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
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 Abdelrahaman 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.
This was a non-quorate meeting of the General Assembly. Any motions made are non-binding on the organization.

Chair: Maria Daniel, MSU Speaker
Recording Secretary: J. Bauman, Corporate Secretary

Called to Order at 5:00pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

- The Chair stated that quorum would be 633 MSU members. The Chair asked all MSU members to sit in the front part of the bleachers, and all non-MSU observers were asked to sit behind the walkway. The Chair asked for all members to maintain decorum. The Chair asked for all comments to be kept on point to the motion on the floor, and members should not assume or attack another group’s motion. The Chair stated that members would speak for or against a motion in an alternating fashion, and individuals would be permitted to speak to the motion twice for up to five minutes. The Chair asked for members to wait to be recognized by the Chair before speaking and to address all comments through the Chair. The Chair stated that there would be no hesitation to interrupt members if the comments were out of order. The Chair reminded members that when voting, the back of a member’s hand must be visible, and once the count had begun, no one would be permitted to enter or leave the room. The Chair stated that General Assembly must adjourn at 7pm as there was an event scheduled immediately following, and asked that members be respectful of this timeline.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by David Campbell, seconded by Jeffrey Doucet that the agenda be adopted as presented.

Amendment

Moved by Salah Abdelrahman, seconded by Sarah Jama to amend the agenda and move Business Item #2 – McMaster BDS to be Business Item #1.

- Salah Abdelrahman stated that the majority of people were present to talk about the BDS motion.
- Sarah Jama noted the agenda should be reordered to be the order in which the Speaker received the motions.
- Sarah Silverberg stated the business on the agenda was based on procedural logic.
- Ryan Sparrow stated there was a political manipulation of the agenda and believed the motives guiding the Chair’s decision of the order were not genuine. Sparrow urged members to vote in favour of the amendment and then proceed to a motion to reorder the motions so that they would be in chronological order.
- Lindsay Stitt stated that the outcome of one motion would influence others. For the interest of time, the debate should be on the motion that would influence the outcome of the others. Stitt argued that the order in which the motions were submitted should not matter.

Moved by Mozafer, seconded by S. Abdelrahman to call to question.

Members present: 239

In Favour: 129 Opposed: 76 Abstentions: 34
Motion Fails

Debate on Amendment

- Taya El-Asmar stated that if the focus was on a broad subject, too many other ideas could come forward. El-Asmar stated that a very specific motion was on the agenda, so the focus could be on what the General Assembly wanted to talk about. El-Asmar noted there might not be time to get to the second motion.
- Alan Covet stated that the first motion was broader and it made sense to talk about it first.
- R. Sparrow did not understand why the call to question motion failed, as it was a vote to consider voting on the amendment. Sparrow stated that quorum would be reached and then the agenda would be adopted as amended.
- Benjamin Pister stated that to amend the agenda was to find a way to inflame the room. Pister argued the agenda should not be amended.
- Mohammad Safari stated that talking about the first motion was a waste of time as it was too general, and the members should talk about the more specific motion.
- Mindy Chapman stated that keeping the agenda as presented would allow similar topics to be discussed. The first motion was less likely to inflame members in the room. The second motion was specific and had the potential to make people upset and angry.

Amendment to the Amendment

Moved by Zaynab Al-Waadh, seconded by Salah Abdelrahman to amend the agenda to be in the order in which the motions were submitted.

- Z. Al-Waadh stated it was only fair to have the motions that were submitted first to be discussed first.
- S. Abdelrahman argued that the Chair should have arranged the motions in chronological order. Abdelrahman stated that other motions should not be considered as less of a priority.

Adopted as a Friendly Amendment

Debate on Amendment

- Zachary Ellis argued that the amendment did not speak to the gravity of the issues. Accessibility is a serious matter, and if members wanted to amend the agenda, it should be based on the seriousness of the issue, not based on the time in which the motions were received.

Moved by Salah Abdelrahman, seconded by Alexandra to call to question.

Members present: 359

In Favour: 220 Opposed: 87 Abstentions: 52

Motion Fails

Amendment to the Amendment

Moved by Sam Charlton, seconded by Ellie Hetz to amend the agenda so that Business Items #3-7 become Business Items #1-4 and the agenda be renumbered accordingly.

- S. Charlton stated that if students cared about accessibility, that should be discussed first.
- E. Hetz agreed that the accessibility motions should be discussed first. McMaster does not have ramps where needed, and the campus can be difficult to navigate.
- S. Jama argued that the motions should be discussed in the order in which they were submitted. Jama stated it was unfair to suggest that the accessibility motions were simpler and should therefore be discussed first.
Ben Wiegner stated that members were present to deal with student issues, and accessibility is a student issue. Wiegner encouraged members to focus on issues that would directly impact students on campus.

Eric Gillis stated the guidelines should be the same as those for the Student Representative Assembly, whereby motions are ordered as they are received. Gillis stated it was worth mentioning that the person who submitted the accessibility motions did not think they should be put first.

Jacob Klugsberg stated it was the Chair’s decision to determine the order. It was never stated that motions would be put onto the agenda in the order they were received. Klugsberg stated that members had gathered to better the McMaster community. With less than 40% of the buildings on campus accessible, this issue affects the lives of students on campus. Klugsberg stated that the accessibility motions should be moved to the top of the agenda to address the concerns and make the campus accessible for all.

Moved by Salah Abdelrahman, seconded by Anser Abbas to call to question.

Members present: 462

In Favour: 318 Opposed: 93 Abstentions: 51
Motion Passes

Vote on the Amendment to the Amendment

Moved by Sam Charlton, seconded by Ellie Hetz to amend the agenda so that Business Items #3-7 become Business Items #1-4 and the agenda be renumbered accordingly.

Members present: 462

In Favour: 145 Opposed: 285 Abstentions: 32
Motion Fails

Moved by Sabeen Kazmi, seconded by Alexandra to call to question.

Members present: 495

In Favour: 331 Opposed: 109 Abstentions: 55
Motion Passes

Vote on Amendment

Moved by Salah Abdelrahman, seconded by Sarah Jama to amend the agenda to be in the order in which the motions were submitted.

Members present: 495

In Favour: 315 Opposed: 124 Abstentions: 56
Motion Passes

Amendment

Moved by Sarah Silverberg, seconded by Zachary Ellis to strike Business Item #1 – McMaster BDS and Business Item #6 – MSU Stance on International Crises, Conflicts and Concerns from the agenda.

S. Silverberg stated that if these two motions were removed from the agenda, it would allow the members more time to discuss accessibility, which is an important issue on campus. Silverberg stated it was important for the discussion to be held in a welcoming environment, and for all members to be equal and democratic. Silverberg stated that Business Items #1 and #6 have the potential to make students feel uncomfortable.
Silverberg noted there had already been discussions about how students were feeling uncomfortable and there were other forums to hold these types of discussions. Silverberg stated it was important for members to think about the motions, and did not think that having a quick, large, discussion was the most effective. Silverberg suggested committees discuss these issues. Silverberg stated these were important issues for students, and members might not have been able to attend the GA but want to be a part of those discussions.

- E. Hetz agreed that the first two motions were things that should be considered very deeply, and to try to solve the issues on the spot was unfair.

**Moved** by Mohamed El Mahallamy, **seconded** by Salah Abdelrahman to call to question.

**Members present:** 621

**In Favour:** 425  **Opposed:** 130  **Abstentions:** 66

Motion Passes

**Vote on Amendment**

**Moved** by Sarah Silverberg, **seconded** by Zachary Ellis to strike Business Item #1 – McMaster BDS and Business Item #6 – MSU Stance on International Crises, Conflicts and Concerns from the agenda.

**Members present:** 631

**In Favour:** 161  **Opposed:** 391  **Abstentions:** 79

Motion Fails

**Main Motion**

**Moved** by Sabeen Kazmi, **seconded** by Taya El-Asmar to call to question.

**Members present:** 520

**In Favour:** 346  **Opposed:** 22  **Abstentions:** 152

Motion Passes

**Vote to Adopt the Agenda**

**Moved** by David Campbell, **seconded** by Jeffrey Doucet that the agenda be adopted as amended.

**Members present:** 518

**In Favour:** 324  **Opposed:** 22  **Abstentions:** 172

Motion Passes

**REPORT PERIOD**

1. **President’s Report** – David Campbell presented

   - Campbell summarized his report (PowerPoint attached).

**Questions**

- Ben Wiegner asked Campbell to elaborate on the foods initiative, and how much local food Campbell hoped to bring into TwelvEighty.
Campbell stated those details needed to be worked out with TwelvEighty, but upwards of 60% of food currently purchased for use at TwelvEighty was locally sourced. Campbell stated that did not guarantee that it was more sustainable, but it was an ongoing initiative.

Sarah Silverberg asked Campbell what qualifications the Communications Officer required, and if the MSU was hiring students from diverse programs or only drawing from students with experience.

Campbell stated that the Communications Officer was a position open to any graduating student from any program. Campbell noted that the incoming Communications Officer would be graduating from the Integrated Sciences program and has a strong background in creating videos.

2. Engineers Without Borders – Kathryn Chan presented

Chan summarized how EWB spends the student levy.

The GA did not want to hear the rest of the presentation, and requested the slides be posted online in the interest of time.

Questions

Daniel D’Angela asked how EWB planned to work within the new guidelines set out by BYLAW 5 – FINANCIAL AFFAIRS.

Chan stated that EWB already works within a number of guidelines. Chan stated the group was always looking for new ways to engage students and was open to promotional ideas. Chan stated EWB’s contact information is online, and encouraged students to Google “McMaster EWB” to easily find the information.

BUSINESS

1. McMaster BDS

Moved by Salah Abdelrahman, seconded by Seif Youssef 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.

- Salah Abdelrahman stated that it was evident that Palestinians were being oppressed. Abdelrahman stated the Israelis had illegally settled on Palestinian land, and the oppressors were segregating peoples based on race. Abdelrahman stated that more than five million Palestinian refugees, including him, want the oppression to end. Abdelrahman believed students were mature and capable of addressing this issue. Abdelrahman stated that it undermined students to say that the BDS issue was too complex for students to address. Abdelrahman encouraged the General Assembly to vote yes to BDS at McMaster because they could and were willing.

Moved by Seif Youssef seconded by Taya El-Asmar to call to question.

Members present: 513

    In Favour: 404 Opposed: 23 Abstentions: 86
    Motion Passes

Vote on Main Motion

Members present: 518

    In Favour: 360 Opposed: 23 Abstentions: 135
    Motion Passes

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Scott Mallon, seconded by Daniel D’Angela that the meeting be adjourned.

Passes by General Consent

Adjourned at 7:07pm

/jb
About EWB

- Not just for engineers!

- Work in various sectors across Canada and 7 African countries (Ghana, Malawi, Zambia, Uganda, Burkina Faso and Kenya, Liberia)
  - Agriculture
  - Water and Sanitation
  - Governance
  - Global Markets
  - Government Policy
  - Education

- National charitable organization
  - 37 University Chapters across Canada
  - 30 full-time Toronto-based staff
  - 40-50 Africa-based full time staff
We are EWB

are outraged and hopeful
don’t accept the status quo

create systemic change wherever it’s needed
to accelerate Africa’s development and unlock the potential of its people
McMaster Chapter

- 16-student executive recently elected
- Awarded chapter of the year at 2012 National Conference
- Send 1-2 students/year overseas (JFs)
- Other opportunities for engagement
  - Fair trade & ethical consumerism
  - Community outreach and member learning
  - Global Engineering
  - Run To End Poverty
The Junior Fellowship

I did things I didn’t think I was able to do, I was challenged and inspired by people I met, and I have rarely been prouder of myself or my work.

- Alexandra Sprout, 2012, Ghana
The JF Experience

- 16 month internship with 4 months overseas
- Must be returning McMaster student

Timeline

- Attend EWB National Conference - January
- Foundation Learning- January-May
- One week pre-departure training in Toronto- early May
- Overseas work- May- August
- Sharing of experience- August- April of following year
Meet the JFs

- Last year your funds supported the sending of:
  - Diana Gresku, Arts & Science IV to work in Ghana on the Agricultural Extension Team (dianagresku@ewb.ca)
    - Applied participatory learning concepts to her work at Ejura Agricultural College
    - Help provide farmers with best practice agriculture knowledge and entrepreneurial skills
Summer 2014 JF

- Zair Naim
  - Will be working with VOTO Mobile in Ghana
# Cost Per Volunteer

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<th>Expense</th>
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<td>Canada Travel</td>
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<td>International Travel</td>
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<td>Toronto Training costs</td>
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<td>Canada Living Stipends (during training/debrief)</td>
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<td>Toronto Accommodation</td>
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<td>Africa Training Costs (training, mid-placement retreat, debrief)</td>
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<td>Africa Living Stipend</td>
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<td>Misc. (helmets, placement start-up costs)</td>
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<td>JF Program Manager Salary contribution</td>
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The Student Fee

- Passed during the 2011 MSU Presidential Campaign that 35-cent/student levy be applied annually
  - Now 37-cent
- This year received funds of $7676.23
- Cost to send one student- $8585
Goals Moving Forward

- Connecting more students to overseas initiatives through outreach & communication
- Collaborating with other campus groups to contribute EWB/JF perspective to social justice on campus
- Increased awareness of the JF opportunity
  - Cross-campus marketing and communications (OscarPlus)
  - Specific attention paid to undergrads in younger years
Questions? Feedback?

- Contact us!
  - Email: mcmaster@ewb.ca
  - Twitter: @mcmasterewb
  - Facebook: “Engineers Without Borders McMaster”
  - Website: http://mcmasterewb.wordpress.com/