



Student Representative Assembly Meeting 18L
Sunday, January 6, 2019 at 5:00pm
Council Chambers, GH111

Called to Order at 5:00pm

CALL OF THE ROLL

Present	Ahmed, Anderson, Arbess, Benzon, Bertolo, Espiritu, Farah, Gandzi, Hackett, Kumaran, MacLean, Reesor, Robinson, Senthilmohan, N. Singh, S. Singh, Sykes, Tejpal
Absent Excused:	
Absent	Bishara, Dominguez Florean, Epifano, Grewal, Ibrahim, Irfan, Isah, Lee, Oketch, Salciccioli, Shingleton-Smith, Villasis
Late	Bonk, Emmanuel, Reddy, Roshan, Warwani
Others Present:	Catherine Hu (Incite Magazine), Sahil Karnani (MSU Member), Uwais Patel (CRO), Raquel Deperasinski (AVP (Internal Governance)), Miranda Clayton (PCC Coordinator), V. Scott (Recording Secretary)
Chair	Elizabeth Wong

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 Sykes, **seconded** by Arbess to adopt the agenda, as presented.

Amendment

Moved by Hackett, **seconded** by N. Singh to move the Elections Report to be Item #1 for Report Period.

Passes Unanimously

Vote to Adopt Agenda

Moved by Sykes, **seconded** by Arbess to adopt the agenda, as amended.

Passes Unanimously

ADOPT MINUTES

Moved by Gandzi, **seconded** by Hackett to adopt minutes from SRA meetings 18J – November 11, 2018 and 18K – November 25, 2018, as circulated.

Passes Unanimously

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

- The Speaker welcomed everyone back from their break and hoped they had a good one. They asked that those at the back please sign the observer's list. The Speaker asked everyone to please clean up after themselves.

REPORT PERIOD

- 1. Elections - Uwais Patel presented**
 - Patel summarized the report.
- 2. Services Committee – Liam Sykes presented**
 - Sykes summarized the report.
- 3. Arts and Sciences Caucus – Warwani presented**
 - Warwani summarized the report.
- 4. Business Caucus – Espiritu presented**
 - Espiritu summarized the report.
- 5. Engineering Caucus – Sykes presented**
 - Sykes summarized the report.
- 6. Internal Governance Committee – Raquel Deperasinski presented**
 - Deperasinski summarized the report.
- 7. Executive Board – Farah presented**
 - Farah summarized the report.
- 8. Vice-President (Finance) – Robinson presented**
 - Robinson summarized the report.

Questions

- Roshan asked how feasible it would be to allocate funds to a bursary, besides the emergency bursary. They asked why they weren't supporting students with financial needs. Robinson responded that they could review the situation, but not sure if it was the MSU's job to be providing financial aid. Robinson explained that it would be a political move on the MSU's side of students paying money to help other students.
- 9. OUSA Provincial Advocacy Week – Bertolo presented**
 - Bertolo summarized the report.
 - 10. UCRU Federal Advocacy Week – Bertolo presented**
 - Bertolo summarized the report.

INFORMATION PERIOD

- Hackett announced that on Wednesday they will be launching the landlord rating system from 3-5pm in MUSC 203. They stated they will be circulating graphics for Assembly members to share.
- Bertolo announced that OUSA General Assembly delegate applications open tomorrow, and that there are three spots available.
- Clayton reported that the pride crosswalk has been vandalized again, this time with tire marks. Clayton reported that Campus Security will be reviewing footage. They stated that if anyone wants support or has questions can go to them. Clayton reported that PCC will also be changing their hours to be 10:30-5:30.

QUESTION PERIOD

- No questions were asked.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. Close MSU Seats on Awards Committees

Moved by Hackett, **seconded** by Sykes that the Assembly close nominations for MSU members to the following award committees:

- MSU Merit Scholarship (1)
- MSU Spirit (1)

Nominations

- MSU Merit – Muneeb Ahmed
- MSU Spirit – Robinson nominated self

Passes Unanimously

- Robinson won the MSU seat on the MSU Spirit Award Committee by acclamation
- Muneeb Ahmed won the MSU seat on the MSU Merit Scholarship Committee by acclamation

BUSINESS

1. Open SRA Seats on Standing Committees

Moved by Gandzi, **seconded** by Sykes that the Assembly open nominations for SRA seats on the following committees:

- Services Committee (1)
- Internal Governance (1)

Passes Unanimously

2. Close SRA Seats on Standing Committees

Moved by Robinson, **seconded** by Gandzi that the Assembly close nominations for SRA seats on the following committees:

- Services Committee (1)
- Internal Governance (1)

Nominations

- Reesor nominated self for Internal Governance

- Sykes nominated N. Singh for Services - accepted

Passes Unanimously

- Reesor won the SRA seat on the Internal Governance Committee by acclamation
- N. Singh won the SRA seat on the Services Committee by acclamation

3. Incite Referendum

Moved by Anderson, **seconded** by Emmanuel that the Assembly approve the recommendation from the Finance Committee of sending the Non-MSU Club Incite fee of \$1.02 to referendum to coincide with the SRA General Election, to give the option of \$1.02, reduce to \$0.51, or not have the fee at all.

- Anderson went over the memo with the Assembly.
- Sykes stated that sending this to referendum wasn't the best option. They stated that the best way was to give recommendations and make sure that the recommendations are followed for next year. Sykes stated that if the recommendations are still not done then send the fee to referendum next year.
- Warwani stated that sending Incite to referendum doesn't make sense because the Assembly hasn't given enough time to fix the issues. They felt that this was a drastic measure to take and the students should be given a chance.
- Roshan stated that they will be voting against the motion. They stated that Incite should be given a year to work on the issues and then re-evaluate.
- Arbess felt that sending Incite to referendum could hurt. They stated that they weren't entirely confident that Incite was properly managing their finances and that keeping the fee as is was in the best interest of the students.
- Robinson read a statement on behalf of the AVP (Finance) that valid points have been brought up about the use of funding. They stated that Incite has little financial management and not transparent with funds, and don't know where the surplus has come from. The AVP wrote that the Finance Committee should be outreaching more and give incite a list of recommendations with a timeline.
- Sykes stated that it could hurt to send to referendum as there wasn't a guarantee that two sides of the referendum could be provided to students. Sykes stated that this shouldn't be done without careful deliberation.
- Robinson stated that Incite shouldn't be sent to referendum. They explained that when the SRA was not satisfied with OPIRG the Assembly gave OPIRG a list of recommendations to follow first before sending to referendum. Robinson stated that there should only be two reasons why anyone should be sent to referendum; not following Bylaw 5 requirements or operating within their means. Robinson stated that Incite should be given the chance to change.
- Hackett would like to know the measures in place to send to referendum. They stated that the Assembly gave recommendations in previous years without change. Hackett asked why wait for another year when they could send it this year.
- Anderson stated that Incite was digging into the surplus to compensate for funding and that it doesn't add up. Anderson asked Robinson to explain and ceded their time. Robinson responded that it should be a question of why the surplus wasn't in the budget. Robinson stated that organizations can go into deficit and not be at net zero all the time and didn't think that running a deficit should be why the Assembly sends them to referendum.
- Robinson stated that based on recommendations in previous years, there were little conversations held and last year no recommendations were given to Incite to follow-up on. They added that this was the first year that a list of recommendations was given to Incite.
- Hackett stated that the surplus did come up last year, and the Assembly specifically asked about it and the response was that Incite didn't know where it came from. Hackett stated that the transition from year to year clearly wasn't good so how will the recommendations be completed.

- Sykes stated that they had a concern about poor transition as well but Incite deserves one more chance. Sykes asked for the Assembly to not act in haste.
- Clayton stated that they have been a student at McMaster for a number of years and remembers why there was a surplus. They explained that Incite stopped for one year and didn't publish anything, and another group hadn't picked up the student funding. Clayton stated that no one was there to transition and Incite shouldn't be punished for that. Clayton stated that referenda wasn't a great way to get student input on issues like this. They added that it looked like Incite was being punished for lack of communication in the past.
- Bonk stated that there has been a lot of great input, and wanted to make sure that the Assembly gives Incite tangible tasks to accomplish. They stated that giving Incite one more year might be the best option.
- Arbess stated that if this was something that was happening year after year then it was dishonesty and mismanagement of student funds. Arbess stated that using due democratic process Incite should be sent to referendum. Arbess disagreed with those that thought referenda weren't good indicators of what students want. They stated that the public needed to be educated with proper yes and no sides.
- Robinson went over the Bylaw 5 requirements with the Assembly members, and stated that change has happened from previous years and that the Finance Committee was obligated to follow-up with Incite to make sure the recommendations were being put into place.
- MacLean pointed out that it was naïve for the Assembly to say that by sending to referendum students would spend the hours looking into everything. MacLean stated that it was bad of the Assembly to assume that everyone will do their due diligence and that students might just look at the question and not fund it.

Moved by Senthillmohan, **seconded** by Ahmed to Call to Question

In Favour: 21 Opposed: 2 Abstentions: 0
Opposed: Farah, Sykes
Motion Passes

Vote on Motion

Moved by Anderson, **seconded** by Emmanuel that the Assembly approve the recommendation from the Finance Committee of sending the Non-MSU Club Incite fee of \$1.02 to referendum to coincide with the SRA General Election, to give the option of \$1.02, reduce to \$0.51, or not have the fee at all.

In Favour: 1 Opposed: 16 Abstentions: 6
Opposed: Farah, Robinson, Bertolo, Benzon, N. Singh, Sykes, MacLean, Senthillmohan, Ahmed, Reddy, Warwani, Gandzi, Roshan, Tejpal, Reesor, Espiritu
Abstained: Emmanuel, S. Singh, Kumaran, Bonk, Anderson, Hackett
Motion Fails

4. January Clubs Ratification

Moved by Robinson, **seconded** by Farah that the Assembly ratify the clubs recommended by the Clubs Administrator for the 2018-2019 academic year, as circulated.

- Robinson stated that the Assembly wanted more information, so the memo and letters were included in the process.

Vote on Motion

Passes Unanimously

TIME OF NEXT MEETING

**Sunday, January 20, 2019
5:00pm
Council Chambers, GH 111**

CALL OF THE ROLL

Present	Ahmed, Anderson, Arbess, Benzoni, Bertolo, Bonk, Emmanuel, Espiritu, Farah, Gandzi, Hackett, Kumaran, MacLean, Reddy, Reesor, Robinson, Roshan, Senthillmohan, N. Singh, S. Singh, Sykes, Tejpal, Warwani
Absent Excused	
Absent	Bishara, Dominguez Florean, Epifano, Grewal, Ibrahim, Irfan, Isah, Lee, Oketch, Saliccioli, Shingleton-Smith, Villasis
Late	Bonk, Emmanuel, Reddy, Roshan, Warwani
Others Present	Catherine Hu (Incite Magazine), Sahil Karnani (MSU Member), Raquel Deperasinski (AVP (Internal Governance)), Miranda Clayton (PCC Coordinator), V. Scott (Recording Secretary)
Chair	Elizabeth Wong

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Sykes, **seconded** by Reddy that the meeting be adjourned.

Passes by General Consent

Adjourned at 6:01pm

/vs