policies would be good.

VP Diaz: I like a lot of things on the model. There are some things that we should work hard to integrate in our system. There are some things at the GA that are set up for long terms, especially in terms of sustainability. Maybe SSMU would be a shitshow if they want a 5\$ ATM for one year and the next year

VP Dooley: After the GA where people talked about the Equity policy, I would agree that that shouldn't be decided at the GA.

VP Olle: How about I bring a motion next time defining motions vs policies and bring recommendations on what are policies and what are stances?

Yu: Would expiring mean that we should renew it?

VP Olle: It would expire unless councillors want to reapprove it the next year. Policies would last for 5 years.

VP Diaz: It might

VP Ollé: There are 2 meeting rooms, B28/29/30, Bike Collective, Daily Office, TV McGill, SACOMSS, MSA are there.

VP Diaz

Abaki: By-law changes would be tabled for the next session and councillors would have more time to look at them.

VP Olle: Considering the content of this resolution, wouldn't it need to be given out last council too?

Abaki: I told the speaker to do so.

VP Dooley: Why did you focus on days and not council meetings?

Abaki: I have yet to see council by-law changes that are urgent.

VP Dooley: Is there the intention to have it 14 days before debate or 14 days before approval?

Abaki: When it is debated, it ~~will be~~ approved. It makes sense, three days is not enough time to look at by-law changes. By-laws are the rules by which SSMU abides. If councillors have a reasonable idea of what we are talking about, they can form a better consensus. Tabling this makes a lot of sense, and everybody would have the possibility to participate. Our by-laws are really important, we should consider keeping the Constitutional Review Committee. The