



Student Representative Assembly Meeting 14N
Sunday, February 8, 2015 at 6:30 pm
Council Chambers, GH 111

Called to Order at 6:33pm

CALL OF THE ROLL

Present Abbas, Brodka, Craig, D’Mello, Gill, Gillis, Guarna, Jama, King, Kousoulas, Lehwald, Mallon, Mazza, Modi, Mohamed, Narro Perez, Nestico-Semianiw, Osazuwa, Paul, Saull, Soubas, Soukvilay, Stegmaier, Sun, Tambakis, Tweedie

Absent Excused Khanano, Mordhorst, Wilson

Absent Oliveros

Late Chennabathni, D’Angela, Dufault, Zacharewicz

Others Present Lindsey Huff (MSU Member), Jimmy Long (Spark Coordinator), Nisha Zewge-Abubaker (Diversity Services Assistant Director), Shaarujaa Nadarajah (MSU Member), Lindsay D’Souza (FYC Advocacy Director), J. Bauman (Recording Secretary)

Chair Mike Cheung

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Chennabathni, **seconded** by Guarna that the agenda be adopted as presented.

Amendment

Moved by Gill, **seconded** by Osazuwa to add the following item of business: “**Moved** by _____, **seconded** by _____ that the Assembly open two MSU seats and one SRA seat on the Elections Committee.”

Passes by General Consent

Vote to Adopt Agenda

Passes by General Consent

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

- The Chair reminded members that meetings start promptly at 6:30pm. The Chair stated that MSU members had arrived before SRA members, and began setting up the room with tables. The Chair reminded members that getting the room in order was their responsibility. The Chair reminded members it was also their responsibility to know and understand the bylaws, and that the Chair was available to answer any questions. The Chair advised that a refresher session would be held prior to the next SRA meeting.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Zacharewicz, **seconded** by Osazuwa that the minutes from SRA 14L – January 11, 2015 be adopted as circulated.

Amendment

Moved by Gillis, **seconded** by D’Angela that line one of Question Period be amended to strike “Executive Editor” and replaced with “MSU President”.

Passes by General Consent

Vote to Adopt Minutes

Passed by General Consent

REPORT PERIOD

1. Nursing Caucus – Zacharewicz presented

- Zacharewicz summarized his report.

Questions

- Saull stated he had a similar meeting with the MUNSS President in the fall. Saull asked what the Nursing Caucus planned to pass on to the next team. Saull asked if the issues of SRA representation and paying the MSU fee for those students enrolled in the Mo-Mac program had been fleshed out.
- Zacharewicz noted his role was more to advise on what the SRA could do to help our the nursing students.

2. Science Caucus – Guarna presented

- Guarna summarized her report.

3. Social Sciences Caucus – Jama presented

- Jama reported that she met with the Experiential Education Office to brainstorm ways to make social science students more passionate about their faculty. The Faculty wants to work with the SRA and the MSSS to have a retreat next year, but no details have been confirmed. Jama advised that the MSSS was holding their General Assembly on Tuesday.

4. External Affairs Committee – Nestico-Semianiw presented

- Nestico-Semianiw summarized his report.

5. University Affairs Committee – Narro Perez presented

- Narro Perez summarized the report.

6. Operations Commissioner – Paul presented

- Paul summarized his report.

7. Executive Board – Mallon presented

- Mallon summarized his report.

Questions

- Gillis asked what pilot services Executive Board was referring to when discussing conditional hiring.
- Mallon explained that Spark and WGEN were technically still pilot programs, and EB was discussing how to hire for these jobs. The MSU would have legal responsibilities to have a job for them, even if the pilots were not approved as full services. Mallon stated that EB agreed that a decision should be made on the pilot services sooner rather than later, instead of waiting until the end of March, so that the PTMs could be trained with the rest of the staff.

- Saull added another part of the conversation was setting the services up for success. Saull stated that both Spark and WGEN had difficulties getting things going, and he would like to see all of the PTMs trained and hired for May 1.

8. President – Saull Presented

- Saull summarized his report.

Questions

- Tambakis asked if a student used the peer-tutoring network, and the tutor was not knowledgeable, if there was a method in place for students to get their money back.
- Saull hoped that it would be a self-sustaining market. Saull stated that students should be able to rate the tutors, and if someone is a poor tutor, students will see that poor rating. Saull noted that a refund option had not been discussed, but he would bring that thought back to the working group. Saull added that the hope is to partner with MIETL for additional qualifications that tutors could opt-in to, to increase their rating and ability as a tutor.
- Tambakis asked if there was required training for tutors.
- Saull stated that no pedagogical training would be required, but tutors would be required to take any training required by law.
- Guarna asked if there was someone monitoring the tutor ratings.
- Saull stated the service would be housed in the SSC, and they have a full time staff member whose portfolio is focused on academic success. Saull explained that potential tutors would have to submit certain academic documentation, which would be reviewed before someone could be approved as a tutor. Saull noted if someone were receiving inappropriate ratings, someone would step in.
- Gillis asked if the Peer Tutoring Network would have a physical location, or if that would be up to the tutor.
- Saull stated there was no physical space for the tutors to utilize.
- Gillis stated that Saull made an argument earlier that the MSU should be working towards not having a profit. Gillis stated this was a service that would benefit students, and did not know why the MSU was looking to make a profit while running a surplus. Many students would be unable to afford this service. Gillis stated that the Assembly was likely to approve a \$40,000 year-end celebration, but was willing to pursue a privatized model for tutoring. Gillis asked Saull if he weighed the year-end celebration as a more positive use of spending money.
- Saull noted it was a fair criticism that some students are unable to afford \$15 per hour for a tutor, adding he had been talking to the SSC about ways to address these concerns, which could include asking students to indicate if they are in need of financial support, and assistance could be in the form of a grant. Saull noted that in terms of the \$15 per hour cost, current tutoring costs on the SSC site are between \$30-\$45, and is progress. Saull hoped that once the revamped service launches, the SSC would be able to find the best price point based on supply and demand. Saull stated that creating services should not be the first priority in the MSU. A peer tutoring already existed within a University department, and Saull made a decision to work towards enhancing an existing service and making it better for students over creating a new service.
- Gillis stated that Saull's presidential platform point introduced the peer-tutoring network as being representative of the McMaster Engineering Society model, whereby the society subsidizes students. Gillis stated that Saull is now comparing the model to the University, and that is not where his idea came from.
- Saull noted he prefaced his update by acknowledging that it was a failure, and has acknowledged that this is a more sustainable model after doing nine months of work on the project.
- Gillis stated that the MSU has a lot of money that needs to be spent. Gillis did not see why subsidizing something would give the MSU less control on the project. Gillis thought this was a purposeful decision to move to a privatized model.

INFORMATION PERIOD

- Long stated that at the next SRA meeting, a decision on Spark would be coming forward. Long would be sending out an information package explaining how Spark has run over the past year. Long added that he

would be available via email, before the meeting, and would host drop-in sessions if members had any questions.

- Brodka reported he met with M. Porritt (Director, Housing & Conference Services) about various options for how move in could look. Brodka stated that he brought these options to the Welcome Week Advisory Committee (WWAC), and consensus from that group was for move in to begin the weekend before the long weekend. Brodka stated he would be sending out an email explaining each option to the Assembly, and would like to hear feedback on the options.
- Jama noted that Diversity Services and the Services Committee held a focus group on the idea of an abilities service. Jama stated there was a survey up, and encouraged members to share it through their channels.
- Mallon added at WWAC, the committee gave a positive recommendation for a reallocation of the Welcome Week levy. Mallon stated a proposed increase of 5% to faculty societies, 1.4% to the MSU for the Welcome Week Faculty Coordinator, and the remainder for special projects, would be sent to the Student Services Committee at the end of February for approval. Mallon noted the special projects fund would be used for Welcome Week priorities, such as consent and gender violence, substance abuse, fire safety, and mental health. It could also be used for equality and equity of Welcome Week, as some of the smaller faculties are unable to run events with their current funding.
- Narro Perez stated Discover Your City week was running February 9-13, and the NYC website had bus routes to get students to all of the events. Narro Perez noted the City of Hamilton was a new partner, and the City was covering the cost for a DJ at the Monday night skating event. Narro Perez reported that Mental Health Awareness Week was February 23-27. Narro Perez stated that Spring Valedictorian nominations would open on February 9 and close March 9. An SRA member from each academic division is on the selection committee. Narro Perez asked interested members to send him an email. If there were no interest, Narro Perez would reach out to faculty societies to fill those spots.
- Paul stated the McMaster Social Sciences Society was hosting their general assembly on February 10 from 6:30pm to 8pm. They would be talking about how the MSSS represents undergraduate students, how to get involved in Welcome Week, and executive nominations.
- Syed announced that nominations for SRA generals would be opening on February 9. Syed encouraged members to advertise the election. Syed noted that new for this year was a reimbursement for SRA candidates who receive 10% of the vote, so there would no longer be a financial barrier for students to run.

QUESTION PERIOD

- Tambakis asked Brodka for the rationale behind moving students into residence a week earlier for Welcome Week, as it would cost more money.
- Brodka stated that nothing had been solidified, and members would see full details in an upcoming email. Brodka stated that the weekend before the long weekend was recommended for a number of reasons. All options are possible, but a move in during the week would be much more difficult, and would increase the congestion getting on and off campus. By moving move in to the weekend before, it provides more flexibility in the Welcome Week schedule that could be used for both programmed and unprogrammed time. Students would be on campus for an additional week, and there are costs associated with that. Brodka stated that if students move in the weekend before the long weekend, Residence Life will forego their allocation of the Orientation Levy, and those funds would be put towards priority programming. Brodka acknowledged that none of the options were perfect. Brodka stated that WWAC did talk about students losing a week of work and other commitments. The reality is that Welcome Week 2015 is going to be a trial year for a number of things, due to a weeklong fall break. Brodka stated that a decision needed to be made quickly, but wanted to see student feedback first.
- Guarna asked when a decision would be made on Welcome Week, as it would affect summer jobs.
- Mallon stated that looking at the calendar dates, it would be less than a week for most students who have contracts that go until Labour Day, and less if contracts end on August 31. Mallon stressed that 2015 was a trial period.
- Gillis asked where WGEN was on getting a physical space on campus.

- Saull noted there was a conversation about this at Executive Board, and the Board is committed to finding a permanent space for WGEN before May 1. Saull noted that EB asked Brodka to see if WGEN can permanently have the space they have been loaned, and if that does not work out, the Board will move to something else.
- Gillis asked what would happen to the space if WGEN were not continued, as it was a pilot for this year.
- Saull stated that if that happened, it would be against his loud disagreement, and the space would be given back to whoever gave it to the MSU.

BUSINESS

1. Recess for Meeting of MSU Inc

Moved by Saull, seconded by D’Mello that the SRA recess for a meeting of MSU Inc.

Passes by General Consent

Recessed at 7:26pm

Called to order at 7:35pm

CALL OF THE ROLL

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Present | Abbas, Brodka, Chennabathni, Craig, D’Angela, D’Mello, Dufault, Gill, Gillis, Guarna, Jama, King, Kousoulas, Lehwald, Mallon, Mazza, Modi, Mohamed, Narro Perez, Nestico-Semianiw, Osazuwa, Paul, Saull, Soubas, Soukvilay, Stegmaier, Sun, Tambakis, Tweedie, Zacharewicz |
| Absent Excused | Khanano, Mordhorst, Wilson |
| Absent | Oliveros |
| Late | |
| Others Present | Lindsey Huff (MSU Member), Jimmy Long (Spark Coordinator), Nisha Zewge-Abubaker (Diversity Services Assistant Director), Shaarujaa Nadarajah (MSU Member), Lindsay D’Souza (FYC Advocacy Director), J. Bauman (Recording Secretary) |
| Chair | Mike Cheung |

2. Open SRA Seat on Standing Committee

Moved by Nestico-Semianiw, seconded by D’Mello that the SRA open one (1) SRA seat on the External Affairs Committee.

Passes by General Consent

3. Close SRA Seat on Standing Committee

Moved by Nestico-Semianiw, seconded by D’Angela that the SRA close one (1) SRA seat on the External Affairs Committee.

Nominations

- Guarna nominated Stegmaier – accepted.

Vote to Close

Passes by General Consent

- Stegmaier won the SRA seat on the External Affairs Committee by acclamation.

4. Ratify MSU Member on MSU Merit Scholarship Award Committee

Moved by Saull, seconded by Osazuwa that the SRA ratify the Executive Board's decision for the MSU member to the MSU Merit Scholarship Award selection committee.

- The Chair explained that the MSU member on the committee dropped their seat. The Chair noted that the selection committees were meeting as of Monday, so there was an urgent need to fill the seat. The Chair previously sent out an email asking for nominations, and Mina Karabit was elected to the seat at the last Executive Board.

Vote to Ratify

Passes by General Consent

5. Open seats on the Elections Committee

Moved by Gill, seconded by Stegmaier that the Assembly open two MSU seats and one SRA seat on the Elections Committee.

Passes by General Consent

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. OPERATING POLICY 3.10 – ROLE OF THE MSU DURING LABOUR DISRUPTIONS

Moved by Nestico-Semianiw that the SRA approve changes to OPERATING POLICY 3.10 – ROLE OF THE MSU DURING LABOUR DISRUPTIONS as circulated.

- Nestico-Semianiw went over the changes with the Assembly. Nestico-Semianiw explained that this policy incorporated the statements and recommendations from the MSU's general policy on labour disputes.
- Gillis asked why the title changed.
- Nestico-Semianiw stated that the operating policy and general policy had different titles, and he wanted things to be consistent.

Amendment

Moved by Gillis, seconded by Abbas that section 3.2.7 – "With exception to extraordinary circumstances, the MSU should avoid endorsing a side" be struck.

- Gillis stated that if the SRA wanted to endorse a strike, they should be able to. That ability should not be purposely removed. Gillis did not see it being a factor anytime soon. Gillis was confused by what "extraordinary" circumstances would be, but it was a hard term to define, and he took issue with that. Gillis stated that not all members of the Operations Committee were present when this policy passed, as he was absent, and this would not have been a unanimous vote had he been present.
- Abbas stated he was wary of this wording now that he had thought about it as a way to curtail the SRA's ability to take a side in a strike. The MSU should always support the undergraduate perspective.
- D'Angela agreed with the views presented, but did not have an issue with the wording of the section. D'Angela encouraged the Assembly to vote against the amendment. D'Angela argued that this wording states the SRA should avoid taking a side, and that it was up to future SRAs to decide what "extraordinary circumstances" mean. It is left vague intentionally so that a decision could be made at the appropriate time, and prevents the SRA from getting involved in every single dispute.
- Nestico-Semianiw agreed that the phrasing "extraordinary circumstances" was fine. The wording in policies is supposed to be vague for different circumstances. Nestico-Semianiw stated that the MSU could still encourage

negotiations, but encourages that the MSU remain neutral. Labour disputes are internal relations that the MSU should not get involved with, as it might cause the MSU's existing relations with campus partners to weaken if we get involved.

- Paul noted the point of an operating policy should be to set out a framework and guideline for how the MSU should respond in these situations. Paul thought the policy should remain vague, as it directs the MSU to take a stance if the issue affects MSU members. There are situations where the MSU should not get involved. Paul stated that this clause did not prevent the MSU from taking a stance when it would benefit its members.
- Gillis did not see why this needed to be in the operating policy. Gillis did not think that the Assembly needed to worry about the MSU taking a side on a labour dispute based on recent decisions. Gillis did not want to see the SRA in a situation where they are prohibited from taking a side. Gillis added this was not a clause that should be amended on the floor if in that situation. By taking out this clause, it does not mean the MSU would endorse every strike.
- D'Angela stated that by leaving this clause in, it would set a framework for when the MSU would get involved and what the circumstances would be. It provides a threshold for any labour disputes in the future. Policies should accurately reflect what is trying to be done. D'Angela stated it was important to think about what a good policy would look like for future SRAs.
- Paul stressed that leaving this section in does not prevent the SRA from taking a side. It was not a change to say that we could not take a side, but a guide for how to make decisions in the future.
- Saull stated the conversation was getting redundant, and the Assembly was debating cosmetic changes.
- Gillis stated he asked the Assembly to stand by a former McMaster student whose mother was being deported, and he was told he was out of order. Gillis asked if taxi drivers went on strike, and there were students who relied on taxis for accessibility, were those extraordinary enough circumstances to take a side. Gillis stated he had been rule out of order in the past due to vague terminology. If the Assembly thought that this was clear enough, they were wrong.
- Abbas stated that this phrase make a difference in the tone of the policy. Abbas thought that by removing it, it leaves the SRA more open to get involved in labour disputes.
- Nestico-Semianiw explained that this clause was pulled from the general policy, which had been adopted by the SRA. Nestico-Semianiw stated that this was already a principle that the Assembly agreed upon.
- Syed believed that the SRA would define extraordinary circumstances as any that negatively affect undergraduate students.
- Paul stated this should serve as a reminder that the Assembly should be discussing issues that affect its membership. If it is the will of the Assembly, they will choose to get involved in a labour dispute.
- Gillis reiterated that he had guidelines stop him from making motions at the Assembly in the past. This motion is before the Assembly now. Gillis stated that health care for students was damn important, and the Assembly still voted against that. Gillis stated that he had no doubt that with this clause removed, the SRA would continue to make apolitical decisions. Gillis could not fathom why, in a policy that is well written and neutral, the Assembly would want to purposely put something in that would prevent us from advocating for student needs. Gillis thought that maybe 2000 students were not enough, or if two students were enough. When students need the Assembly to advocate on their behalf, they should not have to wait to hear if the Assembly thinks their issues are extraordinary enough. Gillis did not care if it was two students; if they are a paying member, the Assembly needs to support them.

Moved by Zacharewicz, seconded by Lehwald to call to question.

In Favour: 22 Opposed: 7 Abstentions: 0
Opposed: Brodka, Narro Perez, Saull, Osazuwa, Dufault, Gillis, Jama
Motion Passes

Moved by Gillis, seconded by Abbas that section 3.2.7 – “With exception to extraordinary circumstances, the MSU should avoid endorsing a side” be struck.

Vote on Amendment

In Favour: 18 Opposed: 5 Abstentions: 7
Opposed: Dufault, Soukvilay, Nestico-Semianiw, D'Angela, Paul
Abstentions: Saull, Soubas, King, Sun, Zacharewicz, Craig, Lehwald
Motion Passes

Main Motion

- Guarna asked if sections 3.1.9 and 3.2.2 were redundant.
- Nestico-Semianiw explained that one section refers to internal relations, and the other to external relations.
- Guarna asked how it is clear that 3.1.9 refers to internal relations.
- Nestico-Semianiw apologized for the formatting, and noted that anything under section 3.1 was dealing with McMaster University, and anything under section 3.2 was dealing with external relations.

Amendment

Moved by Gillis, seconded by Osazuwa that the title be changed to "Role of the MSU during Labour Disputes".

- Gillis stated that the general policy has the title of "labour disputes," and he felt there was a difference in the definitions. This change clarifies that the conflict is when management and workers disagree.

Passes by General Consent

Main Motion

- Jama asked how the MSU was supposed to enhance services according to section 3.2.4.
- Nestico-Semianiw stated the intention was that if there were students who needed services that were discontinued because of a strike, the MSU would do its best to provide those services for students.
- Jama asked if there was an HSR strike, how the MSU would enhance that service.
- Saull stated the President would ensure the least disruption for students. It would be a conversation about how to find alternative transportation. Saull stated that it might not happen, but this section gives the direction that the MSU needs to go out and try to find solutions.
- Gillis asked if Saull felt it would be the job of the student union to find a service from an external group that was not longer provided by an internal group.
- Saull stated that if there was a service disruption, this might be in the form of advocacy. The MSU should be doing something.
- Jama was concerned about undermining a strike by looking to external vendors.
- Gillis agreed, and did not want to see a scenario where the MSU encourages people to cross a picket line.
- Nestico-Semianiw noted the operating policy is not to judge every action. How the MSU goes about increasing services should not be outlined in the operating policy, as every situation will be different.
- D'Angela stated it would not be about the MSU going out and finding a new contract or solution, but ensuring that students are being considered.
- Gillis was concerned that it says to "enhance specialized services".
- Gill noted that the last amendment was because of wording that some members thought would handcuff the SRA to a decision. Gill stated that this section does the opposite, and it empowers the MSU to take special action if there is need. Gill stated this was a very positive clause, and does not get in the way of the doing something good for students.

Moved by Nestico-Semianiw that the SRA approve changes to OPERATING POLICY 3.10 – ROLE OF THE MSU DURING LABOUR DISPUTES as circulated and amended.

Vote on Motion

In Favour: 28 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 2

**Abstentions: Jama, Abbas
Motion Passes**

2. Rescind MSU General Policy – MSU During Labour Disputes

Moved by Nestico-Semianiw that the SRA rescind the MSU General Policy – The Role of the MSU During Labour Disputes.

- Nestico-Semianiw explained that the general policy statements had now been incorporated into the operating policy, making the general policy redundant.

Passes by General Consent

3. Access Copyright Policy Paper

Moved by Nestico-Semianiw that the SRA approve the changes to the MSU General Policy – Access Copyright, as circulated.

- Nestico-Semianiw stated that the policy had been restructured into the Policy, Concern, and Recommendation format. The direction of the paper was the same, and better articulated advocacy priorities in the policy.
- Gillis asked if the policy still states that we should not have access copyright.
- Nestico-Semianiw stated yes, there was a recommendation that we stop.

Passes by General Consent

TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

**Sunday, February 22, 2015
6:30pm
Gilmour Hall 111**

CALL OF THE ROLL

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Present | Abbas, Brodka, Chennabathni, Craig, D’Angela, D’Mello, Dufault, Gill, Gillis, Guarna, Jama, King, Kousoulas, Lehwald, Mallon, Mazza, Modi, Mohamed, Narro Perez, Nestico-Semianiw, Osazuwa, Paul, Saull, Soubas, Soukvilay, Stegmaier, Sun, Tambakis, Tweedie, Zacharewicz |
| Absent Excused | Khanano, Mordhorst, Wilson |
| Absent | Oliveros |
| Late | |
| Others Present | Lindsey Huff (MSU Member), Jimmy Long (Spark Coordinator), Nisha Zewge-Abubaker (Diversity Services Assistant Director), Shaarujaa Nadarajah (MSU Member), Lindsay D’Souza (FYC Advocacy Director), J. Bauman (Recording Secretary) |
| Chair | Mike Cheung |

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mallon, **seconded** by Narro Perez, that the meeting be adjourned.

Passes by General Consent.

Adjourned at 8:22 pm

/jb