Called to Order at 5:02pm

CALL OF THE ROLL
Present
Almeida, Anbalagan, Areghan, Beley, Dales, D'Souza, Eom, Farah, Flowers, Hsu, Lee, Lightstone, Long, Kelly, MacDonald, Martin, McBride, Mertens, Monaco-Barnes, Nadarajah, Oliver, Phung, Quinn, Ragnanan, Robinson, Rudge, Sehrawat, Singleton-Smith, Threndyle
Absent Excused
Bengizi, Cole, Ngo, Pita
Absent
Late
Baiden, Inigo, Kula,
Others Present
Lilian Obeng (MSU Member), Labika Ghani (MSU Member), Ryan Deshpande (Diversity Services Director), Alex Wilson (Maccess), Sasha Dhesi (The Silhouette), Sarah Jama (MSU Member), Adam Chiaravalle (MSU Member), Stephanie Bertolo (MSU Member), Vivian Sim (MSU Member), Chukky Ibe (MSU Member), Kojo Bampetey (OPIRG), Ajit Singh (OPIRG), Esmonde Jamieson-Eckel (OPIRG), Jonathon Patterson (OPIRG), Emma Ferguson (Recording Secretary)
Chair
Genya Oparin

TERRITORY RECOGNITION

- The SRA would like to recognize today that we are situated on traditional Haudenosaunee and Anishnaabe territories through the ‘Dish with One Spoon Wampum Treaty’.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Lee, seconded by Ragnanan that the Assembly adopt the agenda, as presented.

Amendment
Moved by Ragnanan, seconded by Long to move item of Business #10 to after item of Business #4.

- Ragnanan stated that it should be moved to accommodate those at the back waiting for the discussion.
  
  Passes Unanimously

Amendment
Moved by Lee, seconded by Hsu to move items of Business #1, #2 to after Adoption of Minutes 16I, 16J, 16K.

- Lee stated that some students present asked to move it up.

Vote on Amendment
  Passes Unanimously

Amendment
Moved by Hsu, seconded by Threndyle to add "Open one (1) SRA Seat on Standing Committee" to Business.

- Hsu stated that another seat opened up on University Affairs Committee.

Vote on Amendment
Amendment
Moved by Almeida, seconded by Areghan to add "Open one (1) SRA Seat on MSU Sustainability Committee" to Business.

Passes Unanimously

Amendment
Moved by Lightstone, seconded by Areghan to move item of Business #4 to after item of Business #13.

- Lightstone stated it made more logical sense.

Vote on Amendment
Passes Unanimously

Vote to Adopt Agenda
Moved by Lee, seconded by Ragnanan that the Assembly adopt the agenda, as amended.

Passes Unanimously

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR
- The Chair asked for members in the back to please sign the Observer’s List.

ADOPTION OF SRA MINUTES 16I, 16J, 16K

Moved by MacDonald, seconded by Nadarajah that the Assembly adopt the minutes from SRA meeting 16I – October 30, 16J - November 13 and 16K - November 27, as circulated.

Passes Unanimously

BUSINESS

1. Close MSU Seat on Elections Committee

Moved by Lightstone, seconded by Nadarajah that the Assembly close nominations for one (1) MSU Member to the Elections Committee.

Nominations
- Lee nominated Vicky Liu - accepted

Vote on Motion
Passes Unanimously

- Vicky Liu won the MSU seat on the Elections Committee by acclamation.

2. Close MSU Seats on Awards Committees

Moved by Nadarajah, seconded by Almeida that the Assembly close nominations for MSU members for the following award committees:
- Honour M (1)
- Rudy Heinzl Award of Excellence (1)
- MSU Merit Scholarship (1)
- J. Lynn Watson (1)
- MSU Spirit (1)

Nominations
- Lee nominated Sadek Mowakket for the Rudy Heinzl Award of Excellence Award committee - accepted
- Nadarajah nominated Jacob McKinnon for the Honour M Award committee - accepted
- Nadarajah nominated Jessica Gut for the J. Lynn Watson Award committee - accepted
- Nadarajah nominated Adam Chiaravalle for the MSU Spirit Award committee - accepted
- Nadarajah nominated Jenny Mahendran for the MSU Merit Scholarship Award committee - accepted

Vote to Close

Passes Unanimously
- Sadek Mowakket was acclaimed to the MSU seat on the Rudy Heinzl Award of Excellence Award committee.
- Jacob McKinnon was acclaimed to the MSU seat on the Honour M Award committee.
- Jessica Gut was acclaimed to the MSU seat on the J. Lynn Watson Award committee.
- Adam Chiaravalle was acclaimed to the MSU seat on the MSU Spirit Award committee.
- Jenny Mahendran was acclaimed to the MSU seat on the MSU Merit Scholarship Award committee.

REPORT PERIOD

1. Arts and Science Caucus - Almeida presented
   - Almeida summarized the report.

Questions
- Rudge ceded his time to Chukky Ibe. Chukky Ibe asked if a report came out of the focus group. Almeida responded she would type up and send a formal report.

2. Business Caucus - Robinson presented
   - Robinson summarized the report.

Questions
- Almeida asked if the newer members could discuss what they would be working on this term. Phung stated he had been involved with Finance Committee as well as working on food security issues. Sehrawat stated he had been in contact with the DeGroote Commerce Society, and the DeGroote Finance Association to discuss creating more first year events.

3. Engineering Caucus - Flowers presented
   - Flowers summarized the report.

4. Bylaws & Procedures Commissioner - Lee presented
   - Lee summarized the report.

5. Services Commissioner - report attached

6. Executive Board - Monaco-Barnes presented
Monaco-Barnes summarized the report.

Questions
- Hsu asked to expand on the issue with the space for the Food Collective Centre. Nadarajah responded that the past Food Collective Centre was given to the MSU for free. Every other space will require an operational cost of around 10 to 15 thousand dollars per year which creates a barrier.
- Quinn asked the Board for their stance on food security. Quinn stated she was alarmed to see that Mac Bread Bin was flourishing as a service as this means more students are potentially having problems. Monaco-Barnes stated that the use of the word flourishing was only directed at the service, not at the overall issue of food security. Oliver responded that the MSU will take an official stance on food security with a policy coming out at the end of the term.

7. Vice-President (Finance) - MacDonald presented
- MacDonald summarized the report.

Questions
- Ragnanan asked if MacDonald had any further plans work on career development services. MacDonald responded that Student Success Centre was working on transitioning their structure of how they do career support and development. The MSU will be heavily involved in the look of the new structure and best practices moving forward. MacDonald explained that he would be happy to help anyone looking at enhancing Faculty specific career services.

INFORMATION PERIOD
- Lightstone reviewed his circulated memo and went through the results of his survey. Lightstone created a questionnaire asking questions regarding referendum limitations and gender neutral washrooms. He explained that for religious reasons, gender neutral washrooms are a sensitive issue. He stated he created the survey in order to generate more conversation on the topic.
- Farah ceded her time to Ryan Deshpande. Deshpande stated that Diversity Week 2017: Taking Action was coming up on January 9-13. He stated that events were open to everyone.
- Alex Wilson stated that Maccess was excited to have their space opened. He stated that last term an Accessibility Guide for accessing campus was launched and he is working on an expansion guide to Westdale and the broader Hamilton community.
- MacDonald stated that a lot of jobs were closing in the upcoming weeks and asked the Assembly to promote them to their constituents.
- Ragnanan stated that the Nursing Caucus was holding a career forum on January 9 in HSC 4E20.
- Nadarajah reported that there would be 10-12 Commerce students with a focus in human resources joining the upcoming hiring panels as observers as part of an experiential learning opportunity.
- Hsu informed that the University Affairs committee is working on a food security policy and would be holding a forum with Mac Bread Bin on Friday, January 13 from 3pm-6pm in MUSC 311-313. An online survey will be launched on the MSU website. Hsu reported that Nucleus (Science lounge) had opened on the third floor of BSB.
- Martin stated that there would be a drop in policy writing session at the new Indigenous Studies Ceremonial Space on Wednesday, January 11 from 11am-12:30pm.

QUESTION PERIOD
- Quinn asked Lightstone why he did not take more demographics on the survey. She asked why the survey should be seen as valid with a small sample size. Lightstone responded that this survey received a large response in comparison to many other SRA surveys which lends more validity. Lightstone stated he did not see how demographics were relevant beyond the program as each student deserved to be represented equally and asking more would be invasive.
Quinn ceded her time to Chukky Ibe. Ibe asked if there had been any work done to create the international student advisory board. Oliver responded that there had been no conversations yet but she is open to discussions to get it going.

Alex Wilson asked Lightstone if there was any effort to educate the survey respondents on either what a gender neutral multi-stall bathroom looks like, or the successes and failures of other schools implementing them. Lightstone stated that there was no attempt in educating the respondents. Lightstone stated that he was not an expert at gender issues. He explained that the survey was conducted in response to the SRA passing the policy paper which stated the MSU wanted all bathrooms on campus to be gender neutral. At that meeting it was stated there would be a trial period where the signage in MUSC would be changed to gender neutral without any structural changes.

Quinn asked how many survey respondents were not cisgender. Lightstone stated that he did not ask that in the survey and does not believe it should affect its validity.

Hsu stated that she discussed at the previous SRA meeting that transitioning to gender neutral washrooms would be in collaboration with an educational campaign as well as structural changes to the existing bathrooms. It was the will of the Assembly to reflect this in the body text. Hsu asked whether Lightstone had looked at the survey she had conducted that included demographic information. She stated cisgender heterosexual males were not allowed to take part in that survey. Lightstone responded that he had not looked at that survey but believed all opinions were equally important.

Quinn ceded her time to Sarah Jama. Jama asked what pushed Lightstone to decide to create the survey when he admitted he was not an expert on what a gender neutral bathroom would look like. Lightstone responded that he is allowed to have an opinion and did not feel he needed to be an expert in order to gather information.

Robinson ceded his time to Ajit Singh. Singh asked Lightstone if he believes the University should have an equity policy. Lightstone responded that he believes that an equity policy is a good thing. Singh asked if Lightstone believes the University should engage in affirmative action or reactive action. Lightstone stated he did not have an answer to that question due to not having background knowledge. Singh asked for Lightstone’s opinion on the survey. Lightstone stated that he would vote yes to converting all single stalled washrooms gender neutral but no to converting all multi-stalled washrooms.

Ragnanan asked if Maroon Minutes were continuing. The Chair stated that there had been slight delays getting past editions out and members getting the draft versions to him sooner would help.

**BUSINESS**

3. **Close SRA Seats on Awards Committees**

Moved by Nadarajah, seconded by Lee that the Assembly close nominations for SRA members to the following aware committees:

- Honour M (1)
- MSU Merit Scholarship (1)
- J. Lynn Watson (1)
- MSU Spirit (1)

Nominations

- Nadarajah nominated Eom for the Honour M Award committee - accepted
- Nadarajah nominated Rudge for the MSU Merit Scholarship Award committee - declined
- Nadarajah nominated Robinson for the MSU Merit Scholarship Award committee - accepted
- Lightstone nominated self for the MSU Spirit Award committee
- Nadarajah nominated Martin for the J. Lynn Watson Award committee - accepted

Vote on Motion

**Passes Unanimously**

- Eom was acclaimed to the SRA seat on the Honour M Award committee.
• Robinson was acclaimed to the SRA seat on the MSU Merit Scholarship Award committee.
• Lightstone was acclaimed to the SRA seat on the MSU Spirit Award committee.
• Martin was acclaimed to the SRA seat on the J. Lynn Watson Award committee.

4. OPIRG Fee Referendum

Moved by Lightstone, seconded by Hsu that the OPIRG fee be sent to referendum to eliminate the $7.93 fee.

• Lightstone stated that high level administrative costs and the opt-out process from the OPIRG fee were concerns discussed during the rise and report at the previous SRA meeting. The OPIRG fee accounts for about $185,000 of student money per year and about 75% is used for staff expenses. Lightstone explained that there had been discussion about sending the fee to referendum but it was suggested to be pushed to a future meeting to give OPIRG a chance to respond to any questions. He explained that the OPIRG fee was created by a General Assembly motion 22 years previous and since that time students had not been given another chance to give their input to this fee. Lightstone stated that he had been berated when sharing an event regarding the OPIRG opt out. He explained that it is difficult to go up to a person face to face and ask for your money back which creates a barrier for students to opt out. Lightstone stated that in working groups many voices do not belong to students.

• Hsu stated that she was interested in what the OPIRG representatives have to say.

Amendment

Moved by MacDonald, seconded by Hsu that the Assembly amend the motion to read: "Moved by Lightstone, seconded by Hsu that the OPIRG fee be sent to referendum in January 2018 to eliminate the $7.93 fee."

• MacDonald stated that he had emailed OPIRG and their board members to try and get an understanding of what a referendum would mean for their organization. MacDonald explained that it makes the most sense if the referendum for a multitude of reasons. The organization has contingency plans based on a January referendum. Giving another year would give students a sufficient time to understand what the fee is used for. MacDonald expressed concerned that if the referendum was rushed, students would automatically vote to remove the fee without doing research. MacDonald stated that SRA General Elections is not a good time to hold this referendum as voter turnout drops from January to March. Finally, it would take time to create a plan for where the groups under OPIRG could find a new home if the program was dissolved.

• Lightstone asked for clarification on when the fee could be removed by the University if the referendum went through in March 2017.

• MacDonald stated that a fee can be removed all the way up until student registration, so a March referendum would allow the fee to be removed for 2017/2018.

Vote on Amendment

In Favour: 30 Opposed: 1 Abstentions: 1
Opposed: Farah
Abstained: Lightstone
Motion Passes

Back to Main Motion

Moved by Lightstone, seconded by Hsu that the OPIRG fee be sent to referendum in January 2018 to eliminate the $7.93 fee.

• Quinn urged the Assembly to not vote in favour of this motion. Quinn explained that there were only 150 opt outs total for the year showing no overwhelming student support to have the fee removed. She stated that OPIRG is an example of how the University and the MSU could be doing better. OPIRG is a living wage employer and by defunding them, jobs would be put at risk. Quinn explained she finds it ironic that people against the VP at large referendum would now want student voices heard.
Esmonde Jamieson-Eckel stated that it is OPIRG policy to have student members in working groups and any community members who would like to join pay a $10 membership fee. He stated that the successes of MISCA are attributed to OPIRG.

MacDonald explained he has no issues with the work that OPIRG does. His concerns were related to the financial considerations. He stated that the 75% administrative cost is enormous and is the equivalent to about 12.5 MSU services. He expressed concern that student money has not been valuably spent.

Mertens ceded his time to Vivian Sim. Sim explained that she had issues with MISCA and afterwards felt awkward expressing that she did not want to fund OPIRG. Sim explained that she was communicated with inappropriately by a guest brought in by MISCA and after she brought up the incident, MISCA continued to invite the guest to meetings. She stated that in her experience the leader of MISCA made decisions without consulting the rest of the group.

Lightstone stated that only 150 students opting out could mean either that students are unaware of the option to opt out, or that students are in complete support of OPIRG and if put to referendum, this question would not pass.

Mertens ceded his time to Kojo Bampetey. Bampetey stated that Bylaw 5 was constructed to ensure that OPIRG and other organizations like them are not misusing the funds allocated to them. He explained OPIRG adheres to all stipulations and there is no reason for it to be sent to referendum. Bampetey stated that OPIRG has been in existence for 22 years and in that time has done enormous things for each student at McMaster. OPIRG has contributed the bus pass, sexual assault policy, African Studies minor, and much more. He explained that there are problems that need to be acknowledged with their policies and procedures but that is no reason to be defunded. He encouraged the SRA members to speak with OPIRG representatives and working group members before making a rash decision.

Almeida ceded her time to Chukky Ibe. Ibe stated that a referendum limits the ability for discussion. He stated that it is problematic to hear that an individual has been mistreated in a working group. Ibe explained that the referendum will not do anyone justice and Bylaw 5 was created for this exact issue.

Quinn ceded her time to Ajit Singh. Singh stated that SRA members could have reached out to OPIRG to be more open and talk critically about what they do for students. He stated that OPIRG advocates for free education and abolishing student debt and it is imperative that these dedicated groups get funding.

Dales stated that students should be able to have input on the fee after 22 years.

Lightstone ceded his time to Jonathon Patterson. Patterson asked why no one had reached out to OPIRG before this point regarding their concerns. He explained that the concern with the opt-out event promoted by Lightstone was that it involved alcohol consumption. Patterson explained that a working group works on a consensus basis. He stated that three permanent staff who receive a living wage contribute to a large portion of the administrative costs.

Phung ceded his time to Adam Chiarevalle. Chiarevalle stated that although there could be an awareness issue, people on campus do know about OPIRG. He was referred to OPIRG by professors. He explained that OPIRG was instrumental in the cleanup of the Cootes Paradise watershed as well as creating what is now Mac Farmstand. He stated that much of what was being discussed about the awareness of OPIRG seemed to be hearsay.

Quinn read a statement sent in by Bengizi. Bengizi urged her fellow SRA members to vote this motion down. She explained that it was hypocritical for many SRA members to tokenize at large referendums for their own benefit. She explained she had only heard positive feedback about OPIRG from her constituents. Bengizi stated that the SRA should be dedicating their time to creating more transparency and informing students on the opt-out option.

Almeida ceded her time to Stephanie Bertolo stated that OPIRG is invaluable to the Hamilton community. She explained that OPIRG is great at connecting Hamilton residents to the McMaster community. Stephanie Bertolo stated that the SRA should consider the jobs they would be putting at risk by sending this question to referendum.

Martin thanked Vivian Sim for sharing her story and concerns. Martin stated she would be voting against this motion but believed the points brought up in favour were valid. She stated that the opt-out issues or the amount of the fee could be addressed in other ways than just a referendum.
• Rudge stated that it is risky to put a fee to referendum because students may vote it down without any education on the fee. He explained that recommendations should be made to OPIRG and if those are not met then bring back the topic of a referendum.

• MacDonald stated that the SRA has an obligation to look at the organization critically and in comparison to the other groups under bylaw 5, OPIRG has the largest question marks. He explained that OPIRG had been given input from the SRA with recommendations following a committee of the whole discussion. Recommendations from previous years are similar to the recommendations given at the last SRA meeting. MacDonald stated that there are glaring issues that need worked on but it may not be in anyone’s best interest to put the question to referendum.

• Areghan suggested collaborating with the MSU to advertise and be more transparent about what OPIRG does for students.

• Long ceded her time to Ajit Singh. Singh felt that OPIRG was being targeted by people who may be too privileged to see what OPIRG does. OPIRG is a strong advocate for students that need financial assistance.

• Lightstone stated that in response to the hearsay comment, he was attempting to protect the identities of the students he speaks to. He stated that the onus is on OPIRG to widely advertise their opt-out option. Lightstone stated that OPIRG existed during a 15 year period relying on donations from the community.

• Almeida ceded her time to Sarah Jama. Jama stated that to say OPIRG can exist off donations, is to say activist work should be done on a donation basis and it is unneeded and less valuable than MSU services.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Singleton-Smith to call to question.

In Favour: 19 Opposed: 12 Abstentions: 0
Opposed: Nadarajah, Flowers, Ngo, Kula, Threndyle, Inigo, Hsu, D’Souza, Robinson, Farah, Martin, Quinn
Motion Fails

Back to Main Motion

• Kula stated she would like to see an option of a lower fee.

• Alex Wilson stated that people are making recommendations about awareness to OPIRG without considering their own organization. The majority of students do not vote in MSU elections.

Moved by Areghan, seconded by Robinson to exhaust the speakers list.

In Favour: 31 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 1
Abstained: Anbalagan
Motion Passes

• Quinn stated that many students will make this decision based on economic insecurity, which is the very insecurity OPIRG is combating. She felt it was hypocritical that just now the Assembly seemed concerned about economic security.

• Lee ceded his time to Jonathon Patterson. Patterson stated that awareness can be a struggle due to the fact that OPIRG typically moves towards promoting and supporting the working groups rather than the organization as a whole. He stated he feels the MSU struggles in a similar away. Patterson explained that OPIRG advertises in The Silhouette, Almanac, posters and through social media. He stated that if OPIRG is defunded than the organization will cease. He suggested the MSU look towards themselves to revaluate their own fees.

• Farah ceded her time to Adam Chiaravalle. Chiaravalle stated that a referendum would not allow conversations like this to occur. He suggested the SRA learn more about OPIRG.

Vote on Main Motion
Moved by Lightstone, seconded by Hsu that the OPIRG fee be sent to referendum in January 2018 to eliminate the $7.93 fee.
In Favour: 1 Opposed: 27 Abstentions: 4
Opposed: Monaco-Barnes, Nadarajah, Oliver, Areghan, McBride, Flowers, Beley, Ngo, Threndyle, Baiden, Inigo, Hsu, Anbalagan, Almeida, Rudge, D’Souza, Long, Ragnanan, Eom, Lee, Robinson, Sehrawat, Mertens, Farah, Martin, Singleton-Smith, Quinn
Abstained: MacDonald, Dales, Kula, Phung
Motion Fails

Moved by Nadarajah, seconded by Lee the Assembly recess for 20 minutes.

Passes Unanimously

Recessed at 7:50pm
Called to Order at 8:16pm

CALL OF THE ROLL
Present
Almeida, Anbalagan, Baiden, Beley, Dales, D’Souza, Eom, Farah, Flowers, Hsu, Kula, Lee, Lightstone, Long, MacDonald, Martin, McBride, Mertens, Monaco-Barnes, Nadarajah, Oliver, Phung, Quinn, Ragnanan, Rudge, Sehrawat, Singleton-Smith, Threndyle

Absent Excused
Bengizi, Cole, Ngo

Absent
Areghan, Inigo, MacDonald, Pita, Robinson

Late

Others Present
Lilian Obeng (MSU Member), Labika Ghani (MSU Member), Ryan Deshpande (Diversity Services Director), Alex Wilson (Maccess), Sasha Dhesi (The Silhouette), Emma Ferguson (Recording Secretary)

Chair
Genya Oparin

BUSINESS

5. Operations Commissioner LOA Request

Moved by Anbalagan, seconded by Lightstone that the Assembly grant Preethi Anbalagan a leave of absence from her duties as Operations Commissioner from Sunday, January 15 to Thursday, January 26.

- Hsu asked if there would be meetings during the two weeks.
- Anbalagan stated that her replacement felt comfortable chairing so they would be holding a meeting both weeks.

Vote on Motion

In Favour: 27 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 2
Abstained: Anbalagan, Robinson
Motion Passes

6. President LOA Request

Moved by Monaco-Barnes, seconded by Oliver that the Assembly grant Justin Monaco-Barnes a leave of absence from his duties as MSU President from Sunday, January 15 to Thursday, January 26.

- Monaco-Barnes stated he was taking a leave of absence to be part of a referendum team. He explained that due to himself and Nadarajah being off, there would be no Executive Board for those two weeks.
- Oliver stated that the Board had extensive discussions about what the two weeks will look like and that she and MacDonald felt ready.
- Lightstone asked who would be acting president.
- Monaco-Barnes stated that it would be a team effort between Oliver and MacDonald.
- MacDonald stated that two directors are allowed according to corporate bylaw.
- Quinn expressed that she was concerned Monaco-Barnes was creating a conflict of interest through running a referendum side and being the figurehead of the MSU.

Vote on Motion

**In Favour: 28 Opposed: 1 Abstentions: 1**
- Opposed: Quinn
- Abstained: Monaco-Barnes
  
Motion Passes

7. **Vice-President (Administration) LOA Request**

Moved by Nadarajah, seconded by Oliver that the Assembly grant Shaarujaa Nadarajah a leave of absence from her duties as Vice-President (Administration) from Sunday, January 15 to Thursday, January 26.

- Nadarajah stated that the biggest inhabitance would be Executive Board not running.
- Anbalagan asked what hiring would look like.
- Nadarajah responded that certain positions like Maroons and EFRT would be hired before the leave.
- Quinn expressed concern that Nadarajah was acting solely out of self interest and shirking her responsibility.

Vote on Motion

**In Favour: 27 Opposed: 1 Abstentions: 2**
- Opposed: Quinn
- Abstained: Nadarajah, Lightstone
  
Motion Passes

8. **Bylaws & Procedures Commissioner LOA Request**

Moved by Lee, seconded by Oliver that the Assembly grant David Lee a leave of absence from his duties as Bylaws & Procedures Commissioner from Sunday, January 15 to Thursday, January 26.

- Lee stated he would be appointing a chair for his meetings before his leave.

Vote on Motion

**In Favour: 29 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 1**
- Abstained: Lee
  
Motion Passes

9. **OPERATING POLICY – EMPLOYMENT WAGES**

Moved by Lightstone, seconded by Anbalagan that the Operations Committee be tasked with reviewing Section 4 of the Employment Wages Operating Policy.

- Lightstone stated his concern was over the 20 cent per year increase for part time staff. He explained this encourages people to stay and does not allow for more students to experience positions and get involved within the MSU.
- MacDonald stated that the hiring boards are not biased by a staff's wage incentive and a 20 cent raise makes it advantageous for an employee to reapply which is not a bad thing. MacDonald explained that it
is rare to see a PTM reapply however CSRs often do. He stated that if an employee works multiple years for the organization they deserve the pay increase.

- Nadarajah stated that it is a priority of hers to create better tracking for staff and the overlap of people within paid and non-paid positions in the MSU.
- Farah asked what kind of demographics she would be looking for.
- Nadarajah stated that she had been hesitant to move forward with systematic changes because there is no existing data for executives applying for paid positions, who holds multiple positions and whether they are paid versus unpaid.
- Anbalagan stated she would have no problem reviewing this operating policy but reminded Assembly members to bring requests to her committee before sending them as a motion to the SRA for efficiency.

Vote on Motion

**In Favour: 4 Opposed: 5 Abstentions: 20**

**Opposed: MacDonald, Oliver, Hsu, Farah, Robinson**

**Abstained: Monaco-Barnes, McBride, Flowers, Beley, Threndyle, Baiden, Inigo, Anbalagan, Almeida, Rudge, D'Souza, Long, Ragnanan, Eom, Lee, Phung, Sehrawat, Mertens, Martin, Singleton-Smith**

**Motion Fails**

10. HSR Bus Pass Agreement

**Moved by MacDonald, seconded by Dales** that the SRA confirm the fee structure for the 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020 HSR pass for referendum to be asked in separate subsequent sections for Fall/Winter, Summer and Extended Service as detailed in the supporting documentation.

- MacDonald went through the memo. MacDonald explained that it was hard to negotiate from a position of strength due to McMaster having the lowest U-Pass in the country. He stated that originally HSR asked to raise the price by 300% but they were able to negotiate them down. The summer rate went up due to the HSR losing money on it in previous years. The City of Hamilton is increasing fees to improve service so it only makes sense for the U-Pass price to increase, however less drastically. MacDonald stated that there is confirmation from Metrolinx to get PRESTO integration for 2017/2018 with a $5 cost associated.
- Quinn commended MacDonald on his work negotiating this deal. She asked if there was an idea or plan for a new bus route connecting Limeridge Mall, Mohawk and McMaster.
- MacDonald stated that the discussion of new bus routes was brought up. He explained that the new Director seemed very receptive of involving students in feedback. MacDonald stated that the PRESTO integration could cause negotiation issues in future years if it reveals more students than estimated are using the bus.
- Lightstone asked if there were any discussions about LRT.
- MacDonald stated that it was considered when deciding the length of this bus pass. In three years there would be a better understanding of LRT infrastructure.
- Alex Wilson asked what advice MacDonald would give a future Vice-President (Finance) when negotiating.
- MacDonald stated that they should remain constantly aware of the data PRESTO gives.
- Quinn asked what would happen with students' existing PRESTO cards.
- MacDonald stated that a definite decision had not been made. An existing balance would likely be transferred onto the new card. MacDonald explained that Compass would hopefully be receiving a new PRESTO machine to handle those types of changes and produce card replacements.

Vote on Motion

**In Favour: 29 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 2**

**Abstained: Quinn, Areghan**

**Motion Passes**
11. January Clubs Ratification

Moved by MacDonald, seconded by Nadarajah that the Assembly ratify the clubs recommended by the Clubs Administrator for the 2016-2017 academic year, as circulated.

- Oliver stated she was especially excited for the Cooperative of Indigenous Studies, Students & Alumni to become ratified.

Vote on Motion

Passes Unanimously

12. Open SRA Seat on Standing Committee

Moved by Hsu, seconded by Pita that the Assembly open nominations for one (1) SRA Member to the University Affairs Committee.

- Hsu stated that there are four seats on University Affairs and two vacant seats. One scheduled to close at this meeting and one at the next meeting.

Vote on Motion

Passes Unanimously

13. Close SRA Seat on Standing Committee

Moved by Hsu, seconded by Anbalagan that the Assembly close nominations for one (1) SRA Member to the University Affairs Committee.

Nominations

- Robinson nominated Phung - accepted

Vote on Motion

Passes Unanimously

- Phung was acclaimed to the SRA seat on University Affairs committee.

14. Open SRA Seat on Sustainability Committee

Moved by Nadarajah, seconded by Rudge that the Assembly open nominations for one (1) SRA Member to the Sustainability committee.

Passes Unanimously

TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Sunday, January 22, 2017
5:00pm
Council Chambers, GH 111

CALL OF THE ROLL

Present

Almeida, Anbalagan, Areghan, Baiden, Beley, Dales, D'Souza, Eom, Farah, Flowers, Hsu,
Absent Excused: Bengizi, Cole, Ngo
Absent: Others Present:

Lilian Obeng (MSU Member), Labika Ghani (MSU Member), Ryan Deshpande (Diversity Services Director), Alex Wilson (Maccess), Sasha Dhesi (The Silhouette), Emma Ferguson (Recording Secretary)

Chair: Genya Oparin

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by D'Souza, seconded by Lee that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion Passes by General Consent

Adjourned at 9:05pm

/ef