



**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, Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020** from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. via Microsoft Teams.

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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*), Jeanne-Armelle Uwiringiyimana (*AESUS Rep*), Alexander Audi (*BESS Rep*), Steven Chuang (*DHNUS Rep*), Valeriya Boyarkina (*FSA Rep*), Helen Turvene (*MESS Rep*), Caitlin Hier (*MaL*), Carina Coleman-Gridley (*MaL*).

Regrets: Keesha Ness (*FMT Rep*)

Absent: George McCourt (*Faculty Rep*), Simran Jawanda (*MCGSS Rep*)

Guests:

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

## 1. Administrative

- **Adoption of the Agenda**

Keel Scruton (*VP Finance*) moved to adopt the agenda as presented Nikulas Dworek (*President*) seconded.  
Unanimous, Carried.

- **Approval of the Minutes**

Leela Riddle-Merritte (*VP External*) moved to adopt the minutes from Oct 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Nikulas Dworek (*President*) seconded.  
Unanimous, Carried.

- **Business Arising**

- **Upcoming Sustainability Project Fund Meeting**

Leela Riddle-Merritte (*VP External*): As discussed in Council on Oct 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020, she will meet with SPF on Nov 6<sup>th</sup>, concerning the Mac Plate Club as a possible solution for TWIGS Café to be more sustainable. She will report her findings to our Environmental Advisor and VP Finance.

- **Forum on Student Experience with Remote Delivery**

Véronique Dion-Larivière (*VP Comm. & Student Life*): As discussed in Council on Oct 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020, she attended the McGill Town Hall meeting on Oct 7<sup>th</sup>. There were no answers for the moment, it was mostly gathering feedback and sharing concerns on how students are coping with remote delivery.



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FULL COUNCIL MINUTES

○ **Halloween Events Feedback**

Marie Prémont St-Jean (*VP Internal*): As discussed in Council on Oct 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the Halloween virtual events did take place with some participants going all out with their costumes. She intends to give out prizes from the Molson swag with have in stock. Although she was expecting more students, in discussion all agreed that considering the special circumstances, turnout was satisfactory and that in future, Council members will help share online events info more widely.

**2. Subcommittee Business**

- N/A

**3. Action Items**

**3.1 Club Budget Request Approval (Vote)**

Keel Scruton (*VP Finance*) presented the Fund Requests for Fall 2020(see attached).

A discussion followed on the Mac Outdoor Club Fund Request, for camping equipment. Last year their events have been very popular. They rented some of items from JAC. There is a concern that the equipment they currently own is not being kept in MCSS Club storage, but rather at club members' homes. The expense for new equipment could be considerable, in order to outfit a large group. Should MCSS take on the responsibility of purchasing camping equipment (tents, sleeping bags etc.) and renting it out to students? Perhaps creating a business under BOC. More discussion is needed, for now we will vote excluding MOC from the Fund Request.

Keel Scruton (*VP Finance*) moved to adopt the MCSS Fund Requests for Fall 2020 as presented, excluding MOC, Nikulas Dworek (*President*) seconded.

For: 13    Against: 0    Abstain: 1,    motion carried.

Keel Scruton (*VP Finance*) further moved that MOC's current funds be frozen until they return their items to the MCSS club storage, Nikulas Dworek (*President*) seconded.

For: 13    Against: 0    Abstain: 1,    motion carried.

**3.2 S/U Extended Option (Discussion)**

Definition from the McGill website:

**“Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) Option**

Students may take one elective course per term to be graded under the Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory option, to a maximum of 10% of the student's credits taken at McGill to fulfill their degree requirements. Any course taken under the S/U option may not count towards any minor/major/concentration or required course.”



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[APC Report](#) (Section IV C.). TLS: “74% of Undergraduates and 44% of Graduate respondents appreciated grading scheme and/or assignment changes as a beneficial aspect of their experience with remote learning.”

Leela Riddle-Merritte (*VP External*): The motion was rejected largely due to the Dean’s List (specifically accidental repercussions to one’s GPA) as well as how the pandemic situation has remained the same and thus should not alter course quality the way it suddenly might have during W20. Senate moved to discuss the substance of APC’s decision at a town hall despite Senator Naystrom’s objections (Sept 22). After a month passed with no updates, I asked about what was being considered while the minutes were being adopted to understand what was meant. A town hall is still to happen, however new positions were made about the changing situation. This past weekend, Senator Frizzle presented the student senators with the fact that universities have begun making an extended S/U option a mandate for F20 and W21 (Stanford, University of Virginia, Carleton). This time, the new motion will, at the least, allude to other universities as well as focus on compassion for students affected by a whole range of pandemic-related stressors.

A discussion followed:

Should we approach Mac APC members, to support the reopening of this discussion? Yes.

All agreed that we would like to have the S/U option again next semester, that McGill should show compassion for students who are struggling with remote learning. Some in their home countries can have many challenges including difficulty with Wi-Fi etc.

**3.3 Black Student Representative** (Discussion)

Leela Riddle-Merritte (*VP External*): See the document attached: [BAR Motion for November 17th’s meeting](#), and we will vote at the next Council meeting.

A discussion followed: All agreed that this new representative should fall under the VP External in the MCSS By-Laws. Applicants will be considered by the VP External, in consultation with the MCSS Executives, will select one or two candidates. Then, the Full Council will vote on the candidate they prefer.

**3.4 Remembrance Day** (Information/Discussion)

Nikulas Dworek (*President*): There has been no information about the annual Remembrance Day ceremony at Mac. He will reach out to Bob McEwen and Kathy MacLean to confirm.

**3.5 Upcoming events: Referenda Timeline**

Leela Riddle-Merritte (*VP External*): We have 2 referenda to have next semester:

-Renewal of the MCSS Student Life Fund fee, which expires next semester.

-MCSS Constitution Amendment to include Equity Commissioner and Environmental Advisor as part of the MCSS Executive.

These will be put on the Council agenda first thing in Jan 2021.

**3.6 Full Council Meeting Logistics** (Discussion)

Leela Riddle-Merritte (*VP External*): We should make the student body more aware that they can attend our Council meetings, perhaps announce it in our MCSS Newsletter. All agreed.



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FULL COUNCIL MINUTES

**3.7 Campus Life and Engagement (Discussion)**

Véronique Dion-Larivière (*VP Com. and student life*): She met with Sarah Towle regarding the status of MCSS with the virtual academic year. Looking to put in place support for MAC campus specifically.

A discussion followed: Feedback from students include problems with loading virtual content, which IT is aware of, but have not offered a solution yet, and “Zoom fatigue” is a real issue to be addressed.

**3.8 Office of Religious and Spiritual Life (Discussion)**

Karl-Antoine Hogue (*Environmental Advisor*) met with McGill Office of Religious and Spiritual Life (MORSL) and would like to know if Council were aware of their virtual Discover Spiritual McGill Fair from Nov 2-5. The Secretary reports that they regularly advertise their events in the MCSS Newsletter.

**4. Reports**

**VP External (Leela Riddle-Merritte)**

Senate (Minutes to be made available online):

- Open Discussion about the Statement Addressing Anti-Black Racism (most common comments were around the vagueness of where the new committees would fit into McGill’s bureaucracy, and about the need to adopt an active strategy both internal and external to McGill to recruit BIPOC professors)
- Presentation of Amendments to the Senate Committee Standing Rules: Senator Parsons remarked that two of the changes would give the Chair the authority to decide what is relevant and when to move on, which she expressed concern about as this change may disenfranchise certain Senators. Through discussion, it was determined that the fact that the Chair would necessarily need to ask the Committee if there are any questions or comments was enough to show that no voices were going to be silenced. Another concern was about defining the “meeting space”, as it was not considering remote and/or partially remote Committee meetings. I followed-up on this point as well as the concern I still had about Senator Parsons’ point and asked if any further changes to the proposed amendments would be had before voting on them next time. The answer was no.

VP Finance Committee (with Members-at-Large and K. Scruton)

Meeting with VP External SSMU: regarding BAR.

Environmental advisor: Meeting with Office of Sustainability to discuss sustainable event certification at MAC  
SPF Governance Council: 5 projects were approved, 1 was rejected and a full application was requested for the 2 Big Waves Projects.

**5. Next Meeting**

Nikulas Dworek (*President*): Next meeting on Tues, Nov 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 5:30pm, on Microsoft Teams

**6. Adjournment**

Nikulas Dworek (*President*) moved to adjourn, Véronique Dion-Larivière. (*VP Com. and student life*) seconded.

Unanimous, carried.

President \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

