



AGENDA
MSU General Assembly 2014
MCMASTER STUDENTS UNION
Wednesday, March 26, 2014, 5:00pm
Burridge Gym

PROCEDURE

Call of the Roll, Announcements from the Chair, Report Period, Business, New Business, Adjournment

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

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|--------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Welcome / Quorum | Maria Daniel |
| 2. Rules and Proceedings | Maria Daniel |

REPORT PERIOD

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. President's Report | David Campbell |
| 2. EWB Levy Report | Kathryn Chan |

BUSINESS

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 1. MSU Stance on International Crises, Conflicts, and Concerns | Sarah Silverberg |
| 2. McMaster BDS | Salah Abdelrahman |
| 3. Accessibility of the Pulse | Sarah Jama |
| 4. Priority Clearing of Ramps on Campus | Sarah Jama |
| 5. MSU Accessibility Survey to Students Registered with SAS | Sarah Jama |
| 6. BSB Ramp | Sarah Jama |
| 7. Increased Inclusivity of Bridges | Sean Haber |

MOTIONS

1. **Moved** by Silverberg and **seconded** by _____ that the following statement be adopted:

Whereas the McMaster Student Union represents more than 20,000 students of various political views;

Whereas there are many international political crises, conflicts and concerns around the world at any given time;

Whereas these international political issues are highly complex and polarizing;

Whereas the MSU is neither the appropriate nor the helpful forum to address these issues;

Whereas the purpose of the MSU is to unite students and foster a positive academic experience

BE IT RESOLVED that the MSU refrain from taking political and polarizing stances on international crises, conflicts and concerns so as to remain a credible and representative voice of the entire student body.

2. **Moved** by Abdelrahman and **seconded** by _____ that the following statement be adopted:

A motion, as endorsed by more than 20 Hamilton and McMaster organizations, to endorse the Boycott-Divestment-Sanctions Campaign with effective action on behalf of the student body.

Whereas, the occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza is illegal under international law as outlined in the Fourth Geneva Convention;

Whereas, consumable goods produced in the occupied territories and exported to other countries sustain the existence and expansion of the illegal settlements in the occupied territories;

Whereas, 3 million West Bank Palestinians use only 250 million cubic meters per year of the water that accumulates on their land, and 500,000 Israeli settlers are allocated over three times this amount, Palestinians are denied their rightful share to their water in sufficient, safe, accessible and affordable quantities, without discrimination in violation of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights;

Be It Resolved That the McMaster Students Union:

Recognize that the continued occupation of Palestinian land and suppression of their fundamental human rights; Join other student organizations around the world by endorsing the 2005 call for Boycott, Divestments and Sanctions called for by 170 different groups representing the Palestinian Civil Society; and

Commit to identifying and divesting from companies that support or profit from Israeli war crimes, occupation and oppression of Palestinians; and

Affirm that students have a vital role in supporting struggles for social justice and human rights, stand in solidarity with Palestinians' struggle for self-determination and freedom; and Commit to ethical purchasing policies and fair trade practices around the globe.

3. **Moved** by Jama and **seconded** by _____ that the following statement be adopted:

Whereas, accessible services (like accessible equipment or like personal trainers who can offer assistance to non-able-bodied people using equipment) can only be accessed through the extra fee for the Pulse;

Whereas, The best way to eliminate this accessibility issue would be to make accessible services at the Pulse free to students registered with SAS, since all students already pay huge amounts of tuition toward Ath and Rec;

Be it resolved, That the MSU lobbies that all accessibility services at the Athletic and Recreation Center, including at the Pulse, be covered under the Athletic and Recreation Center Fee for all students registered with the SAS.

4. **Moved** by Jama and **seconded** by _____ that the following statement be adopted:

Whereas, It is unsafe and impractical for many students who need to get into the buildings, because many cannot climb over the hill of snow at the bottoms of ramps,

Whereas, Students with mobility issues cannot get into buildings that have snow blocking the ramps.

Whereas, The snow blowers clear pavement and then often pile the excess snow onto the bottom of the ramps at school (especially CNH, KTH, and TSH ramps);

Be it resolved, That the MSU lobbies that the University makes it a priority that ramps are clear of snow and that the University ensures that there is a plan in place for when they are not clear.

5. **Moved** by Jama and **seconded** by _____ that the following statement be adopted:

Whereas, MSU needs to do a better job at advocating for accessibility because they represent all students;

Whereas, Student Accessibility Service primarily deals with Academic issues;

Whereas, We need to make sure all voices are being heard when it comes to accessibility issues that involve campus life and practicalities to make sure no one is excluded from it;

Be it resolved, that surveys are sent out by the MSU to individuals registered with SAS, to assess the accessibility on campus.

6. **Moved** by Jama and **seconded** by _____ that the following statement be adopted:

Whereas, The accessible ramp for Burke Science Building is at the back of the building, which is not practical for users with mobility equipment, vision impairment, or difficulties in the winter;

Whereas, There is too far of a distance between the ramp location and the front of the building;

Be it resolved, that the MSU lobbies the university to build a ramp at the front entrance of BSB.

7. **Moved** by Haber and **seconded** by _____ that the following statement be adopted:

Whereas the MSU represents students of varying religious beliefs;

Whereas the MSU is an organization that values religious and cultural diversity;

Whereas many religious students, including religious observant Muslims and Jews, do not have access to a wide variety of food options on campus that adhere to religious dietary laws;

Whereas students living in on-campus residence are required to pay a fee for a meal plan, which some religiously observant students are not able to use, discouraging these students from living on campus;

Whereas living on campus should be a feasible option for students, in order to allow them to maximize their university experience;

Whereas Bridges Cafe is operated jointly by Hospitality Services and MSU Diversity Services and is intended to provide an inclusive, safe space to the student body;

Be it resolved that the MSU advocate McMaster Hospitality Services to work with community religious organizations to make Bridges Cafe into an organization that is inclusive for students of varying levels of religious observance and faith by adhering to major religious dietary laws and obtaining Halal, Kosher, and other important religious certifications.