



**Student Representative Assembly Meeting 191
Sunday, October 6, 2019 at 5:00pm
Council Chambers, GH111**

Called to Order at 5:06pm

CALL OF THE ROLL

Present Au-Yeung, Belliveau, Dawdy, De Fazio, Enuiyin, Grewal, Hackett, Hankins, Herscovitch, Homs, Hu, Jangra, Johnston, Kampman, Kaur, Lee, Marando, McDermott, Mesic, Mohamed, Pagnello, Reddy, Sarhan, Singh, Sinnige, Williams

Absent Excused:

Absent Acri, Alam, Figueiredo, Ganesalingan, Hassan, Li

Late Zheng

Others Present: Josh Arbess (MSU Member), Catherine Dunne (OUSA), Eddy Avila (OUSA), Adeola E (MSU Member), Ryan Tse (AVP Municipal Affairs)

Chair Maryanne Oketch

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 Williams, **seconded** by Sinnige that the Assembly adopt the agenda, as presented.

Amendment

Moved by Williams, **seconded** by Belliveau to move Information Period before Report Period.

- Williams explained that a constituent wanted to speak.

Passes Unanimously

Amendment

Moved by Hackett, **seconded** by Johnston to add Reconsider the Deratification of the CSSA to Business Item #4.

In Favour: 16 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 8
Abstained: McDermott, Enuiyin, Reddy, De Fazio, Homs, Dawdy, Hankins, Mesic
Motion Passes

Moved by Williams, **seconded** by Sinnige that the Assembly adopt the agenda, as amended.

In Favour: 22 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0
Abstentions: Enuiyin
Motion Passes

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Belliveau, **seconded** by Reddy that the Assembly adopt minutes SRA 19H – September 22, 2019, as presented.

In Favour: 22 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0

Motion Passes

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

- The speaker announced there is an Observer's List at the back to sign. The Speaker announced that two SRA seats were vacant, one on Humanities and on Engineering. Nominations open on Tuesday, October 8, 2019.

DELEGATION FROM THE FLOOR

1. Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (Presentation Attached)

Parameters

Moved by Hackett, **seconded** by Marando to set parameters at 15 minutes for presentation and 10 minutes for question period.

Passes Unanimously

- Eddy Avila and Catt Dunne presented.

Questions

- De Fazio asked what the three areas OUSA was debating at GA. Dunne stated they would be debating Ancillary Fees, Students with Disabilities (with a proposed name change), Sexual and Gender Diversity.
- McDermott asked if OUSA had any plans to help students protest the changes to OSAP. Dunne explained that their main approach was the letter writing campaign and through advocacy meetings.
- Pagniello asked if OUSA has ever struck within the history of its coordination. Pagniello stated that there are lots of opinions stating that lobbying against the provincial government is ineffective. Dunne stated that OUSA protested around 2004-2005, but membership has changed since then.
- McDermott asked if there were any plans outside of letter writing. Avila stated that there were no further plans at the moment, but there could be in the future if the membership agrees. Avila stated that they were meeting with more members of provincial parliament.
- Pagniello asked how many letters have been collected or written regarding the campaign. Avila stated 872, but they were looking to get 1000.

2. Chinese Students and Scholars Association (Presentation Attached)

Set Parameters

Moved by Sinnige, **seconded** Singh to set parameters at 20 minutes presentation, 5 minutes question period.

Amendment

Moved by Marando, **seconded** by De Fazio to set parameters at 20 minutes presentation, 10 minutes question period.

- Marando stated that 10 minutes is more appropriate.

In Favour: 26 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 1
Abstentions: Sarhan
Amendment Passes

Vote on Parameters

In Favour: 23 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 1

**Abstentions: De Fazio
Motion Passes**

- Ruiji Wang presented.

Questions

- Sinnige – you mentioned it was hard for you to find this information. Asked if they were an executive, should already be aware of the policies. Wang stated they were not prepared to give an answer
- Williams stated that appears to be contradicting statements
- McDermott asked if they were willing to confirm or deny anything written in the Washington Post. Wang stated that they would not respond.
- De Fazio asked if Wang is a student at McMaster University. Wang stated that they would not respond.
- De Fazio asked for Wang’s full name. Wang stated Ruiji Wang.
- Lee stated from their understanding, McMaster CSSA admitted to reporting the event to the Chinese consulate. Lee asked Wang if they had any empathy for the people that were reported. Wang stated that they would not respond.
- Sinnige asked if any answers would be given that day. Wang said no.
- Marando asked why questions could be asked during an appeals process was not considered. Wang stated that they did this according to the process. Wang met with the Speaker a couple hours before the meeting and was only informed then that questions could be asked.
- McDermott asked Wang if they wanted to apologize for what their club has done. Wang stated that they would not respond.
- Williams stated that there was a question period during the delegation at the last meeting. Williams asked why they wouldn’t think there would be questions. Wang stated that they would not respond.
- Jangra asked Wang if they understood why some Chinese students may feel endangered by the act of reporting? Wang stated that they would not respond.
- Belliveau stated that this was the change to convince the SRA that the CSSA should be ratified. Belliveau stated that it was not looking good that no questions could be answered. Belliveau asked what the point was. Wang stated that they would not respond.
- De Fazio asked Wang what their role was in McMaster CSSA before deratification. Wang stated that they would not respond.

INFORMATION PERIOD

- Jangra ceded their time to an observer wishing to remain anonymous.
- The observer gave the following statement:
“Thank you for your time. I am a fourth year international Mac student, I heard the CSSA is appealing the SRA’s September 22 decision and I urge you to please, please vote to reject the CSSA’s appeal. The CSSA poses a significant risk to student safety, especially to students like me. There is an article written by another Mac student to help you understand the context for any SRA member who hasn’t seen it yet. It is called “SRA acts on CSSA while MSU board flounders”.
The CSSA originally reported a Uyghur speaker to the Chinese Consulate, which is very alarming. The problem is that the CSSA takes instructions from the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), and this threatens the safety of any student being targeted by the CCP. For example, at the U of T, the student union president is Tibetan and she faced harassment and death threats by Chinese nationalists. From CBC News: “I am from Hong Kong, where protests are still going on right now. Nobody can successfully change the government because they have support from the Chinese Communist Party. Our five demands are the full withdrawal of the extradition bill, the retraction of the “riot” designation, release of political prisoners, an independent investigation into police violence, and universal suffrage. However, the government continues to ignore us, and responds with police brutality instead. They have now implemented the Emergency Regulations Ordinance, which lets Chief Executive Carrie Lam override all legislative

procedures to execute laws such as monitoring social media, curfew orders, and arresting anyone at home without warrants.

My friends were affected by expired tear gas and they experienced police brutality. This is painful because expired tear gas impacts your respiratory system and irritates skin. My friends got itchiness and tears kept running out of their eyes for a couple hours. Another friend was arrested and beaten without access to legal or medical support. This absolutely violated human rights and the police did not admit that they hit my friend, claiming there is "no evidence".

We use different peaceful ways to protest against the CCP's oppression, such as marches, writing encouraging messages (Lennon Walls), singing in the shopping malls, help small businesses who support the protest, etc. However, the police have responded with violence. Two students were shot by real guns, many people got injured, and students were arrested because they spoke up.

Despite our protests, nothing got the government's attention. They are not willing to make any changes, and police again and again deny their violence towards protestors. These examples demonstrate how the Chinese government violates basic human rights and their ambition to expand their dictatorship. Instead of listening to us, they respond with violence and oppression.

You may ask "How does this relate to Mac students?" If Chinese students are allowed to report people to the CCP, that puts anybody opposed to the CCP at risk. The CCP is behind all of this. They are the ones putting Uyghurs in concentration camps in Xinjiang, they are the ones who refuse to accept the protest demands in HK. If the CSSA is acting as a branch of the CCP here at McMaster, then that can be very harmful to Uyghur, Tibetan, Hong Kong, and Chinese students here.

I was thinking for so long: Should I come today and speak to the SRA in person? Maybe it would be more powerful and persuasive to raise my concerns in person about how the CCP tries to silence those who want to speak up. I will still be fighting against the CCP, and believe in what I believe. Resilience is important to show totalitarian regimes that we are still fighting against them. I chose to wear a mask today because I do not feel safe here at Mac or in Canada to speak freely. If we are reported to the Chinese government, then our family back home could face serious consequences, and so could we, if or when we go back. Therefore, please consider the vote carefully, since it would seriously affect students' safety here at McMaster University.

You may see this as simply a difference of political opinion but if that was the case there would be no need for me to be here like this today. Or for an SRA member to have whispered earlier that this should have been a closed session meeting.

But I understand that this is the narrative being pushed so while I do not agree fair enough let us look at the FACTS.

It is a fact that the CSSA said in their statement, 我們也在12日早晨即向中國駐多倫多總領館進行了通報 – 'On the morning of Feb 12, we notified the Chinese consulate in Toronto.'

They also said that, 我們將密切關注事件發展, 相關進展將適時更新 – 'We will closely monitor future developments and provide updates in a timely manner'

It is a fact that international media, the US government report, and Human Rights Watch all confirmed that these fears are widespread

It is a fact that I cannot stand in front of you today without being intimidated and showing my face, because of how the CSSA said they would monitor the situation.

Finally, as you can hear from my words today, the CSSA does NOT represent all Chinese students."

- Sinnige stated they were forming a task force on Victoria Scott's recommendation to put forward a policy and proposed motion to form an international students committee. Sinnige asked Assembly members to get in touch with them if they were interested in helping out.
- Sinnige advised that the SRA Accessibility Survey opened at 9am. Sinnige asked Assembly members to promote it up until October 27.
- Au-Yeung announced that SRA transparency week was taking place from October 21-October 24.
- Williams announced that the SRA video was expected to follow the transparency week.

REPORT PERIOD

1. Nursing – Homs presented

- Homs summarized the report.

2. Science – Reddy presented

- Reddy summarized the report.

3. Social Science – Lee presented

- Lee summarized the report.

4. Municipal Affairs – Tse presented

- Tse summarized the report.

Questions

- Pagniello asked Tse to speak more to the transit plan. Tse explained that it was an ongoing project to focus on later in the semester.
- Pagniello asked if Municipal Affairs has considered lobbying Metrolinx to increase the GO Service for the Lakeshore West line. Tse explained that they were looking to improve the frequency of GO transit.

5. University Affairs – Hackett presented

- Hackett summarized the report.

6. Executive Board – Mesic presented

- Mesic summarized the report.

7. Vice-President (Finance) – Johnston presented

- Johnston summarized the report.

QUESTION PERIOD

- De Fazio asked Williams when they were recording the SRA video. De Fazio ceded their time to Williams. Williams stated they planned to film Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
- Pagniello asked Singh, what are the next steps concerning the CSSA considering they just came in here and stated we violated our own policies. Pagniello ceded their time to Singh. Singh stated that we should not make a decision in this meeting, because they will be able to answer questions in written form. Singh stated that he believed they made the right decision but should have the opportunity to explain why they think the SRA is wrong.
- Williams asked Marando if the MSU's policies were breached by the SRA. Marando stated that the SRA interprets the policies, and if the SRA interpreted the Clubs operating policy and determined the club should be deratified, while allowing reasonable courses of action, that is in standing with the policy.
- Sinnige asked Singh if they felt the written responses from the CSSA will be in good faith and timely. Sinnige ceded their time to Singh. Singh stated that the CSSA representatives were uninformed about the delegation process, and shouldn't be punished for that.

- Reddy asked if questions were being sent to the Speaker or addressed at another meeting. Reddy ceded their time to Marando. Marando would like us to send them the questions and have them send written answers back, that was their request. Likely did not want to be put on the spot.
- Au-Yeung asked what the extent they knew about the procedures. Au-Yeung ceded their time to Marando. Marando stated that the appeal body would be Clubs Executive Council, but that is if the club was disbanded by Clubs Administrator. This was brought forward by SRA, and the Clubs department was not made aware of the deratification motion, so the club was not informed. was not terms of probation or deratification. For future, it was decided any department affected by an SRA agenda item will be cc'd on the circulation email.
- Au-Yeung asked Marando if that decision to cc was written in a policy. Au-Yeung ceded their time to Marando. Marando said no. There is no policy on creating an agenda.
- Williams asked what measures are put in place to ensure SRA members who want to engage with a clubs issue are given the necessary guidance. Williams stated the ball was dropped numerous times. Williams ceded their time to Marando. Marando stated that the SRA has the ability and all the contact information of the MSU departments and to consult on anything before moving forward. Marando stated that SRA members met with the Clubs department and after that meeting it was asked if there were questions or any changes to meet again. Those SRA members bringing the deratification motion forward did not inform the Clubs Department. Marando said that was fine but it did cause confusion. Marando stated that for the future, it was decided any department affected by an SRA agenda item will be cc'd on the circulation email.
- Au-Yeung asked what procedures will put in place so the CSSA are informed of the next steps. The Speaker clarified the procedure.
- Hu asked if a club that has been deratified are they allowed to use the McMaster name in their social media accounts. Hu ceded their time Marando. Marando stated yes, but that is in the control of the University, not the MSU.
- De Fazio asked Hackett if they should do a committee of the whole. De Fazio ceded their time to Hackett. Hackett stated yes, so it would give them an opportunity to flesh out the questions before the next meeting.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. Close one (1) MSU Seat on Standing Committee

Moved by Hackett, **seconded** by Marando that the Assembly close one (1) MSU seat on University Affairs committee.

Amendment

Moved by Hackett, **seconded** by Marando to table the seat until SRA 19J.

- Pagniello stated that they were aware there was an MSU seat open and they might have some people interested in the seat.

Vote on Motion

Passes Unanimously

BUSINESS

1. Open one (1) SRA Seat on Standing Committee

Moved by Hackett, **seconded** by Mesic that the Assembly open one (1) SRA seat on Internal Governance committee.

Passes Unanimously

2. Close one (1) SRA Seat on Standing Committee

Moved by Hackett, **seconded** by Hu to close one (1) SRA seat on Internal Governance committee.

- De Fazio nominated themselves.

Vote to Close

Passes Unanimously

3. Approval of Electoral Appeal Board Members

Moved by Hackett, **seconded** by Lee that the Assembly approve the following members of the Electoral Appeal Board: Maxwell Lightstone with Dr. Greg Flynn and Dr. Nibaldo Galleguillos as the two alternates.

Passes Unanimously

4. Reconsider the Deratification of the CSSA

- No motion was brought forward.

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Hackett, **seconded** by Singh to consider adding a 15 minute Committee of the Whole discussion.

Passes Unanimously

Moved by Hackett, **seconded** by Singh that the Assembly enter Committee of the Whole.

Passes Unanimously

Moved by Johnston, **seconded** by Marando to rise and report to the Assembly.

Passes Unanimously

Rise and Report

- Johnston stated that questions were brought to the group asking about the CSSA's inability to answer certain questions. Hackett advised that there did not have to be another delegation at the next meeting. Questions should be sent to the Speaker by Tuesday. The Speaker will forward the questions to the CSSA for a written response by Tuesday, in order to have discussions at the upcoming SRA meeting on October 20. The Speaker should advised the group that the motion could be reconsidered at the next meeting. The group discussed the logistics and were comfortable with the timeline. De Fazio reminded everyone that there are students who feel unsafe on campus.

TIME OF NEXT MEETING

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

CALL OF THE ROLL

Present Au-Yeung, Belliveau, Dawdy, De Fazio, Enuiyin, Grewal, Hackett, Hankins, Herscovitch, Homs, Hu, Jangra, Johnston, Kampman, Kaur, Lee, Marando, McDermott, Mesic, Mohamed, Pagnello, Reddy, Sarhan, Singh, Sinnige, Williams, Zheng

Absent Excused:

Absent Acri, Alam, Figueiredo, Ganesalingan, Hassan, Li

Late

Others Present: Josh Arbess (MSU Member), Catherine Dunne (OUSA), Eddy Avila (OUSA), Adeola E (MSU Member), Ryan Tse (AVP Municipal Affairs)

Chair Maryanne Oketch

Moved by Sinnige, **seconded** by De Fazio that the meeting be adjourned.

Passes by General Consent

Adjourned at 7:15pm

/ef