



**AGENDA**  
**MSU General Assembly 2018**  
MCMASTER STUDENTS UNION  
Tuesday, March 20, 2018, 4:00pm  
**Burridge Gym**

**PROCEDURE**

Announcements from the Chair, Adoption of Agenda, Report Period, Business, Adjournment

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR**

- |                          |            |
|--------------------------|------------|
| 1. Welcome / Quorum      | Helen Zeng |
| 2. Rules and Proceedings | Helen Zeng |

**REPORT PERIOD**

- |                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. President's Report | Chukky Ibe      |
| 2. Maroons            | Karan Chowdhury |

**BUSINESS**

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Access to Mental Health Care and Training           | Marley Beach             |
| 2. McMaster Greek Life Organizations                   | Daniel 'Tuba'<br>D'Souza |
| 3. Call to Condemn Proposed Anti-Disruption Guidelines | Michelle Xu              |
| 4. Clubs without Membership Rules                      | Maxwell Lightstone       |

## MOTIONS

1. **Moved** by Marley Beach, **seconded** by Theo Wright that the McMaster Students Union advocate for improved access to mental health care for students, as well as better implementation of the McMaster Mental Health and Well Being Strategy, including the addition of sexual assault response training to their "mental health first aid" training; and to extend this training to:
  - Welcome Week reps
  - Special Constables
  - On-Campus Security
  - Any Additional Hired Security (e.g. events)
2. **Moved** by Daniel 'Tuba' D'Souza, **seconded** by \_\_\_\_\_ that the McMaster Students Union advocate to the university for members recognized by a governing body as a national/international McMaster Greek Life organization, to be recognized as officially recognized student groups as per the McMaster University Policy on Student Groups (Recognition, Risk Assessment and Event Planning), approved on April 12, 2017. This will take the form of a feasibility study completed by April 2019 and a trail period targeted at the 2019-2020 academic year.
3. **Moved** by Michelle Xu, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that the following statement be adopted:

Whereas; McMaster University has proposed a set of "anti-disruption" guidelines which aim to suppress student dissent on campus,

Whereas; these proposed guidelines attempt to draw a distinction between protest which is "acceptable" and "unacceptable" to the university,

Whereas; these proposed guidelines restrict tactics traditionally employed by campus activists, disproportionately affecting the ability of marginalized students and union members to be heard,

Whereas; the administration condescends and dismisses student voices in their committee report,

Whereas; these guidelines were assembled by a committee which is unrepresentative of the McMaster community, without proper consultation of affected parties,

Be it resolved that; the McMaster Students Union call on the university to abandon the implementation of the anti-disruption guidelines.

Be it further resolved that McMaster Students Union will demand transparency with regards to the ad-hoc committee on the guidelines and its decision-making, which may include but is not limited to meeting reports and information on how the committee was selected.

Be it further resolved that the McMaster Students Union makes publicly accessible updates on its advocacy on this motion, through measures which may include but are not limited to having a Silhouette reporter present and publicly releasing minutes.

4. **Moved** by Maxwell Lightstone, **seconded** by \_\_\_\_\_ that the McMaster Students Union work with Graduate Student Association and the McMaster Association of Part-time Studies to create a system of clubs that do not have membership rules so that all students can participate equally in them.



McMaster Students Union  
General Assembly  
March 20, 2018 at 4:00pm  
Burridge Gym

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

Chair: Helen Zeng, MSU Speaker  
Recording Secretary: E. Ferguson, Corporate Secretary

Called to Order at 4:05pm  
Members Present: 18

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

- The Chair welcomed everyone to the General Assembly. Quorum is 693. General Assembly is open to all MSU members, that is, full-time undergraduate students of McMaster University. The event is live streamed through the MSU live stream account. Please use the hashtag #McSUGA.

#### ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

**Moved** by, Preethi Anbalagan **seconded** by Ryan Deshpande that the agenda be adopted as presented.

**In Favour: 89% Opposed: 5% Abstentions: 5%**  
**Motion Passes**

#### REPORT PERIOD

##### 1. **President's Report – Chukky Ibe presented**

- Ibe went over the presentation with the General Assembly.

##### Questions

- Deshpande asked how students are able to get involved. Ibe responded that students can get involved through elections or volunteering with any of the MSU services.
- Maxwell Lightstone asked what the relationship is between the MSU and faculty societies. Ibe responded that the MSU has a very positive relationship with the faculty societies. The presidents meet frequently and were able to work collaboratively to promote the Open Educational Resources campaign.

#### BUSINESS

##### 1. **Access to Mental Health Care and Training**

**Moved** by Marley Beach, **seconded** by Theo Wright that the McMaster Students Union advocate for improved access to mental health care for students, as well as better implementation of the McMaster Mental Health and Well Being Strategy, including the addition of sexual assault response training to their "mental health first aid" training; and to extend this training to:

- Welcome Week reps
- Special Constables

- On-Campus Security
- Any Additional Hired Security (e.g. events)
  
- Marley Beach stated that the motion stems from my own and other students experience from different years and faculties. Frustration and hopelessness of seeking help for mental health issues. Anti-stigma campaigns are worthwhile and necessary, but the access is limited. Necessity for review and revision moving forward. If students do not feel supported or validated to seek help they may not seek help in the future. This is not a McMaster-specific issue. One of the initiatives from mental health strategy is the first aid training, however my motion proposes it include sexual response training. This portion of my motion is inspired by a story from a first year student who was assaulted at the Post Malone concert and was not helped by a police/security officer. McMaster needs to teach those who are supposed to protect.
- Theo Wright reiterated the importance of safety during Welcome Week as new students are being welcomed on to campus.
- Ryan Deshpande commended the individuals bringing the motion forward. Deshpande explained that the MSU believes in multi-faceted care, as well as peer-support and it is outlined in the Student Health and Wellness and Sexual Violence policy papers. He still encourages students to vote the motion up if they were interested in getting involved.
- Elizabeth Wong asked what type of training is already available in the MSU and what does the sexual response training entail?
- Preethi Anbalagan stated that training is provided through a partnership with the University for Welcome Week. The reps receive alcohol awareness training, mental health and mental illness, sexual violence prevention and response training. Meaghan Ross from the Equity and Inclusion Office, as well as SACHA, cofacilitate the training for all of the reps. The motion is unique as the students are asking for training to be extended to security on campus, and potentially expanding the response training. Anbalagan stated she was sensitive to the types of positions they would be putting student leaders in to respond to.
- Marley Beach added that there are a lot of different options for students on campus, however that appointments and assessments have 3-4 week wait times and many students that need to receive can not wait 3-4 weeks.
- Ibe stated that there needs to be accountability from support services such as police and security at events, that they are giving students the support they should be receiving.

#### **Vote on Motion**

**In Favour: 86% Opposed: 14% Abstentions: 0  
Motion Passes**

#### **2. Greek Life**

**Moved** by Liam Risi, **seconded** by Chukky Ibe that the McMaster Students Union advocate to the university for members recognized by a governing body as a national/international McMaster Greek Life organization, to be recognized as officially recognized student groups as per the McMaster University Policy on Student Groups (Recognition, Risk Assessment and Event Planning), approved on April 12, 2017. This will take the form of a feasibility study completed by April 2019 and a trial period targeted at the 2019-2020 academic year.

- Ibe stated that the policy on fraternities and sororities has not been looked at in over twenty years and since that time there has been plenty of change in Greek life groups. The groups have said they want to

be trained and involved on campus but cannot do that if they are not recognized. This does not commit us to anything other than advocating to the University on their behalf.

#### **Amendment**

**Moved** by Risi, **seconded** by Ibe that the McMaster Students Union advocate to the university for members recognized by a governing body as a national/international McMaster Greek Life organization, to be recognized as officially recognized student groups as per the McMaster University Policy on Fraternities and Sororities.

#### **Vote on Amendment**

**In Favour: 60% Opposed: 16% Abstained: 24%**  
**Amendment Passes**

- Preethi Anbalagan stated that some of the programming that comes out of Greek organizations for charities is great, however some ways the money is raised is through house parties. Under the University structure the groups would be required to submit risk management for all events, which would not allow house parties with alcohol consumption.
- Maxwell Lightstone stated that he was against the motion largely for reasons that Anbalagan had mentioned. Events can not be held in private residences such as fraternity and sorority houses, and any event with alcohol would require a licensed bartenders. Lightstone stated that it was not in the best interest of McMaster students for Greek life to be recognized by the McMaster policy.
- Ibe state that this was put forward through Greek life, they are fully aware of risk management process and protocols.
- Emmanuel as if this was to advocate to review the policy or for the MSU to have a position that we want them put in the policy.
- Maxwell Lightstone stated that it was not specifically said in the motion, however if they did not want to be recognized in the policy he did not understand why the motion would be brought up in the first place.

#### **Vote on Motion**

**In Favour: 16% Opposed: 60% Abstained: 24%**  
**Motion Fails**

### **3. Condemn Proposed Anti-Disruption Guidelines**

**Moved** by Michelle Xu, **seconded** by Brendon Lahey that the following statement be adopted:

Whereas; McMaster University has proposed a set of “anti-disruption” guidelines which aim to suppress student dissent on campus,

Whereas; these proposed guidelines attempt to draw a distinction between protest which is “acceptable” and “unacceptable” to the university,

Whereas; these proposed guidelines restrict tactics traditionally employed by campus activists, disproportionately affecting the ability of marginalized students and union members to be heard,

Whereas; the administration condescends and dismisses student voices in their committee report,

Whereas; these guidelines were assembled by a committee which is unrepresentative of the McMaster community, without proper consultation of affected parties,

Be it resolved that; the McMaster Students Union call on the university to abandon the implementation of the anti-disruption guidelines.

Be it further resolved that McMaster Students Union will demand transparency with regards to the ad-hoc committee on the guidelines and its decision-making, which may include but is not limited to meeting reports and information on how the committee was selected.

Be it further resolved that the McMaster Students Union makes publicly accessible updates on its advocacy on this motion, through measures which may include but are not limited to having a Silhouette reporter present and publicly releasing minutes.

- Michelle Xu stated that the proposed anti-disruption guidelines received little publicization, and what little there was took place during reading week. Xu stated that protest is not meant to be acceptable. Xu stated that students are experiencing dismissal without engagement by administration. Disruptive tactics have been used by decades for progressive causes on campuses. Campus disruption has had a place in universities. Xu stated that following organizations have endorsed the motion: Canadian Union 3906, McMaster Womanists, Muslim Peace and Justice, Indigenous Student Alliance.
- Brendon Lahey stated that the guidelines were put forward without consultation through the student body. Lahey stated that hopefully most of us can agree that setting rules for campus security to more aggressively set security on students, not breaking the law and exercising their freedom of expression is wrong, and that is what these policies are going to do.
- Tianna Follwell stated that purpose of the proposed policy is to protect freedom of speech and it is my opinion that it targets those who go against status quo of the academy. The committee was overwhelmingly white, with no indigenous or black representation and no representation of LGBTQ+ folks or individuals with disabilities. It was made up of three women and five men. The committee does not reflect those who engage in protests and disproportionately silences vulnerable voices.
- Ryan Deshpande stated that he and Chukky Ibe wrote about this in The Silhouette this week and encouraged everyone to read it. He stated to keep in mind while it seems like they do disproportionately effect certain groups, other groups, such as the far right, engage in strategic protest and we are seeing a rise in these politics across campus. Please keep in mind that not protecting some can come at the expense of others.
- Maxwell Lightstone cautioned considering the motion. He stated that certain protests are no the right side of history but there are others that a majority of people would agree are not. Lightstone stated that he would be speaking about anti-abortion protests. Ontario creates an exclusion zone outside of abortion clinics. Lightstone stated that in his opinion this was good practice and preserves the right of freedom of speech and access to legal medical services. Lightstone stated he would be voting down the motion as he felt the guidelines are fair and reasonable.
- Chukky Ibe thanked the mover and seconder of the motion. He cautioned those who had not read the guidelines to do so.
- Kristin Webb stated that there are avenues to provide feedback and voice your dissent to the proposed guidelines through the website, and send emails to the folks involved, as well as the Board of Directors of the MSU.
- Semi J. stated that something that happens yearly is that the Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms (JCCF) releases campus freedom index and gives ratings. McMaster received a "D" grade. The only campus

that received an A was Laurentian, who has an anti-disruption policy. Semi J. stated that a policy is not necessarily a bad thing.

- Michael Xu stated that the JCCF was founded by a male right-wing politician, and is not a neutral organization.
- Jay Hamlen stated that guidelines clearly protect the most controversial speakers (far right). Hamlen stated that is mostly often bigots and racists on campus who are protested.
- Brittany Williams asked if someone is in a room and the majority of the student population doesn't agree, but what they are saying isn't illegal, is this protecting that persons voice. Williams stated they think that universities are place we should be challenged, change other peoples minds, and reaffirm what to believe.
- Tianna Follwell stated that these guidelines are not neutral or unbiased. Follwell stated they agreed the University should be a place to be challenged and grow but the people who have called the shots have been predominantly white males and in that sense the policy is not neutral.
- Marley Beach stated that the motion wants to completely throw away the guideline. Beach asked if there was a way to revisit the policy with more diverse representation and more transparency.
- Brendon Lahey stated that the guidelines are clearly a response to what happened with Jordan Peterson. There is not an epidemic of civil events being shut down. This is clearly in retaliation to that event being shut down.
- Tianna Follwell stated that the Jordan Peterson event had real consequences. People protesting that event faced death threats from people on and off campus.

#### **Amendment**

**Moved** by Preethi Anbalagan, **seconded** by Maxwell Lightstone to add: "Be it resolved that; the McMaster Students advocate to the University to set up processes to involve students in the decision making and policy development within the University setting to ensure those involved in the outcome are part of the process."

- Ryan Deshpande stated that this doesn't take anything away, but we realized how many voices were not heard in the creation of this. When the University creates a policy they do not notify the MSU, it is up to the MSU to ask for some say. This is a good thing in spirit of everything is going on.
- Brett Cox stated that as McMaster becomes more corporatized they are interested in aligning themselves with the current power structures. Seeing results of this play across North America. Its further creating foundations for far right politics.

#### **Vote on Amendment**

**In Favour: 97% Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 3%**

**Amendment Passes**

#### **Amendment**

**Moved** by Lightstone, **seconded** by Brittany Williams to change "Be it resolved that; the McMaster Students Union call on the university to abandon the implementation of the anti-disruption guidelines." To state: "Be it resolved that; the McMaster Students Union call on the University to review the implementation of the anti-disruption guidelines with student input."

- Maxwell Lightstone stated that the policy should be reviewed with student input and have more voices reflected. Lightstone stated that people have stated there are parts of the policy that they do like.

- Ryan Deshpande encourage that everyone vote this down. Deshpande stated that the University currently has feedback open for the paper. Deshpande stated that they should take a strong stance and be firm.
- Brandon Lahey stated that this is already what the administration is claiming to be doing. The issue is the specific recommendations.
- Nicola Kim stated that policies like these need input from students.

**Vote on Amendment**

**In Favour: 75% Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 25%**  
**Amendment Fails**

**Moved** by Preethi Anbalagan, **seconded** by Maxwell Lightstone to Call to Question.

**In Favour: 81% Opposed: 8% Abstentions: 0**  
**Motion Passes**

**Vote on Main Motion**

**In Favour: 85% Opposed: 15% Abstentions: 0%**  
**Motion Passes**

**4. Clubs without Membership Rules**

**Moved** by Maxwell Lightstone, **seconded** by Chukky Ibe that the McMaster Students Union work with Graduate Student Association and the McMaster Association of Part-time Studies to create a system of clubs that do not have membership rules so that all students can participate equally in them.

- Lightstone stated that the current clubs system only allows MSU members to fully participate in executive positions, which is not necessarily a bad thing but there are no clubs on campus where all students can participate. Students move on from undergrad and go to grad school, or change statuses from full-time to part time and then can no longer participate equally.
- Ibe stated that it was an interesting idea and encouraged attendees to vote it up.
- Justin Lee stated that the motion would allow individuals to have more of a sense of belonging and it would be interesting to include all sorts of students in clubs.

**Vote on Main Motion**

**In Favour: 93% Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 7%**  
**Motion Passes**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved** by Kirstin Webb, **seconded** by Ryan Deshpande that the meeting be adjourned.

**In Favour: 91% Opposed: 9% Abstentions: 0**  
**Motion Passes**

**Adjourned at 5:57pm**

/ef