**Student Representative Assembly Meeting 19L**

**Sunday, November 17, 2019 at 5:00pm**

**Council Chambers, GH111**

**Called to Order at 5:07pm**

**CALL OF THE ROLL**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Present** | Alam, Alkashef, Dawdy, De Fazio, Enuiyin, Figueiredo, Ganesalingan, Grewal, Hankins, Herscovitch, Homsi, Hu, Jangra, Johnston, Kaur, Lee, McDermott, Mesic, Reddy, Sarhan, Singh, Sinnige, Zhang |
| **Absent Excused:**  |  |
| **Absent** | Acri, Au-Yeung, Belliveau, Hackett, Hassan, Kampman, Marando, Mohamed, Pagniello, Williams |
| **Late**  | Li, Zheng |
| **Others Present:**  | Carolyn Brandon (Ombuds), Ryan Tse (AVP: Municipal Affairs), Grace Bryson (FYC Coordinator), Nerij Sharma (FYC Chair), Fawziyah Isah (AVP: University Affairs), Anthony Seymour (Solar Car), Justin Han (Solar Car), Satvik Bajaj (Engineers without Borders), V. Scott (Recording Secretary) |
| **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 Homsi, **seconded** by Jangra that the Assembly adopt the agenda, as presented.

**Amendment**

**Moved** by Figueiredo, **seconded** by De Fazio to amend the agenda and add the following to Delegations from the Floor: Ombuds, Solar Car Presentation, Engineers without Borders Presentation

* Figueiredo stated that Ombuds would like to chat about what they do, and the other two are to fulfil Bylaw 5 requirements.

**Vote on Amendment**

**Passes Unanimously**

**Amendment**

**Moved** by Figueiredo, **seconded** by De Fazio to amend the agenda and add to Committee of the Whole – Engineers without Borders and Committee of the Whole – Solar Car to Business.

* Figueiredo stated that they were required to move into Committee of the Whole for Bylaw 5.

**Vote on Amendment**

**Passes Unanimously**

**Amendment**

**Moved** by Figueiredo, **seconded** by De Fazio to amend the agenda and move Business Items Committee of the Whole – Engineers without Borders and Committee of the Whole – Solar Car to right before Report Period.

* Figueiredo stated that it would make more sense to discuss the two presentations right after the Assembly heard them.

**Vote on Amendment**

**Passes Unanimously**

**Vote to Adopt**

**Moved** by Homsi, **seconded** by Jangra that the Assembly adopt the agenda, as amended.

**Passes Unanimously**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR**

* The Chair asked for the Observers to please sign the Observer’s List at the back of the room to be minuted. The Chair also asked for everyone to please clean up after themselves as the room is shared by multiple people.

**DELEGATION FROM THE FLOOR**

**Moved** by Figueiredo, **seconded** by De Fazio to set Parameters for Delegation from the Floor #1 be 15 minutes for presentation and 10 minutes for questions.

**Vote on Parameters**

**Passes Unanimously**

**1. Ombuds - Carolyn Brandon presented (presentation attached)**

* Brandon summarized the presentation.

**Questions**

* Singh asked what portion the funding came from. Brandon responded that it was 50/50 MSU and the University. She stated that they office was currently under review and one of the findings was that the office was underfunded. She explained that full-time undergraduate students help fund it but not all students who visit pay for it. Brandon stated that changes are now being discussed and was hoping that the changes will come back to the SRA for approval.

**Moved** by Johnston, **seconded** by De Fazio to set Parameters for Delegation from the Floor #2 and #3 be 15 minutes for presentation and 10 minutes for questions.

* Johnston stated that this was what they had for Marching Band, to keep it consistent.

**Vote on Parameters**

**Passes Unanimously**

**2. Solar Car Presentation – Anthony Seymour and Justin Han presented (presentation attached)**

* Han and Seymour summarized the presentation.

**Questions**

* Johnston asked what year they went to competition. Han responded that it was the last year they raced in.
* Johnston asked why they tore apart the car. Han responded that it wasn’t a good year. Seymour responded that they were trying to compete the car but were trying to create a leadership strategy while the car was in storage.
* Homsi asked them to speak more to the difficulty in transition. Han responded that they were originally told very little about what the MSU was and didn’t know what an SRA meeting was when they were first transitioned to this role (2018).
* McDermott thanked Solar Car for their presentation. They asked about competing; and stated that the email exchange stated 2020 but the slides stated 2021. Seymour responded that 2020 was the regional date and go towards 2021 competitions.
* Dawdy asked for Solar Car to speak to the budgeting process as they had noticed a lot of expenses from the previous year that seems to be an exaggeration on how the money was spent. Dawdy asked Solar Car to clarify if last year’s budget was being spent on races. Han responded that they were putting money aside from their budget so that they didn’t put it towards the car or manufacturing expenses. Seymour added that they were overbudgeting in case the car broke down and needed wiggle room.
* Johnston asked for Solar Car to explain the difficulty from the previous year, as the group did present, and it was clear that the expectation was to present to the MSU. Han responded that they figured it out by November of last year, but they actually meant their transition from May of 2018. Han stated that they had six months to figure it would but it was difficult.
* McDermott asked if Solar Car knew the likelihood of getting space back in Hatch. Seymour responded that they need to get more reports in.
* Johnston stated that Solar Car budgeted for having a $10,000 surplus but in actuality there is a $50,000 surplus. Seymour responded that that was true as progress fell off around January 2019 when management left for co-op and caused everyone to lose progress up until that point, but they got back on track in the summer of 2019.
* Hankins stated that Solar Car spoke a lot of transitions and asked what steps have been taken to make sure this was to not happen again. Han responded that they have documented everything, when they hardly had anything from before.

**3. Engineers without Borders – Satvik Bajaj presented (presentation attached)**

* Bajaj summarized the presentation.

**Questions**

* Singh asked how much change will EWB be doing for upcoming years. Bajaj responded that they’ve had multiple sponsors, and already have $1,500 of the $4,500 allocated which is why there was no need for additional funding.
* Johnston asked why the emergency fund and carry-over were listed as expenses. Bajaj responded that if they do receive sponsorship or revenue coming in, instead of spending they put it into a bank account that can be locked for the year until it’s time to take it out.
* Dawdy asked what the current projected revenue was to ensure EWB was breaking even. Bajaj responded that right now the corporate sponsorship from the national office has given $3,000 every year, so the projected revenue was $3,000 and the rest will come from sponsorship.
* McDermott asked if the reimbursement for the 2019 national conference was paid for by the Dean’s office. Bajaj responded that they weren’t sure if it all came from there but does know that the nation office helped.

**BUSINESS**

**3. Committee of the Whole – Solar Car**

**Moved** by Johnston, **seconded** by Figueiredo that the Assembly move into Committee of the Whole to discuss the Solar Car presentation.

* Johnston stated that they personally have some questions that they would like to have flushed out and would like to move into Committee of the Whole.

**Vote on Motion**

**In Favour: 25 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 1**

**Abstained: De Fazio**

**Motion Passes**

**Moved** by Figueiredo, **seconded** by De Fazio that the Assembly move out of Committee of the Whole and to Rise and Report.

**Vote on Motion**

**Passes Unanimously**

**Rise and Report**

* Figueiredo reported that the Assembly took this time to ask Solar Car more questions, as the Finance Committee was not able to bring forward their formal recommendation yet. The Assembly asked for Solar Car to submit more information from their budgets for the past four years.

**4.**  **Committee of the Whole – Engineers without Borders**

**Moved** by Homsi, **seconded** by Figueiredo that the Assembly move into Committee of the Whole to discuss the Engineers without Borders presentation.

**Vote on Motion**

**In Favour: 21 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 5**

**Abstained: Sinnige, Hu, De Fazio, Herscovitch, Reddy**

**Motion Passes**

**Moved** by Figueiredo, **seconded** by Homsi that the Assembly move out of Committee of the Whole and to Rise and Report.

**Vote on Motion**

**In Favour: 22 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0**

**Motion Passes**

**Rise and Report**

* Figueiredo reported that no questions were asked but the Assembly was informed to please send all questions they may have to the AVP Finance.

**Moved** by Reddy, **seconded** by Herscovitch that the Assembly recess for 15 minutes.

* Reddy stated that this sounded good.

**Amendment**

**Moved** by Hankins, **seconded** by Enuiyin to amend the motion to recess for 10 minutes.

* Hankins stated that 10 minutes would be better.

**Vote on Amendment**

**In Favour: 11 Opposed: 10 Abstained: 2**

**Opposed: Figueiredo, Reddy, Zhang, Herscovitch, Homsi, Jangra, Dawdy, Zheng, Sarhan, Lee**

**Abstained: Johnston, De Fazio**

**Motion Passes**

**Vote on Main Motion**

**Moved** by Reddy, **seconded** by Herscovitch that the Assembly recess for 10 minutes.

**In Favour: 20 Opposed: 1 Abstained: 1**

**Opposed: De Fazio**

**Abstained: Sinnige**

**Motion Passes**

**Recessed at 6:45pm**

**Called to Order at 6:57pm**

**CALL OF THE ROLL**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Present** | Alam, Alkashef, Dawdy, De Fazio, Enuiyin, Figueiredo, Ganesalingan, Grewal, Hankins, Herscovitch, Homsi, Hu, Johnston, Kaur, Lee, Li, McDermott, Mesic, Pagniello, Reddy, Sarhan, Singh, Sinnige, Zhang, Zheng |
| **Absent Excused:**  |  |
| **Absent** | Acri, Au-Yeung, Belliveau, Dawdy, Hackett, Hassan, Kampman, Marando, Mohamed, Williams |
| **Late**  | Jangra |
| **Others Present:**  | Ryan Tse (AVP: Municipal Affairs), Nerij Sharma (FYC Chair), Fawziyah Isah (AVP: University Affairs), V. Scott (Recording Secretary) |
| **Chair** | Maryanne Oketch  |

**REPORT PERIOD**

**1. First Year Council – Nerij Sharia presented**

* Sharia summarized the report.

**2. Nursing Caucus – Homsi presented**

* Homsi summarized the report.

**3. Science Caucus – report circulated**

* Reddy summarized the report.

**4. Social Sciences Caucus – Lee presented**

* Lee summarized the report.

**5. Municipal Affairs Committee – report circulated**

* Ryan Tse summarized the report.

**Questions**

* De Fazio asked why they chose garbage pickup. Tse responded that they were advocating for the City for a waste management contract for all of campus.

**6. University Affairs Committee – Fawziyah Isah presented**

* Isah summarized the report.

**7. Executive Board – report circulated**

* Homsi summarized the report.

**Questions**

* De Fazio asked Homsi as an EB member if they would like everyone to know that with booking a walk with SWHAT a dollar will be donated to Food for Kidz. Homsi responded that they would.

**8. Vice-President (Administration) – Figueiredo presented**

* Figueiredo summarized the report.

**INFORMATION PERIOD**

* Johnston reported that they will be reporting in two weeks but wanted to give a quick update. They stated that the feedback survey about the MSU just opened and asked the SRA to please share on their pages and other platforms. They reported that they will be submitting a memo for an operating fund request as the MSU is looking at hiring an external consultant to plan strategically. Johnston stated that updating the website has fallen on their plate and asked the SRA to send them an email if they would like to see certain items. Johnston reported that the HSR contract renewal was still on-going and was trying to figure out if it was going to presidentials or not.
* De Fazio updated from the Internal Governance Committee, stating that they are putting together recommendations for the Clubs department. They added that the Committee was also looking at possible amendments to the election procedures about acclaimed SRA members.

**QUESTION PERIOD**

* Sinnige asked Johnston if the Assembly would be receiving the SCI breakdown information any time soon. Johnston responded that they were still waiting on final numbers from the University but will be made public once received. They explained that they don’t have a timeline but ideally would like to have it in time for the next meeting.
* Sinnige asked Johnston for updates on names for SAB. Johnston responded that the students will make a decision during the January Presidential election.

**BUSINESS**

**1. Operating Policy – Central Support Services**

**Moved** by Figueiredo, **seconded** by De Fazio that the Assembly approve the changes made to the Central Support Services Operating Policy, as circulated and attached, effective December 1, 2019.

* Figueiredo went over the memo with the Assembly. They explained that most job titles have been updated to industry standards, and two positions have been eliminated as they don’t exist anymore.

**Vote on Motion**

**Passes Unanimously**

**2. Statement – In Solidarity of Hong Kong Student Protesters**

**Moved** by Singh, **seconded** by De Fazio that the Assembly adopt the following statement:

**Whereas** The Charter of Rights and Freedoms — the supreme law of Canada — protects the freedoms of speech, protest, and assembly in all aspects of Canadian society, including Ontario campuses;

**Whereas** the Student Representative Assembly is committed to upholding freedom of speech but is concerned that the guise of free speech may be used to limit dissent, counterargument, and protest by vulnerable students;

**Whereas** hundreds of thousands, even millions, of Hongkongers have taken to the streets to call for greater freedoms and democratic reform in the past few months, only to have the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government respond with a heavy-handed police crackdown, including the use of [tear gas](https://www.scmp.com/magazines/post-magazine/long-reads/article/3022942/truth-about-tear-gas-how-hong-kong-police), [rubber bullets](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-49910636), [live ammunition](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/oct/02/hong-kong-protests-police-teenager-shooting-students-violence-), [mass arrests](https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/politics/article/3025412/mass-arrests-hong-kong-protesters-police-could-backfire), [torture in police stations](https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/09/hong-kong-arbitrary-arrests-brutal-beatings-and-torture-in-police-detention-revealed/), and [bans on public protests](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/06/world/asia/hong-kong-protests-face-mask-ban.html);

**Whereas** Hong Kong students at McMaster University have been directly impacted by these events in Hong Kong, and publicly demonstrated on campus on 22nd October 2019 to show solidarity with protesters in Hong Kong;

**Whereas** the students demonstrating on campus in support of Hong Kong protesters had their demonstration materials vandalized and suffered from assault and threats from those opposed to the demonstration, as reported by [The Silhouette](https://spark.adobe.com/page/DcoLLjw0D9ReB/) and captured on video;

**Whereas** the Student Representative Assembly believes that the aforementioned vandalism, assault, and threats represent an attempt to intimidate students into silence and dissuade students from publicly demonstrating on campus;

**Whereas** the Student Representative Assembly believes that no student peacefully demonstrating on campus should be subjected to such violence and intimidation;

**Whereas** the Student Representative Assembly recognizes that this incident is part of a wider, global pattern of attempts to harass, silence, and/or assault critics of the Chinese government, with similar incidents having occurred at the [University of Queensland](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/oct/23/queensland-student-sues-chinese-consul-general-alleging-he-incited-death-threats), [University of Auckland](https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=12255525), [Simon Fraser University](https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/new-lennon-wall-goes-up-at-sfu-as-tensions-run-high-over-hong-kong-protests-1.5235147), and previously at [McMaster University](https://www.hongkongfp.com/2019/03/03/exclusive-uighur-activist-rukiye-turdush-felt-long-arm-chinese-communist-party-canada/), often with the open encouragement of Chinese diplomatic officials;

**Be it resolved that:**

The McMaster Students Union stands in solidarity with the right of Hong Kong students to freely express their views peacefully. The McMaster Student Union strongly condemns the violence and intimidation that was directed at students demonstrating on campus in support of freedom and democracy in Hong Kong.

Moreover, the McMaster Students Union is committed to supporting the right of students, and especially marginalized students, to peaceful protest on campus, and reminds the McMaster community that peaceful protest on campus is a fundamental right that is not to be infringed upon through violence and intimidation.

* Singh stated that this statement was made because of the events that have occurred here and in Hong Kong. They stated that the events unfolding have been troubling and that they were hoping that the SRA agrees to support democratic freedoms. They added that they will also be amending the motion.

**Amendment**

**Moved** by Singh, **seconded** by De Fazio that the following motion be amended to read: “**Moved** by Singh, **seconded** by De Fazio that the Assembly adopt the following statement:

**Whereas** The Charter of Rights and Freedoms — the supreme law of Canada — protects the freedoms of speech, protest, and assembly in all aspects of Canadian society, including Ontario campuses;

**Whereas** the Student Representative Assembly is committed to upholding freedom of speech but is concerned that the guise of free speech may be used to limit dissent, counterargument, and protest by vulnerable students;

**Whereas** hundreds of thousands, even millions, of Hongkongers have taken to the streets to call for greater freedoms and democratic reform in the past few months, only to have the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government respond with a heavy-handed police crackdown, including the use of [tear gas](https://www.scmp.com/magazines/post-magazine/long-reads/article/3022942/truth-about-tear-gas-how-hong-kong-police), [rubber bullets](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-49910636), [live ammunition](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/oct/02/hong-kong-protests-police-teenager-shooting-students-violence-), [mass arrests](https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/politics/article/3025412/mass-arrests-hong-kong-protesters-police-could-backfire), [torture in police stations](https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/09/hong-kong-arbitrary-arrests-brutal-beatings-and-torture-in-police-detention-revealed/), and [bans on public protests](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/06/world/asia/hong-kong-protests-face-mask-ban.html);

**Whereas** Hong Kong students at McMaster University have been directly impacted by these events in Hong Kong, and publicly demonstrated on campus on 22nd October 2019 to show solidarity with protesters in Hong Kong;

**Whereas** the students demonstrating on campus in support of Hong Kong protesters had their demonstration materials vandalized and suffered from assault and threats from those opposed to the demonstration, as reported by [The Silhouette](https://spark.adobe.com/page/DcoLLjw0D9ReB/) and captured on video;

**Whereas** the Student Representative Assembly believes that the aforementioned vandalism, assault, and threats represent an attempt to intimidate students into silence and dissuade students from publicly demonstrating on campus;

**Whereas** the Student Representative Assembly believes that no student peacefully demonstrating on campus should be subjected to such violence and intimidation;

**Whereas** the Student Representative Assembly recognizes that this incident is part of a wider, global pattern of attempts to harass, silence, and/or assault critics of the Chinese government, with similar incidents having occurred at the [University of Queensland](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/oct/23/queensland-student-sues-chinese-consul-general-alleging-he-incited-death-threats), [University of Auckland](https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=12255525), [Simon Fraser University](https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/new-lennon-wall-goes-up-at-sfu-as-tensions-run-high-over-hong-kong-protests-1.5235147), and previously at [McMaster University](https://www.hongkongfp.com/2019/03/03/exclusive-uighur-activist-rukiye-turdush-felt-long-arm-chinese-communist-party-canada/), often with the open encouragement of Chinese diplomatic officials;

**Be it resolved that:**

The McMaster Students Union stands in solidarity with the right of Hong Kong students to freely express their views peacefully. The McMaster Student Union strongly condemns the violence and intimidation that was directed at students demonstrating on campus in support of freedom and democracy in Hong Kong.

Moreover, the McMaster Students Union is committed to supporting the right of students, and especially marginalized students, to peaceful protest on campus, and reminds the McMaster community that peaceful protest on campus is a fundamental right that is not to be infringed upon through violence and intimidation.

*Moreover, the McMaster Students Union expresses its utmost concern about the humanitarian situation in Hong Kong, especially on Hong Kong university campuses, including those with exchange agreements with McMaster University. We call upon the Education Bureau of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government and the Consulate General of Canada in Hong Kong to prevent future instances of police brutality, so as to ensure the safety of university students in Hong Kong, including current and prospective McMaster students on exchange in Hong Kong. We support a peaceful resolution to the situation in Hong Kong.*”

* Singh stated that this amendment will help bring forward the incidents that happened recently on campus, and the blockage at the University of China Hong Kong.
* De Fazio stated that unfortunately, some of these incidences happened to personal friends.

**Vote on Amendment**

**In Favour: 19 Opposed: 1 Abstentions: 3**

**Opposed: Hankins**

**Abstained: Johnston, Herscovitch, Homsi**

**Motion Passes**

**Back to Main Motion**

**Moved** by Singh, **seconded** by De Fazio that the Assembly adopt the following statement:

**Whereas** The Charter of Rights and Freedoms — the supreme law of Canada — protects the freedoms of speech, protest, and assembly in all aspects of Canadian society, including Ontario campuses;

**Whereas** the Student Representative Assembly is committed to upholding freedom of speech but is concerned that the guise of free speech may be used to limit dissent, counterargument, and protest by vulnerable students;

**Whereas** hundreds of thousands, even millions, of Hongkongers have taken to the streets to call for greater freedoms and democratic reform in the past few months, only to have the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government respond with a heavy-handed police crackdown, including the use of [tear gas](https://www.scmp.com/magazines/post-magazine/long-reads/article/3022942/truth-about-tear-gas-how-hong-kong-police), [rubber bullets](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-49910636), [live ammunition](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/oct/02/hong-kong-protests-police-teenager-shooting-students-violence-), [mass arrests](https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/politics/article/3025412/mass-arrests-hong-kong-protesters-police-could-backfire), [torture in police stations](https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/09/hong-kong-arbitrary-arrests-brutal-beatings-and-torture-in-police-detention-revealed/), and [bans on public protests](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/06/world/asia/hong-kong-protests-face-mask-ban.html);

**Whereas** Hong Kong students at McMaster University have been directly impacted by these events in Hong Kong, and publicly demonstrated on campus on 22nd October 2019 to show solidarity with protesters in Hong Kong;

**Whereas** the students demonstrating on campus in support of Hong Kong protesters had their demonstration materials vandalized and suffered from assault and threats from those opposed to the demonstration, as reported by [The Silhouette](https://spark.adobe.com/page/DcoLLjw0D9ReB/) and captured on video;

**Whereas** the Student Representative Assembly believes that the aforementioned vandalism, assault, and threats represent an attempt to intimidate students into silence and dissuade students from publicly demonstrating on campus;

**Whereas** the Student Representative Assembly believes that no student peacefully demonstrating on campus should be subjected to such violence and intimidation;

**Whereas** the Student Representative Assembly recognizes that this incident is part of a wider, global pattern of attempts to harass, silence, and/or assault critics of the Chinese government, with similar incidents having occurred at the [University of Queensland](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/oct/23/queensland-student-sues-chinese-consul-general-alleging-he-incited-death-threats), [University of Auckland](https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=12255525), [Simon Fraser University](https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/new-lennon-wall-goes-up-at-sfu-as-tensions-run-high-over-hong-kong-protests-1.5235147), and previously at [McMaster University](https://www.hongkongfp.com/2019/03/03/exclusive-uighur-activist-rukiye-turdush-felt-long-arm-chinese-communist-party-canada/), often with the open encouragement of Chinese diplomatic officials;

**Be it resolved that:**

The McMaster Students Union stands in solidarity with the right of Hong Kong students to freely express their views peacefully. The McMaster Student Union strongly condemns the violence and intimidation that was directed at students demonstrating on campus in support of freedom and democracy in Hong Kong.

Moreover, the McMaster Students Union is committed to supporting the right of students, and especially marginalized students, to peaceful protest on campus, and reminds the McMaster community that peaceful protest on campus is a fundamental right that is not to be infringed upon through violence and intimidation.

Moreover, the McMaster Students Union expresses its utmost concern about the humanitarian situation in Hong Kong, especially on Hong Kong university campuses, including those with exchange agreements with McMaster University. We call upon the Education Bureau of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government and the Consulate General of Canada in Hong Kong to prevent future instances of police brutality, so as to ensure the safety of university students in Hong Kong, including current and prospective McMaster students on exchange in Hong Kong. We support a peaceful resolution to the situation in Hong Kong.

* Pagniello asked if this meant the Assembly was making a statement for support for peaceful protest on campus. Pagniello ceded their time to Singh.
* Singh responded that with the statement the Assembly will be showing they support this and for peaceful resolution. Singh added that this statement was different than the one previously circulated by the MSU about CSSA.
* Johnston stated that the Assembly should be mindful of what this statement could be.
* Pagniello stated that they felt that there were some blind spots on behalf of the MSU. They explained that students in May were arrested on campus by campus security while peacefully protesting and the MSU didn’t release a statement at that time. Pagniello ceded their time to Johnston.
* Johnston responded that a news article was released by the MSU on May 14 about that incident and proceeded to read it out to the room.
* Homsi echoed Johnston’s sentiments about implications the statement could have. Homsi stated that more statements that are put out the more the message gets list.
* Singh stated that the reason why they brought this forward was because constituents brought this forward to the Assembly for the gravity of the situation. They added that the students wanted the SRA to release a statement. Singh stated that approving this doesn’t mean that every single protest in the future the MSU would agree with the values, and that it should be looked at on a case by case basis.
* Pagniello felt that there was a blind spot within the MSU if they are quick to condemn governments for oppression but unable to do it on campus when it relates to their own problems and students being oppressed by campus security.
* Homsi stated that they shouldn’t be picking and choosing which government they support and should be cautious as it sets a loud precedent.
* Singh explained that this statement was written in concert with constituents and they are values they all share as the Assembly and the McMaster Community. They stated that they don’t see any problems with the statement in itself or cause future SRAs to not be in line with their values.
* Johnston cautioned everyone for generalization for all students. They stated that the MSU does have to be cautious about statements being non-partisan. Johnston explained that the group who delegated last week asked two questions, which was wanting to know the MSU’s stance on freedom of speech and peaceful protest. They stated that those questions were answered a number of times.
* De Fazio stated that this statement doesn’t put the MSU in favour or opposed to a government but protects the rights of students abroad. They stated that they would be in favour of taking the motion back for re-wording but would like to pass a statement for those students who were attacked.
* Hankins agreed with De Fazio but felt that the Assembly shouldn’t be getting too political on Chinese issues. They asked if some of the political language could be removed.
* De Fazio asked the Assembly to identify language they would like changed now so that they could tackle amending the statement.
* Mesic felt that the whereas statement about the Hong Kongers could be taken out because it was more political. They stated that understood the point of why it’s there, but since there was an issue addressed in the pres page they thought students already had an idea. Mesic ceded the remainder of time to De Fazio.
* De Fazio stated that they wouldn’t be in favour of striking that statement as it was truthful and didn’t see how it doesn’t affect the students at hand.
* Sinnige stated that when it came to situations like this the Assembly wants to be non-partisan as possible, but for situations like this it’s hard to take away the politics.
* Singh stated that while only the last paragraph wasn’t visible, the rest of the statement was sent last week, and no concerns were brought forward. Singh stated that they hoped in the future there could be a better process. They explained that because of the nature of the situation being political it would be difficult to remove the terminology but if that was the wish of the Assembly then so be it. Singh asked that the members engage with them to ensure the changes are made to make the statement at a future meeting.
* The Assembly had a discussion on the best course of action for the statement. It was suggested to either postpone it to the next meeting, and then introduce the amendments, fail it and bring forward a completely different statement, or pass the statement and then re-consider the motion at the next meeting. It was decided it would be voted down and members of the Assembly would help with amendments and bring forward a new statement.

**Call to Question**

**Moved** by McDermott, **seconded** by Mesic to Call to Question

**In Favour: 20 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 4**

**Abstained: Figueiredo, Johnston, Sinnige, De Fazio**

**Motion Passes**

**Vote on Motion**

**In Favour: 0 Opposed: 17 Abstained: 7**

**Opposed: Figueiredo, Johnston, Enuiyin, Ganesalingan, Alkashef, McDermott, Li, Hu, Grewal, Kaur, Homsi, Alam, Hankins, Lee, Sarah, Mesic, Pagniello**

**Abstained: Sinnige, De Fazio, Reddy, Singh, Herscovitch, Jangra, Zheng**

**Motion Fails**

**TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**Sunday, December 1, 2019**

**5:00pm**

**Council Chambers, GH 111**

**CALL OF THE ROLL**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Present** | Alam, Alkashef, Dawdy, De Fazio, Enuiyin, Figueiredo, Ganesalingan, Grewal, Hankins, Herscovitch, Homsi, Hu, Johnston, Kaur, Lee, Li, McDermott, Mesic, Pagniello, Reddy, Sarhan, Singh, Sinnige, Zhang, Zheng |
| **Absent Excused:**  |  |
| **Absent** | Acri, Au-Yeung, Belliveau, Dawdy, Hackett, Hassan, Kampman, Marando, Mohamed, Williams |
| **Late**  | Jangra |
| **Others Present:**  | Ryan Tse (AVP: Municipal Affairs), Nerij Sharma (FYC Chair), Fawziyah Isah (AVP: University Affairs), V. Scott (Recording Secretary) |
| **Chair** | Maryanne Oketch  |

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Adjourned at 8:28pm**

/vs