



Macdonald Campus Students' Society
Association des Étudiants du Campus Macdonald
FULL COUNCIL MINUTES

A meeting of the Full Council of the Macdonald Campus Students' Society was held on **Tuesday, Feb 9th, 2021** from 6:00 to 7:40 p.m. via Microsoft Teams.

Present: Tyler Luft (*Speaker*), Joëlle Mottart (*Secretary to the Council*), Nikulas Dworek (*President*), Marie Prémont St-Jean (*VP Internal*), Leela Riddle-Merritte (*VP External*), Keel Scruton (*VP Finance*), Muhamad Shariq (*VP BOC*), Véronique Dion-Larivière (*VP Comm. & Student Life*), Menka Sharma (*VP Academic*), Karl-Antoine Hogue (*Envr. Advisor*), Patricia Sung (*Equity Commissioner*), Alexander Audi (*BESS Rep*), Steven Chuang (*DHNUS Rep*), Keesha Ness (*FMT Rep*), Valeriya Boyarkina (*FSA Rep*), Helen Turvene (*MESS Rep*), George McCourt (*Faculty Rep*), Caitlin Hier (*MaL*), Carina Coleman-Gridley (*MaL*).

Regrets:

Absent: Jeanne-Armelle Uwiringiyimana (*AESUS Rep*), Simran Jawanda (*MCGSS Rep*).

Guests:

Tyler Luft (*Speaker*), opened the meeting.

1. Administrative

- **Adoption of the Agenda**

Keel Scruton (*VP Finance*) moved to adopt the agenda as presented, Karl-Antoine Hogue (*Envr. Advisor*), seconded.
Unanimous, Carried.

- **Approval of the Minutes**

Leela Riddle-Merritte (*VP External*) moved to adopt the minutes from Jan 26th, 2021, Patricia Sung (*Equity Commissioner*), seconded.
Unanimous, Carried.

- **Business Arising**

- Sub-Society and MCGSS general updates
 - **BESS** - Alex Audi: -Networking event was held in January
Planning the following activities:
 - Online mini completion
 - Health awareness week
 - Virtual campus tour
 - Managing stress workshop with Shannon Walsh
 - Music Club concert
 - Yoga class online
 - Virtual bread baking workshop
 - **FSA** - Valeriya Boyarkina:
 - They setup a forum to send Valentines chocolates to students, all from local shops
 - Food Product development workshop



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- College Bowl competition prep with Masters students
- Foodventure event in early March

- **DHNUS** - Steven Chuang:
 - Eating Disorder awareness week video last month, 30 participants
 - March event to be announced

2. Subcommittee Business

- **Item Name, (Position)**

3. Action Items

3.1 Student Care Add-ons (Vote, Discussion,)

Keel Scruton (*VP Finance*): Our Keep me Safe rep suggested 2 new ad-ons which would be opt-outable for students, and must be passed by a referendum vote:

- Telemedicine: called “Dialogue” which would pair students with doctors online or in their area. Cost per year \$50
- Legal protection: students can be covered for lawyer services, virtually or in person, except in criminal cases against them or for the purpose of suing someone. Cost per year \$25

A discussion followed:

Questions were raised about properly informing students that they are not obligated to pay for these ad-ons, and questioning the 2 year timeline for renewal by referendum.

The brochure with all information will be linked in the referendum voting platform, and the 2 year timeline fits in with other MCSS fee renewals.

Keel Scruton (*VP Finance*) moved to adopt the Studentcare Ad-ons referendum questions (2) as follows:

Dialogue

Whereas, access to health services within McGill University, within the City of Montreal, and on the West Island can be restrictive for MCSS members for various reasons (financial, physical, or administrative);

Whereas, rapid, convenient, and reliable online access to medical doctors and nurses is integral to the health and wellbeing of students at McGill University, both during the time of the pandemic and in the future;

Whereas, the cost to see a doctor in a clinic in Montreal can range from approximately \$60 to \$100+ for a single visit;

Whereas, Dialogue is a service provided by Studentcare and is an integrated telemedicine service which offers students unlimited bilingual access to connect with nurses and physicians 24/7 via a mobile or web app from anywhere in Canada and consult via videoconference with a licensed



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doctor or nurse practitioner within 60 minutes during regular hours (8AM-8PM) and within 120 minutes after regular hours (8PM-8AM);

Whereas, the proposed Dialogue telemedicine service would provide all MCSS members with access to the Dialogue service for an entire year (September to August) at no extra cost beyond the proposed referendum of \$58.65;

Whereas, members who begin their studies in January will be charged a pro-rated fee in the Winter semester of \$39.10 to access the Dialogue service for the months of January to August;

Whereas, this fee is fully opt-outable and the opt-out procedure will be overseen through Studentcare (in a process similar to the MCSS Health and Dental Insurance change-of-coverage period);

Question 1:

“Do you agree to establish the opt-outable MCSS Dialogue fee of \$58.65 per student to be charged in the Fall semester for full year access (September to August), students who begin in the Winter semester will be charged a pro-rated fee of \$39.10 to access the program from January to August, payable by all MCSS members, for 2 years starting Fall 2021 until Winter 2023 (inclusive) to access the Dialogue service, at which time it will be brought back to the membership for renewal?”

Legal Protection Program

Whereas, the MCSS and Studentcare have identified a need for legal representation for students facing legal challenges in their day-to-day lives, as currently available legal resources may be expensive, inaccessible, or inadequate;

Whereas, the Legal Protection Program would offer unlimited access to legal representation for housing, employment, academic, and human rights disputes, small claims support, and civil mediation where legal representation services would apply until the case is resolved, even after a student finishes their studies;

Whereas, the Legal Protection Program would further offer students unlimited access to a Legal Helpline for questions on any area of the law, including but not limited to Immigration Law queries for international students;

Whereas, the proposed Legal Protection Program service would provide all MCSS members with access to the service for an entire year (September to August) at no extra cost beyond the proposed referendum of \$25.08;

Whereas, members who begin their studies in January will be charged a pro-rated fee in the Winter semester of \$16.72 to access the Legal Protection Program service for the months of January to August;



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Whereas, this fee is fully opt-outable and the opt-out procedure will be overseen through Studentcare (in a process similar to the MCSS Health and Dental Insurance change-of-coverage period);

Question 2:

“Do you agree to establish the opt-outable MCSS Legal Protection Program fee of \$25.08 per student to be charged in the Fall semester for full year access (September to August), students who begin in the Winter semester will be charged a pro-rated fee of \$16.72 to access the program from January to August, payable by all MCSS members, for 2 years starting Fall 2021 until Winter 2023 (inclusive) to access the Legal Protection Program service, at which time it will be brought back to the membership for renewal?”

Nikulas Dworek (*President*) seconded.
Unanimous, carried.

3.2 Founder's Day (Informational)

Nikulas Dworek (*President*): Virtual Founder's Day on Feb 11th at 1pm, all are encouraged to attend online. It is a wonderful celebration of Mac campus students and staff, and there will be door prizes!

George McCourt (*Faculty Rep*): 7 Gold Key awards will be given to both graduate and undergraduate students in recognition of their outstanding contribution to extra-curricular activities at the Macdonald Campus. This year they had almost 70 nominations.

3.3 MCSS Club Fund Request (Vote, Discussion)

Keel Scruton (*VP Finance*) presented the MCSS Club Fund Request for Winter 2021(see attached). Because of the pandemic the amount requested by clubs was reduced by half this semester.

A discussion followed on whether sound equipment (microphones) could be rented from John Abbott or Mac Campus IT department for clubs like Random Acts of Kindness to host podcasts, as well as renting camping equipment from Mac Athletics instead of buying it for Macdonald Outdoor Adventure Club.

Muhamad Shariq (*VP BOC*): MOAC is in the process of applying to the Sustainability Project Fund for their camping equipment to be purchased this summer, for use in the Fall, he will have an update on that at the next Business Operations Committee meeting.

Discussion result:

Keel Scruton (*VP Finance*) moved to adopt the MCSS Fund Requests for Winter 2021 as presented, Leela Riddle-Merritte (*VP External*) seconded.
Unanimous, carried.



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3.4 MCSS Election Schedule (Discussion)

Marie Prémont St-Jean (*VP Internal*) suggested that we do nominations as last semester, with virtual info sessions, Google form applications, and opportunity for debates. A discussion followed: All agreed to the following schedule:

- Info sessions on March 8 or March 9
- Nominations close on March 12th
- Elections on March 18th and March 19th

The referenda will also be included on election day. The club fair will be schedule separately before March break.

3.5 Keep.mesafe Semester 1 Update (Informational)

Patricia Sung (*Equity Commissioner*):

keep.me safe report

- I just wanted to update you guys with the statistics for the keep.mesafe program for semester 1 which is from September to December.
- There were 40 My SSP App downloads.
- A total of 66 self-help resources were accessed such as articles and videos.
- There were 47 clinical sessions by 14 people.
- Of which, 53% of the clinical sessions was through the real-time app chat, 21% was through the real-time tele-counseling, another 21% was through the appointment tele-counseling and 4% was through the appointment video-counseling feature.
- The primary issues during the clinical sessions were identified as anxiety, depression, personal stress, and relationships.
- User demographic data showed that it all users sought help in English and most of the users were female and first year students.
- It was mostly used by students in Canada with the rest of the students from the Middle-East or Asia.
- It wasn't clear whether promotion by MCSS encouraged students to use keep.meSAFE.

4. Reports

Nikulas Dworek (*President*)

- Student Care International Health Insurance
- Myinvolvement
- PGSS Negotiations
- McGill MOA
- SSMU Rep

Karl-Antoine Hogue (*Environmental. Advisor*):

- Catalyst Awards applications under review
- A few SPF projects happening at Mac (Sustainable farm feasibility study, new heater for 2 greenhouses, new pollinators pasture, etc.)

5. Next Meeting

Nikulas Dworek (*President*): Next meeting on Tues, Feb 23, 2021 at 6pm, on Microsoft Teams



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6. Adjournment

Nikulas Dworek (*President*) moved to adjourn, Keel Scruton (*VP Finance*) seconded.
Unanimous, carried.

President _____

Secretary _____