



AGENDA - SRA Year End Ceremonies
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY
Wednesday March 30, 2005, 3:00pm
Council Chambers, Gilmour Hall Room 111

PROCEDURE

Final 2004-2005 Meeting Call to Order, President's Comments, Vice President's Comments, Unfinished Business, Awards, Roll Call, Adjournment, 2005-2006 Inaugural Meeting, Call to Order, Open Nominations for Speaker, House Leader, Vice President (Administration), Vice President (Education), Vice President (Finance), Roll Call, President-Elect Comments, Adjournment, SRA Photos

SRA 2004-2005 MEETING

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|----|--|-----------|
| 1. | President's Comments | Mohan |
| 2. | Vice President (Administration) Comments | Piribauer |
| 3. | Vice President (Education) Comments | Robinson |
| 4. | Vice President (Finance) Comments | Khan |
| 5. | Unfinished Business | |
| 6. | Awards | Piribauer |

SRA 2005-2006 INAUGURAL MEETING

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|-----|---|-----------|
| 6. | Open Nominations for Speaker, House Leader, Vice President (Administration), Vice President (Education), Vice President (Finance) | |
| 7. | Roll Call | |
| 8. | President Elect Comments | Piribauer |
| 9. | SRA Photos | |
| 10. | Adjournment | |



Student Representative Assembly – SRA 04S
Wednesday March 30, 2005 @ 3:00pm
Council Chambers, Gilmour Hall, Room 111

Call to Order @ 3:24pm

Call of the Roll

Present

Baldeo, Du, Dyason, Gillezeau, Grenier, Kayani, Khan, Klein, Mohan, Moin, Osborne, Ott, Pahulje, Patel, Patel, Piribauer, Qureshy, Raina, Ramdeen, Robinson, Sarin, Takawy, Vijayakanthan,

Absent Excused

Absent

Brown, Jones, Kashyap, Minard,

Late

Dinath, Gamble, Murray, Somers, Sumner

Others Present

Dave Moore (MAPS/MSUAA), John Popham (Humanities-elect), Drew Mitchell (Social Science-elect), Caleigh Farquhar (Kinesiology-elect), Ian Davies (Social Science-elect), Andrea Dowell (Social Science-elect), Chrissy Taylor (Social Science-elect), Sarah MacDonald (SHEC), Kelly Kavanagh (SWHAT), Ehab Mohammed (Engineering-elect), Mohammed Islam (Science-elect), AbdulGhani Basith (Science-elect), Harpreet Dhillon (Nursing-elect), Sudduf Wyne (Engineering-elect), Adam Montgomery (VP-Finance candidate), Sylvia Bermudez (Humanities-elect), Mary Kamel (Commerce-elect), Brad Clark (Commerce-elect), David Campbell (Commerce-elect), Mark Benvenuto (Commerce-elect), Andy Moonsammy (Social Science-elect), Ryan Moran (Humanities), Amanda Bateman (past SRA member), Maureene Ninham (Recording Secretary)

Speaker

Kherani

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Dyason, seconded by Takawy to adopt the agenda as presented.

VICE-PRESIDENT (ADMINISTRATION) COMMENTS

- Piribauer – it has been a great year. There is no shortage of who went above and beyond the call of duty. The MSU staff continuously step up to help and support with events, etc. Thank you all for such a great year!

VICE-PRESIDENT (EDUCATION) COMMENTS

- Robinson – I took this position to work with students. It was a pleasure, thank you.

VICE-PRESIDENT (FINANCE) COMMENTS

- Khan – it has been a pleasure working with all of you. I feel that this was a very productive experience. Thank you.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

- Mohan – thank you. I think that it was a good year of the SRA. The social dynamic and functional working dynamic of this SRA was excellent. Khan's work this year was phenomenal. Robinson came out strong and her work has surpassed everything despite of the happenings early on this year. This was a stellar year and I would have to say that it was one of the best since being involved with the MSU. Thank you all for such a great year. All the best in your future endeavors.

YEAR-END REPORTS

1. **Student Health Education Centre – MacDonald presented, attached.**
 - MacDonald – had a very successful year. We ran many different programs, go out there about educating students, and we were successful with donations of condoms this year. Statistics are up again this year. The incoming Coordinator has been hired and transition is going well.
2. **Student Walk Home Attendant Team – Kavanagh presented, attached.**
 - Kavanagh – we had 1000 walks this year. We recruited during welcome week and will continue to do this next year. Office space discussions are still happening and hopefully one day that will be resolved.
3. **Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgendered Centre – Taylor presented, attached.**
 - Taylor – attendance at events has been great this year. We had a great year overall.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **MSU Bursary Endowment Fund**

Moved by Robinson, seconded by _____ that the SRA approve an allocation of \$50,000 to augment the MSU Endowment (MSU Bursary Fund).

Discussion

- Robinson – presented a power point presentation including: History – The MSU Endowment Fund was created in 1982, when the MSU represented approximately 8,700 students; today the MSU represents more than 16,500 students. The MSU Endowment was created to help support students in need of financial assistance via bursaries funded from the interest generated by the Endowment. The MSU Endowment has not received any additional funds since its creation.
Assisting Students – in 2003-2004 only one student received assistance in the amount of \$1,500; this is equal to approximately 0.006% of the student population. According to Student Financial Aid & Scholarship (SFAS), the following statistics were gathered from the 2003-2004 academic year. The brackets indicated the percentage of the student population that falls into this category; 7,172 students applied for OSAP (43.9%), 5,502 students were approved (33.7%), 1,983 students received the maximum loan limit (12.1%). In its lobbying efforts, the MSU draws attention to the costs associated with higher education. Some examples include; Ontario students contribute an average of 44.1% to university operating budgets, Student Financial Aid needs to be reformed in order to help the students that are currently being hurt by the system and provide adequate assistance to students, Tuition Freeze/Deregulated Tuition. The MSU needs to take a stronger initiative in actually assisting its members who are in financial need, in addition to representing their interests to the University and government. Augmenting the MSU Endowment Fund is a concrete demonstration to the University, the provincial government, and to our own members that we take very seriously the financial needs of students. Development of a campus food bank is in line with this move, as the MSU recognizes that the financial constraints of students while they are attending higher education institutions. Benefits – If the MSU chooses to augment the MSU Endowment, there would be several benefits; the augmentation would be noted in the description of the Fund published in the Undergraduate calendar, a strong public communications opportunity to show that the MSU is serious about student financial aid needs, we may be in a position to have these funds matched by the Government, as per Rae Recommendation # 21: *"Philanthropy: Re-establish OSOTF (Ontario Student Opportunity Trust Fund) as a permanent program for all institutions to provide bursaries to students in need. The match provided by the government to*

institutions whose OSOTF endowment is less than \$1,000 per student should be enhanced for a two-year period.” The Funds? – A question that most definitely needs to be posed and answered is where do the funds come from? My recommendation is that the funds used to augment the MSU Endowment Fund come from the following two places: The budget line for CASA (which for some reason has \$24,000) in it; and the remaining \$26,000 would come from the MSU accumulated surplus – which grew by nearly \$600,000 in 2003-2004 to over \$1.5 million.

- Bateman – would like to address a few issues. We did not want to look into bursaries and scholarships last fall. The endowment fund is not a solution. It is a small way to fix a big problem. Each year, we could look at our budget and we can say that we can put that money to students if we have the reserve. You are not being accountable to students if you make this endowment fund. You need to look into the future and this will not benefit many students.
- Grenier – to Robinson – do you have the calculations of how many more students will be helped by this initiative?
- Robinson – the numbers are small but the top 25 schools that help students help four students instead of one student.
- Grenier – is that the same amount of money if we had a scholarship?
- Robinson – the endowment fund would generate 4% per year. A scholarship averages from \$500-1700 this past year.
- Khan – the last time this came up, a lot people agreed that this isn’t something that the MSU is comfortable in doing. It is not responsible for us to put this money into this fund. This is not in the MSU’s best interest.
- Robinson – this isn’t the same issue that I brought up in the fall. This is allocating funds that we already have in reserve.
- Gillezeau – I think that if we are willing to give money for the Tsunami we should be willing to say yes to this. Although I think that it is appropriate for us to see the budget before we pass this.
- Khan – we would be putting students money towards financial assistance.
- Robinson – we have a surplus of over \$600,000, I do not think that this will put us into financial hardship.
- Bateman – the Finance committee discussed the 5-year plan and I think that the plan should be implemented before you make any large decisions.

In favor: 1 Opposed: 19 Abstain: 4
Motion Fails

2. **Dental Plan**

Moved by Khan, seconded by Mohan that the SRA ratify the Executive Board’s recommendation of a \$95.00 cap for the dental plan fee and have the SRA defer the decision of approving a dental plan provider to the 2005-2006 SRA.

Discussion

- Mohan – apologize for this motion being a “wordy” one and being different from the last motion that was approved at the last SRA meeting but the reason is because we had some discussions take place and we all feel that it is good that we take the proper steps to ensure transparency and accountability.
- McGowan – I am sure that you are all aware of the process. We sat down with four different providers through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process. The Executive Board reviewed these presentations and there were three that were quality presentations. We are now in the process of obtaining feedback. We feel that there is one that gives us the best option. We are looking into what is the percentage that goes to claims and what percentage goes into administration. We do not want to give the company’s leverage if we make the decision right now without clarification. Through the involvement of the Executive Board we are concerned that if information of the provider is disseminated and gets back to the provider before a committed price is set, we would

lose that leverage. It would also be very difficult for me to go back to the provider. I believe that we are losing leverage without amending the plan design. We are looking at the best price for students along with the quality of service. We felt uncomfortable picking the provider at this time.

- Khan – McGowan covered everything but we have to ask the question, what is more important, student knowledge versus lowering the pricing for students? I do not think that having the provider in the last issue of the Silhouette is the most important way to go.
- Osborne – did all providers offer a price below \$110.00?
- Dyason - \$95.00 is what we feel is adequate for a good plan and we think it is sufficient. The provider we want to go with is actually set at \$85.00 for the plan.
- Osborne – how many providers had options under \$95.00?
- Khan – there were many different options we went through but only one provided an amount less than \$95.00.

In favor: 26 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0
Carried Unanimously

3. Solar Car Project

- a) **Moved** by Robinson, seconded by Gillezeau that the SRA approve an allocation of \$5,000 to the Solar Car Project for 2005-2006.

Discussion

- Robinson – we have already made sure that next year's SRA make a motion to go to referendum for this project but this motion is being brought forward because they will not be receiving funds until September 2006. I think that this is a gesture that we can make.
- Gillezeau – this is an outstanding project. We are behind as to what other schools give their solar cars and I think that we should give them a shot at competing.
- Dyason – I am opposed to this motion. \$5000 is too much money to give to the Solar Car project. I would be more comfortable if it was for \$1000.
- Khan – is there an outline of what amount of sponsorship would give the MSU?
- Ott – in favor. We have the money to help out other groups and with the amount of preparation of presentations, etc. This is interdisciplinary project. I think that \$5000 is an appropriate amount of money for this group.
- Grenier – if people were voting on the last motion of the endowment fund due to the surplus plan, people should be voting the same. There are not too many people on campus that has every academic division get together. I am in favor of this motion.
- Mohan – this is very insignificant. I think that we should ask for the car to be seen more on campus so that students know where this money is going.
- Gillezeau – I agree to have the car more visible on campus for students. I think that this is an outstanding green initiative.
- Klein – in response to Grenier's comments, the endowment fund motion is completely different. With this motion, we are supporting student initiatives.

Amendment

Moved by Takawy, seconded by Khan that the MSU change the amount of sponsorship to \$2500.00 for the McMaster Solar Car Project.

Discussion

- Takawy – I am putting this forward because it is not too much and it's not too little for those who have concerns with the amount of \$5000.
- Gillezeau – this is preempting to help this now. If we toss \$16,000 outside of the school, I do not think that \$5000 to go to a group on campus is a big deal.

- Du – we try our best to fundraise for this project. We are in debt due to lack of support from the school. We should be putting forward more than \$5000.
- Khan – if they are already in debt \$5000, that shows mismanagement of money. More so if they have not gotten out of debt.
- Ott – to Robinson – how was the amount \$5000 reached? To Takawy – how was the amount \$2500 reached?
- Robinson - \$5000 is 1/3 of what the referendum would raise.
- Takawy – some people think that \$5000 is too high and \$2500 is meeting them half way.
- Kayani – I do not think that we should give them \$5000. Other solar cars are getting more money from Universities.
- Khan – we are supporting them by agreeing to go to referendum. We are already showing support.
- Mohan – in speaking with the organizers, they use the funds that they fundraise for and we are not talking fundraising by bake sales. The money that gets pumped into these cars is a lot. They just want the chance to compete with the “big guys”. Its all or nothing.
- Grenier – we should be more innovative and proactive. We have this opportunity to champion this opportunity. What are we ultimately here for?
- Osborne – the solar car team needs the most cash. They can market themselves.
- Klein – in favor of \$5000. Hopefully the University will follow suit.

Moved by Gamble, seconded by Grenier to call to question.

In favor: 26 Opposed: 2 Abstain: 0
Motion Passes

Vote on Amendment

In favor: 4 Opposed: 21 Abstain: 2
Opposed Noted: Gillezeau, Osborne
Motion Fails

Vote on Main Motion

In favor: 22 Opposed: 3 Abstain: 2
Opposed: Takawy, Dyason, Raina
Abstain: Sumner, Khan
Motion Passes

b) **Moved** by Robinson, seconded by Gillezeau that the SRA approve an expenditure of \$5,000 to the Solar Car Project for 2005-2006.

Discussion

- Robinson – this is a procedural motion. Once we have allocated the money, we have to motion to expend it.
- Khan – to Robinson – you never clarified if this should come from the operating budget or the special projects line.
- Robinson – would recommend this come from the special projects line.
- Khan – this will come from the Executive Operations budget line.

In favor: 26 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 1
Abstain: Takawy
Motion Passes

SRA AWARDS

- Piribauer announced the winners of SRA awards for the 2004-2005 Assembly. Award winners are attached in the official minute book.

CALL OF THE ROLL

Present	Baldeo, Dinath, Du, Dyason, Gamble, Gillezeau, Grenier, Kayani, Khan, Klein, Mohan, Moin, Murray, Osborne, Ott, Pahulje, Patel, Patel, Piribauer, Qureshy, Raina, Ramdeen, Robinson, Sarin, Somers, Sumner, Takawy, Vijayakanthan
Absent Excused	
Absent	Brown, Jones, Kashyap, Minard
Late	
Others Present	Dave Moore (MAPS/MSUAA), John Popham (Humanities-elect), Drew Mitchell (Social Science-elect), Caleigh Farquhar (Kinesiology-elect), Ian Davies (Social Science-elect), Andrea Dowell (Social Science-elect), Chrissy Taylor (Social Science-elect), Sarah MacDonald (SHEC), Kelly Kavanagh (SWHAT), Ehab Mohammed (Engineering-elect), Mohammed Islam (Science-elect), AbdulGhani Basith (Science-elect), Harpreet Dhillon (Nursing-elect), Sudduf Wyne (Engineering-elect), Adam Montgomery (VP-Finance candidate), Sylvia Bermudez (Humanities-elect), Mary Kamel (Commerce-elect), Brad Clark (Commerce-elect), David Campbell (Commerce-elect), Mark Benvenuto (Commerce-elect), Andy Moonsammy (Social Science-elect), Ryan Moran (Humanities), Amanda Bateman (past SRA member), Maureene Ninham (Recording Secretary)
Speaker	Kherani

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Takawy, seconded by seconded by Grenier that the meeting be adjourned.

In favor: 27 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0
Carried Unanimously

Adjourned @ 4:50pm

Presidential Address

Note: Welcoming address for new SRA
Date: March 30, 2005 By: Tommy Piribauer



I would like to welcome the members of the 2005-2006 Student Representative Assembly. You certainly had a long and eventful journey to get here. But let me caution you, now is no time to rest. The beginning of our term unveils the greatest window of opportunity, an opportunity we must immediately seize.

As the incoming MSU president, I have been and will continue to be clear and vocal about the priorities for next year and the way we should be representing students.

I will briefly list the issues that will become priority for our term:

Burlington Campus:

Dental Plan:

HSR and alternative transportation

Environmental sustainability and Ethical purchasing

Post-Secondary Funding and tuition regulation

Off-Campus Student Relations

Support for clubs and student groups

Increased direction and assistance for events and risk management

Continued improvements to our revenue generating services

The way in which we present ourselves must also change. The first product that the MSU and the SRA will produce will be a Vision Document. To be released by July 2nd, our MSU Vision statement will explain to McMaster administration, community members, government officials, and to our students, our long and short term goals. We will make clear our priorities with respect to departments and services, funding, policy, education, and representation. Our priorities to our students will be clearly defined. Second to the Vision Statement will be a complete re design of our web-site and our promotions strategy. Quality of information, ease of use, and accessibility must be central to this strategy. We will seek to have a much more complete offering through all of our programs, giving students no reason to be uninformed. Next to that will be our staff. We will take recommendations made by our Human Resources review to dissect the strengths and weaknesses of what is surely our most important asset, our staff. Departments must be staffed in a manner that is representative of their potential. We will seek to have a team that continues to enjoy what they do, and is neither over nor under worked. Examining our budget at a macro level will be integral to our long term success. Our widely publicised surplus has brought due diligence to a new level. We must clearly define our spending priorities, allocate more resources for immediate use, make wise investments in capital growth, and save where possible for the future.

For those of you who are unclear about what kind of leader you have before you, I will tell you. I have come from a background of internal administration. I believe that before we can expect to make changes elsewhere, we have to be solid internally. That is why much of my focus this year includes priorities that are internal to the organization. Externally, our priorities are shaped by our environment. Rest assured, I will be the leader that you are going to want representing you on these matters, to people in the community and around McMaster. As president of the MSU, I am two things equally: I am the CEO business leader of the

organization, and I am the political leader of a student government perspective. Both aspects of the job will receive equal attention.

I intend to be a leader that is open and honest with everyone I am involved with. I will be the kind of leader that you can trust to maintain the integrity of the position and the MSU. I will seek to make decisions based on what is right, not what is popular. I will aspire to be a leader you can be proud of.

Now I will not shy away from calling this “my” SRA, nor should you shy away from calling me “your” president. In that vein, I offer my platform, and the priorities I outlined, to the SRA floor. I ask that they provide the framework for the priorities of this assembly, which will be coupled with additional priorities that we define as a group at our March 17th meeting. It is essential from this day forward that we take ownership of each others goals, support each others initiatives, and work together as a group.

We can dictate our inner dynamics. What we must work with and reshape is the outer perceptions that we have inherited. You are taking over an assembly that has been burdened by scepticism, both by students and by the press. Students have become disenfranchised with the way they are governed, even to the point of losing faith in our system.

Change must be upon us.

Moving forward, expect a new focus, an increased emphasis on representation, feedback solicitation, and information delivery. Expect the highest level of expectations set upon you. As the incoming Student Representative Assembly, you must hold true to the promises you expressly or implicitly made to your constituents.

I will ask the following of you:

- Declare from the beginning what your intentions are for being on this assembly, and what you can contribute to it.
- Understand that attending meetings is one small part of your SRA requirements. You are expected to sit on at least one committee, and ensure that that committee is meeting as required. Make wise choices about the committee involvement you will have. Sign up for those committees that you know you can contribute a fully to. Limit your involvement to what you can handle.
- Goal setting is necessary for our success. Take the process seriously, state your priorities, hold true to them, and deliver on them.
- Understand that the summer term is as important as the others. Our meetings will occur less often, but the potential for contributions from you is just as great. Stay in contact with us, begin the organization process, help us work through our priority list, and plan for the upcoming year.
- Make consultation, feedback, and information dissemination a priority for the year. Seek new and inventive ways to truly represent your constituency.

Throughout the course of the year, I ask that you keep the following thought in your minds. “We can do better.” Our involvement and indeed our year ahead will be a constant search for ideas, improvements, and response to student need. As we tackle each new issue, step by step, we will be making our organization better for our students.

It is not enough to leave our students wanting more...we must give them more. This is a new year, with new opportunities, a new vision, and a new level of expectation. There will not be a student on this campus who does not know who we are, or what we do. We are going to

make our students take notice. You entered the room today as 31 individual representatives, newly elected to office. When you leave today, you leave as one assembly, and you remain such for the entirety of the year that follows. You are tied together by a shared interest, an identical mandate, and the common ability to make the MSU strong. The opportunity to prove ourselves is before us. Lets take it and run with it. I can not wait to see what this assembly can do. Welcome, SRA 2005-2006.