



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, Oct 6th, 2020** from 5:30 to 7:00 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*), Jeanne-Armelle Uwiringiyimana (*AESUS Rep*), 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: Simran Jawanda (*MCGSS Rep*)

Guests: Shona Watt (*SPF Sustainability Officer*)

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

1. Administrative

- **Adoption of the Agenda**

Leela Riddle-Merritte (*VP External*) moved to adopt the agenda as presented Marie Prémont St-Jean (*VP Internal*) seconded.
Unanimous, Carried.

- **Approval of the Minutes**

Keel Scruton (*VP Finance*) moved to adopt the minutes from Sept 22nd, 2020, Nikulas Dworek (*President*), seconded.
Unanimous, Carried.

- **Business Arising**

- **Reintroductions**

Nikulas Dworek (*President*) welcomed newly elected members.

- **News for this semester**

Nikulas Dworek (*President*): Fabrice Labeau *Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning)* sent out an email after the Government of Québec's announcement of new restrictions for universities in a red alert zone such as Montreal, effective until October 28th, 2020:



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“Teaching and Learning:

- All teaching, with the exception of certain teaching activities that must be held in person, will be held remotely. Please look for information from your faculty and department in the next day or two as to which academic activities will continue in person.
- Study Hubs remain open, operating at reduced capacity.”

Most likely classes will remain online next semester, an announcement in the next 2 weeks concerning labs is expected.

2. Subcommittee Business

- N/A

3. Action Items

- **SPF Annual Report** (Informational)
Shona Watt (*SPF Sustainability Officer*)

Special Guest Shona Watt presented the SPF Annual Report:

- The SPF is funded jointly by students and the University. This past year, there was \$1 million available for project funding. Allocations and revenues are growing steadily together.
- Increase from 24 to 34 approved projects this year, with the same number of applications. More than half of applications were approved.
- Introduction of the Big Wave Stream (application for over \$100,000 projects) has led to varied and more complex large initiatives, including one at Mac campus.
- 10th anniversary event and plant giveaway were extremely popular, and reached over a thousand staff and students across both campuses.

Questions from Council included:

Any added restrictions to funding because of Covid-19?

No, if anything, there is more flexibility to what we will fund.

Are students asking for feedback when applying?

Yes, advice and guidance is part of the application process.

- **CAPS Career Day** (Discussion)

Leela Riddle-Merritte (*VP External*): She met with Mac Student Services to discuss the recent CaPS Virtual Career Fair, held on Sept 29th

Feedback on future networking opportunities from Council would be most welcome.

- **COVID-19 Code Red Concern Raised** (Discussion)



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Leela Riddle-Merritte (*VP External*): She heard some concerns from students that their peers are not respecting social distancing in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue.

A discussion followed: We will send a public service announcement to our students to remind them how to practice proper social distancing.

- **Biodegradable TWIGS** (Call for ~~Assistants~~ **volunteers**)

Leela Riddle-Merritte (*VP External*): Café TWIGS should be using more biodegradable takeout containers and utensils, how could we make this happen?

A discussion followed: Suggestions included creating a “plate club”, applying to SPF to do a study and/or purchasing a dishwasher, and consulting with Oliver de Volpi from Food & Dining Services. Karl-Antoine Hogue (*Envr. Advisor*) will create a sub-committee to work on this, ~~assisted by~~ Keel Scruton (*VP Finance*) **also volunteered**.

- **Financial Policy Committee** (Call for Assistants)

Keel Scruton (*VP Finance*): The current MCSS Financial Policy needs to be updated, he will create a sub-committee and needs volunteers. Leela Riddle-Merritte (*VP External*), Caitlin Hier (*MaL*), and Carina Coleman-Gridley (*MaL*) will help.

- **Forum on Student Experience with Remote Delivery** (Discussion)

Véronique Dion Larivière. (*VP Comm. and Student Life*):

McGill Teaching & Learning Services would like feedback from students on remote learning and if any improvements are needed. She will bring her findings to them at their next meeting.

A discussion followed: McGill Town Hall tomorrow will be covering that subject, she will attend. Feedback included profs exceeding class time, assignments due on Thanksgiving and mid-term exams scheduled on weekends. These issues will be brought to Valerie Orsat (Associate Dean, Student Affairs) by Nikulas Dworek (*President*).

- **VP Internal Virtual Halloween** (Call for Assistants)

Marie Prémont St-Jean (*VP Internal*): Needs ideas on creating a fun virtual Halloween experience.

4. Reports

VP External (summary):

- Aynsley Merk, Sustainability Subcommittee projects: sustainable vending machines, biodegradable TWIGS single-use items.
 - Waste subcommittee discussing a plate club
- REP (Racialized and Ethnic Persons Senate Subcommittee): Upcoming meeting on October 21st to discuss McGill’s new plan to address anti-Black racism.
 - Hoping to have a Representative recruited before then (“External subcommittee member” of sorts)



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- Meeting with Mac Campus Student Services
 - Interest = high for remote access to SS (Walsh, Cherestes)
 - ~10 people are using the Mac Hub at a time (this is registration and does not reflect people who actually show up as I understand)
 - Residences: 80/385 People
 - Plans for a kind of informal, roundtable with people of all levels, including faculty, in break-out rooms
 - Career Dvlpmt and Fairs rated high for student needs
- Meeting tomorrow with UTILE (tri-annual survey assessment of university student housing situations among other things)
- Following-up with:
 - MCSS Environmental Advisor (Karl) concerning the Sustainability Subcommittee;
 - Suzanne Fortier concerning the APC “townhall” that was promised at Senate;
 - EDI Trainers concerning a meeting with Angela Campbell and Anja Geitmann concerning selection best-practices

VP Internal

- Post-orientation meetings
 - This year had events throughout the summer so less panic questions during the first 2 weeks as they usually do.
 - People found that discover McGill more organized this year, but removed events are a lot harder to keep the group engaged. Lack good introduction to the McGill community.
 - We see an increase of mental health needs and students struggle with social isolation.
 - Unfortunately, a lot of students don't participate in events because online events don't appeal to them.
 - Time zones are still a big issues, students living across the world feel left out.
- First meeting Education and communication sustainability subgroup this week
- Election:
 - Hard to get people to participate..
 - Sent report, descriptions and letterhead to Fabrice Labeau.
- Events this semester:
 - Wine and paint night. I will suggest they do En Masse style because you just need a sharpie (and a MTL company) so it's accessible to everyone but they can do what ever they want.
 - Halloween Scunt from 25th to 31st, give winners Ceilidh pint. Maybe ship? Then game night the 31st.
 - I had a proposition to combine with other associations instead of separate students, and will see if go forward with that.

5. Next Meeting

Nikulas Dworek (*President*): Next meeting on Tues, Oct 20th, 2020 at 5:30pm, on Microsoft Teams

6. Adjournment

Nikulas Dworek (*President*) moved to adjourn, Leela Riddle-Merritte (*VP External*) seconded.
Unanimous, carried.

President _____ Secretary _____



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