**Student Representative Assembly Meeting 20D**

**Sunday, July 12, 2020 at 10:00am**

**Remote Meeting, Microsoft Teams**

**This meeting was done remotely through Microsoft Teams, due to unusual circumstance laid out by the response to COVID19.**

**Called to Order at 10:02am**

**CALL OF THE ROLL**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Present:** | Anderson, Bagtasos, Chopra, Chui, Da-Ré, Dahab, De Silva, Del Castillo, Dixit, Egbeyemi, Godlewski, Isah, Jones, Koscak, Mambetalinova, Nakua, Samson, Sariaslani, Seymour, Spasov, Stathoukos, Thind, Tsai, Violin |
| **Absent Excused:**  |  |
| **Absent:** | Baig, Birch, Della-Vedova, Mesic, Patel, Singh, Wang |
| **Late:**  | Aminaei, Au-Yeung, Dhindsa |
| **Others Present:**  | Graeme Noble (VP Admin Candidate), Madeleine Raad (VP Admin Candidate), Sakhshi Khanduja (VP Admin Candidate), Stephanie Kay (VP Admin Candidate), Michelle Brown (AVP Internal Governance), Hasnain Khan (AVP Provincial & Federal Affairs), Martino Salciccioli (AVP Services), Brittany Williams (AVP University Affairs), D. Stajcer (Recording Secretary) |
| **Chair** | Rhea Jangra  |

**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 Spasov seconded by Anderson that the Assembly adopt the agenda, as presented.

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Amendment**
**Moved** by Chui, **seconded** Au-Yeung to amend the agenda and add Zoom Security Concern as Business Item #6.

* Chui explained that she was approached by a constituent regarding their concern with the use of Zoom. The constituent provided Chui with a personal statement, which was read aloud, along with the respective motion.

 **Vote on Amendment**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Amendment**

**Moved** by Spasov **seconded** by Anderson that the Assembly wave section 3.1.4.1, 3.1.4.2, 3.2.3.1, and 3.2.3.2 of the Operating Policy Vice-President and Speaker Elections due to the restrictions of COVID-19.

**Vote on Amendment**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Vote to Adopt**

**Moved** by Spasov **seconded** by Anderson that the Assembly adopt the agenda, as amended.

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR**

* The Speaker stated that we have a very long meeting ahead of us today. The Speaker reminded voting Assembly members that a vote cannot be rescinded once it is typed in the chat. The Speaker instructed non-Assembly members who are present to include their name and affiliation in the chat.

**SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**1. Election of Vice-President (Administration)**

**Moved** by Da-Ré, **seconded** by Spasov that the Assembly close nominations for the by-election of the Vice-President (Administration).

**Nominations**

* Graeme Noble
* Madeleine Raad
* Sakhshi Khanduja
* Stephanie Kay

**Vote to Close Nominations**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Set Parameters
Moved** by Spasov, **seconded** by Anderson for a 15 minute presentation by each candidate, a 15 minute pooledquestioning per candidate (1 hour total for 4 candidates) with 1.5 minute time limit per question, a 20 minute individualized questioning per candidate and a 1.5 minute time limit per question.

**Vote on Parameters**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Moved** by Spasov, **seconded** by Nakua that the Assembly recess for 5 minutes.

**Amendment**

**Moved** by Da-Ré, **seconded** by Spasov that the Assembly recess for 10 minutes.

**Vote on Amendment**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Vote on Main Motion**

**Moved** by Spasov, **seconded** by Nakua that the Assembly recess for 10 minutes.

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Recessed 11:43am**

**Called to Order 11:53am**

**CALL OF THE ROLL**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Present:** | Aminaei, Anderson, Au-Yeung, Bagtasos, Chopra, Chui, Da-Ré, Dahab, De Silva, Del Castillo, Dhindsa, Dixit, Godlewski, Isah, Jones, Koscak, Mambetalinova, Nakua, Samson, Sariaslani, Seymour, Spasov, Stathoukos, Thind, Tsai, Violin |
| **Absent Excused:**  |  |
| **Absent:** | Baig, Birch, Della-Vedova, Egbeyemi, Mesic, Patel, Singh, Wang |
| **Late:**  |  |
| **Others Present:**  | Graeme Noble (VP Admin Candidate), Madeleine Raad (VP Admin Candidate), Sakhshi Khanduja (VP Admin Candidate), Stephanie Kay (VP Admin Candidate), Michelle Brown (AVP Internal Governance), Hasnain Khan (AVP Provincial & Federal Affairs), Martino Salciccioli (AVP Services), Brittany Williams (AVP University Affairs), D. Stajcer (Recording Secretary) |
| **Chair** | Rhea Jangra  |

**Moved** by Da-Ré, **seconded** by Spasov that the Assembly recess for 30 minutes.

* Da-Ré stated that 30 minutes is a fair amount of time for a break.

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Recessed 1:07pm**

**Called to Order 1:37pm**

**CALL OF THE ROLL**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Present:** | Aminaei, Anderson, Au-Yeung, Bagtasos, Chopra, Chui, Da-Ré, Dahab, De Silva, Del Castillo, Dhindsa, Dixit, Egbeyemi, Godlewski, Isah, Jones, Koscak, Mambetalinova, Nakua, Samson, Sariaslani, Seymour, Spasov, Stathoukos, Thind, Tsai, Violin |
| **Absent Excused:**  |  |
| **Absent:** | Baig, Birch, Della-Vedova, Mesic, Patel, Singh, Wang |
| **Late:**  |  |
| **Others Present:**  | Graeme Noble (VP Admin Candidate), Madeleine Raad (VP Admin Candidate), Sakhshi Khanduja (VP Admin Candidate), Stephanie Kay (VP Admin Candidate), Michelle Brown (AVP Internal Governance), Hasnain Khan (AVP Provincial & Federal Affairs), Martino Salciccioli (AVP Services), Brittany Williams (AVP University Affairs), D. Stajcer (Recording Secretary) |
| **Chair** | Rhea Jangra  |

**Moved** by Spasov, **seconded** by Anderson that the Assembly recess for 5 minutes.

* Spasov stated it would be good to have a break before going into closing statements and voting.

**In Favour: 16 Opposed: 1 Abstentions: 0**

**Opposed: Stathoukos**

**Motion Passes**

**Recessed 3:07pm**

**Called to Order 3:11pm**

**CALL OF THE ROLL**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Present:** | Aminaei, Anderson, Au-Yeung, Bagtasos, Chopra, Chui, Da-Ré, Dahab, De Silva, Del Castillo, Dhindsa, Dixit, Egbeyemi, Godlewski, Isah, Jones, Koscak, Mambetalinova, Nakua, Samson, Sariaslani, Seymour, Spasov, Stathoukos, Thind, Tsai |
| **Absent Excused:**  |  |
| **Absent:** | Baig, Birch, Della-Vedova, Mesic, Patel, Singh, Violin, Wang |
| **Late:**  |  |
| **Others Present:**  | Graeme Noble (VP Admin Candidate), Madeleine Raad (VP Admin Candidate), Sakhshi Khanduja (VP Admin Candidate), Stephanie Kay (VP Admin Candidate), Michelle Brown (AVP Internal Governance), Hasnain Khan (AVP Provincial & Federal Affairs), Martino Salciccioli (AVP Services), Brittany Williams (AVP University Affairs), D. Stajcer (Recording Secretary) |
| **Chair** | Rhea Jangra  |

* The candidates spoke within the allotted time.
* The Assembly voted by open ballot.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Member** | **1st Vote** | **2nd Vote** | **3rd Vote** | **4th Vote** |
| **AMINAEI**  | RAAD | NOBLE | KHANDUJA | KAY |
| **ANDERSON** | NOBLE | RAAD | KHANDUJA | KAY |
| **AU-YEUNG**  | NOBLE | RAAD | KAY – NC | KHANDUJA - NC |
| **BAGTASOS**  | NOBLE | RAAD | KAY | KHANDUJA |
| **BAIG** | ABSENT |
| **BIRCH** | ABSENT |
| **CHOPRA** | NOBLE | RAAD | KAY | KHANDUJA |
| **CHUI** | NOBLE | RAAD | KHANDUJA | KAY |
| **DAHAB** | ABSTAIN |
| **DA-RE** | RAAD | NOBLE | KHANDUJA | KAY |
| **DE SILVA** | NOBLE | - | - | - |
| **DEL CASTILLO** | NOBLE | RAAD | KAY | KHANDUJA |
| **DELLA-VEDOVA** | ABSENT |
| **DHINDSA** | NOBLE | RAAD | KHANDUJA | KAY |
| **DIXIT** | NOBLE | RAAD | KHANDUJA | KAY |
| **EGBEYEMI** | NOBLE | RAAD | KAY | KHANDUJA |
| **GODLEWSKI** | RAAD | NOBLE | KHANDUJA | KAY |
| **ISAH** | NOBLE | RAAD | KHANDUJA | KAY |
| **JONES** | RAAD | KAY | NOBLE | KHANDUJA |
| **KOSCAK** | NOBLE | - | - | - |
| **MAMBETALINOVA** | NOBLE | KAY | RAAD | KHANDUJA - NC |
| **MESIC** | ABSENT |
| **NAKUA** | ABSTAIN |
| **PATEL** | ABSENT |
| **SAMSON** | NOBLE | RAAD - NC | KHANDUJA - NC | KAY - NC |
| **SARIASLANI** | RAAD | NOBLE | KHANDUJA | KAY |
| **SEYMOUR** | RAAD | KAY | KHANDUJA | NOBLE |
| **SINGH** | ABSENT |
| **SPASOV** | RAAD | NOBLE | KHANDUJA | KAY |
| **STATHOUKOS** | NOBLE | RAAD | KHANDUJA | KAY |
| **THIND** | NOBLE | KAY | RAAD | KHANDUJA |
| **TSAI** | NOBLE | RAAD | KHANDUJA – NC | KAY - NC |
| **VIOLIN** | ABSENT |
| **WANG** | ABSENT |

* Graeme Noble was elected as the Vice-President (Administration) 2020-2021.

**REPORT PERIOD**

**1. VP Admin Report – Spasov presented**

* Spasov summarized the report.

**2. Vice-President Finance – Anderson presented**

* Anderson summarized the report.

**3. Vice-President Education – report circulated**

* Isah summarized the report.

**4. President - Da-Ré presented**

* Da-Ré summarized the report.

**INFORMATION PERIOD**

* No information shared.

**QUESTION PERIOD**

* No questions asked.

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**1. Close Nominations for MSU members to other Committees**

* **Child Care Centre Advisory Committee (2 MSU/SRA seats)**
* **Clubs Advisory Council (1 MSU seat)**
* **Peer Support Promotions Working Group (1 MSU seat)**
* **Teaching Awards (minimum 2 MSU seats)**
* **University Book Store Committee (3 MSU/SRA seats)**
* **Welcome Week Awards (1 MSU seat)**
* The Speaker informed the Assembly of the number of seats available for each committee. She emphasized that the University Book Store Committee is open to SRA members as well and that if anyone would like to nominate themselves, it would help close seats on this committee.

**Nominations**

* Nakua nominated them self for the University Book Store Committee.
* Seymour nominated them self for the University Book Store Committee.

**Moved** by Da-Ré, **seconded** by Nakua that the Assembly close nominations for MSU members to Other Committees as listed.

* Da-Ré asked if there were nominees for all of the committees listed.
* The Speaker stated that Teaching Awards Committee and Welcome Week Awards do not have any nominations.
* Da-Ré recommended for somebody to amend this motion as those seats need to be filled.
* Nakua agreed with Da-Ré.

**Amendment**

**Moved** by Spasov, **seconded** by Da-Ré to not close Teaching Awards and Welcome Week Awards MSU committee seats, and keep them open.

* Spasov stated there is no point in closing these seats until we have nominees.
* Da-Ré agreed with Spasov.

**Vote on Amendment**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

 **Vote on Main Motion**

**Moved** by Da-Ré, **seconded** by Nakua that the Assembly close nominations for MSU members to Other Committees as listed, except for Teaching Awards and Welcome Week Awards.

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Acclamations**

* The Speaker announced that Anjelica Shrestha and Denise Catacutan were acclaimed to two (2) MSU/SRA seats on the Child Care Centre Advisory Committee.
* The Speaker announced that Vidhi Bhatt, Malik Nakua and Shelby Seymour were acclaimed to three (3) MSU/SRA seats on the University Bookstore Committee.

**Set Parameters**

**Moved** by Spasov, **seconded** by Anderson that the electoral procedures be as follows: The Speaker reads out each statement submitted and a pooled discussion of 1 minute per candidate after all statements have been read.

* Spasov stated this is for consistency with previous parameters set for MSU seat elections at the June SRA meeting.
* Anderson agreed with Spasov stating if there is nothing to discuss, we can move on.

**Vote on Parameters**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Clubs Advisory Council (1 MSU seat)**

**Nominations**

* Nadhiyya Shabir
* Rabeeyah Ahmed
* Ya Jing Liu
* Haleigh Wallace
* Vidhi Bhatt
* The Speaker read out the statements from the Candidates.
* The Assembly voted by secret ballot.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Candidate** | **Vote** |
| Shabir | 0 |
| Ahmed | 4 |
| **Liu** | **7** |
| Wallace | 3 |
| Bhatt | 4 |
| Spoiled | 0 |
| Abstained | 5 |

* The Speaker announced that Ya Jing Liu won the MSU seat on the Clubs Advisory Council.

**Peer Support Promotions Working Group (1 MSU seat)**

**Nominations**

* Liza Roik
* Dixon Pinto
* Ansha Suleman
* Clare Fiala
* The Speaker read out the statements from the Candidates.
* The Assembly voted by secret ballot.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Candidate** | **Vote** |
| Roik | 7 |
| **Pinto** | **8** |
| Suleman | 2 |
| Fiala | 3 |
| Spoiled | 0 |
| Abstained | 2 |

* The Speaker announced that Dixon Pinto won the MSU seat on the Peer Support Advisory Committee.

**BUSINESS**

1. **Clubs Ratification**

**Moved** by Da-Ré, **seconded** by Anderson that the Assembly ratify the new and returning clubs as circulated and recommended by the Clubs Administrator for the 2020-2021 academic year.

* Da-Ré stated we have a lot of clubs to ratify and to get started.
* Anderson stated that our Clubs Admin has been diligently going through the list of clubs and noted that all of the DeGroote clubs specifically were removed to ensure consistency with what was done last year which was removing all faculty society-related clubs out from under the MSU.
* Egbeyemi mentioned the new LORAX Club and is unsure if their accessible avenues is a unique niche of the club or if it’s another climate change club with a similar description as: McMaster Students for the Environment, McMaster Energy Association, two additional OPIRG clubs that are for the environment, Zero Waste McMaster.
* Anderson was told that for this specific club, all of the recommendations were put forward by the previous Clubs Admin, Aditi, who ensured that their mandates were not the same as pre-existing clubs and that there was some sort of programming difference significant enough to ensure they are able to be their own club.
* Spasov informed that if an SRA member disagrees with any of the clubs, they have the power to amend the motion as they see necessary.

**In Favour: 20 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 1**

**Abstentions: Egbeyemi**

**Motion Passes**

1. **Board of Directors Year Plans**

**Moved** by Stathoukos, **seconded** by Egbeyemi that the Assembly approve the following Board of Directors year plans, as circulated:

* Vice-President (Administration)
* Vice-President (Finance)
* Vice-President (Education)
* President
* Stathoukos said that all year plans have all been read by now and believes they are good.
* Egbeyemi appreciates the detail given and stated the year plans look great.

**Amendment to Motion**

**Moved** by Spasov, **seconded** by Da-Ré to not approve Vice-President (Administration) and Vice-President (Education) Year Plans, but to approve Vice-President (Finance) and MSU President Year Plans as circulated.

**Vote on Amendment**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Vote on Main Motion**

**Moved** by Stathoukos, **seconded** by Egbeyemi that the Assembly approve the following Board of Directors year plans, as circulated:

* President
* Vice-President (Finance)

**In Favour: 19 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 3**

**Abstentions: Da-Ré, Anderson, Thind**

**Motion Passes**

1. **Caucus Year Plans**

**Moved** by Spasov, **seconded** by Da-Ré, that the Assembly approve the following Caucus year plans, as circulated:

* Arts & Science
* Business
* Engineering
* Health Sciences
* Humanities
* Kinesiology
* Nursing
* Science
* Social Sciences
* Spasov reiterated that several year plans were submitted just this morning, so the Assembly has the option to amend and approve year plans at a later time - it is ultimately up to the Assembly.
* Da-Ré echoed Spasov in that it is up to the Assembly on how they would like to vote on the year plans and to feel free to reach out to the Board of Directors to speak about any of the context.
* Spasov reminded everyone of the upcoming consultation training and recommended everyone re-evaluate their year plans after this training is completed.

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

1. **Open nominations for two (2) seats on Executive Board**

**Moved** by Spasov, **seconded** by Anderson that the Assembly open nominations for two (2) seats on Executive Board.

* Spasov reminded everyone that Executive Board meets every two weeks on Fridays from 12-2pm in the summer and to ensure availability if deciding to run. Spasov added that the meeting time will be re-evaluated once school resumes and it will switch to a weekly meeting.
* Anderson stated that the next Executive Board meeting is on Friday July 24th from 12-2pm and echoed Spasov’s statement about availability.

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Nominations**

* Nakua nominated themself for a seat on the Executive Board.
* Dixit nominated themself for a seat on the Executive Board.
1. **Close nominations for two (2) seats on Executive Board**

**Moved** by Da-Ré, **seconded** by Anderson that the Assembly close nominations for two (2) seats on Executive Board.

* Da-Ré agreed with closing the seats.
* Anderson is excited to work with the new members.

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

* The Assembly voted by secret ballot.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Candidate** | **Confidence** | **No Confidence** |
| Nakua | 23 | 1 |
| Dixit | 24 | 0 |
| Abstain | 0 |  |
| Spoiled | 0 |  |

* Nakua and Dixit were elected with confidence to the Executive Board.

**Moved** by Chui, **seconded** by Bagtasos that the Assembly recess for 5 minutes.

* Chui stated that this time could be taken to read over supporting documentation for Business Item #6.
* Bagtasos stated it would be nice to take the time to stretch before we get into this topic as it is important to the constituent who brought it forward.

**In Favour: 15 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 8**

**Abstentions: Anderson, Samson, De Silva, Stathoukos, Koscak, Sariaslani, Thind, Dixit**

**Motion Passes**

**Recessed 5:29pm**

**Called to Order 5:34pm**

**CALL OF THE ROLL**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Present:** | Aminaei, Anderson, Au-Yeung, Bagtasos, Chopra, Chui, Da-Ré, Dahab, De Silva, Del Castillo, Dhindsa, Dixit, Egbeyemi, Godlewski, Isah, Jones, Koscak, Mambetalinova, Nakua, Samson, Sariaslani, Seymour, Spasov, Stathoukos, Thind, Tsai |
| **Absent Excused:**  |  |
| **Absent:** | Baig, Birch, Della-Vedova, Mesic, Patel, Singh, Violin, Wang |
| **Late:**  |  |
| **Others Present:**  | Michelle Brown (AVP Internal Governance), Hasnain Khan (AVP Provincial & Federal Affairs), Martino Salciccioli (AVP Services), Brittany Williams (AVP University Affairs), D. Stajcer (Recording Secretary) |
| **Chair** | Rhea Jangra  |

1. **Zoom Security Concern**

**Moved** by Chui, **seconded** by Au-Yeung that the McMaster Students Union adopts the following statement:

Whereas, Zoom is a web-based video conferencing tool that is presently being used by Mcmaster university; and

Whereas, Zoom has been revealed to have several serious security issues pertaining to encryption, censorship, and surveillance; and

Whereas, Zoom has failed to be transparent with its level of encryption and it’s collaboration with authoritarian governments; and

Whereas, U of T’s Citizen Lab found that Zoom has routed encryption keys through servers in Beijing, China; and

Whereas, There still remains a significant lack of transparency regarding where Zoom user data is being routed depending on clients’ location; and

Whereas, Zoom has admitted to surveilling and censoring users at the request of the Chinese Government and has not categorically stated that it will desist from this in the future; and

Whereas, In June Zoom banned from it’s platform US- based activists commemorating the Tiananmen Massacre at the request of the Chinese government; and

Whereas, Specific McmasterMcMaster Students are at particular risk due to Zoom’s security weaknesses; and

Whereas, Students feel the need to self-censor in discussions where the topic of chinese politics arises; and

Whereas, Human rights activists targeted by authoritarian regimes are at high risk of being surveilled and punished under the National Security Law in Hong Kong; and

Whereas, Under Chinese law, private companies are required by law to assist the government with national security operations such as censorship and surveillance; and

Whereas, Under the newly enacted Hong Kong National Security law, anyone outside of and not from Hong Kong that speaks against or expresses any negative sentiments about the Chinese government will be violating the law; and

Whereas, Zoom’s surveillance on behalf of authoritarian governments such as the CCP poses a major threat to all McmasterMcMaster students; and

Whereas, McMaster’s post on March 26,2020 entitled “Zoom video conferencing: Best practices for privacy and security” does not sufficiently address the security issues posed by zoom and the impact of said issues on McmasterMcMaster students; and therefore

Be it resolved that the 2020/21 SRA call upon McMaster University to updatto investigate current security issues surrounding zoom and stop its use of this software; be it further

Be it Resolved, that the 2020/2021 SRA call upon McmasterMcMaster University to and investigate and pursue the use of other video conference software that sufficiently ensures student’s privacy and safety protection such as Microsoft Teams which is already accessible to all McmasterMcMaster students.

* Chui explained she has circulated an updated version of the motion which contains grammatical and wording changes to make the motion more specific and understandable. Chui spoke with the Speaker who informed that the most efficient way to apply these changes would be to vote down the current motion and proceed to introduce the updated version as new business as opposed to amending all of the grammatical and wording changes one by one. Chui apologized on behalf of the constituent as it has been a long day for everyone. Chui insisted on discussing it now rather than at the next SRA meeting in September due to the serious nature of the motion and if we wait, Zoom may be the primary platform of academic instruction of McMaster by that time. Chui asked the Assembly to vote down current motion and introduce the updated version of the motion as new business.
* Au-Yeung echoed Chui’s statement and mentioned another change: “Be it resolved that the 2020/21 SRA call upon McMaster University to investigate current security issues surrounding zoom and stop its use of this software;” was changed to “Be it resolved that the 2020/21 SRA call upon McMaster University to investigate current security issues surrounding the use of Zoom;”. Au-Yeung would appreciate the Assembly to vote this motion down and re-introduce it as new business item.

**Motion Fails by General Consent**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Moved** by Chui, **seconded** by Au-Yeung that the McMaster Students Union adopts the following statement:

Whereas, Zoom is a web-based video conferencing tool that is presently being used by McMaster University; and

Whereas, Zoom has been revealed to have several serious security issues pertaining to encryption, censorship, and surveillance; and

Whereas, Zoom has failed to be transparent with its level of encryption and its collaboration with authoritarian governments; and

Whereas, The University of Toronto’s Citizen Lab flagged security concerns regarding Zoom routing encryption keys through servers in Beijing, China; and

Whereas, There still remains a significant lack of transparency regarding where Zoom user data is being routed depending on clients’ location; and

Whereas, Zoom has admitted to surveilling and censoring users at the request of the Chinese Communist Party and has not categorically stated that it will desist from this in the future; and
Whereas, In June Zoom banned from it’s platform US- based activists commemorating the Tiananmen Square Massacre at the request of the Chinese government; and
Whereas, Specific McMaster students, such as Hong Kong students engaged in pro-democracy activism, are at particular risk due to Zoom’s security weaknesses; and

Whereas, Students feel the need to self-censor in class discussions where topics considered politically sensitive to the Chinese Communist Party arises; and

Whereas, Under Chinese law, private companies are required by law to assist the government with national security operations such as censorship and surveillance; and

Whereas, Human rights activists targeted by authoritarian regimes are at high risk of being surveilled and persecuted under the newly enacted National Security Law in Hong Kong; and

Whereas, Under the Hong Kong National Security Law, anyone inside or outside of Hong Kong, and with or without not from Hong Kong residency, can be found in violation of  the law on vague charges such as “subversion” or “collusion with foreign forces”; and

Whereas, Zoom’s surveillance and censorship on behalf of authoritarian regimes such as the Chinese Communist Party poses a major threat to all McMaster students; and

Whereas, McMaster’s post on March 26,2020  titled “Zoom video conferencing: Best practices for privacy and security” does not sufficiently address the security issues posed by Zoom and the impact of said issues on McMaster students; and therefore

Be it resolved that the 2020/21 SRA call upon McMaster University to investigate current security issues surrounding the use of Zoom; be it further

Resolved, that the 2020/2021 SRA call upon McMaster university to investigate and pursue the case-by-case usage of other video conference software that better ensures students’ privacy and safety, such as Microsoft Teams which is already accessible to all McMaster students.

* Chui read out a personal statement received from the constituent which was circulated to the Assembly.
* Au-Yeung mentioned that constituents (especially Hong Kong students) have expressed how the use of Zoom could endanger them due to recent national security laws passed in Hong Kong. Au-Yeung stated that Chui did not circulate the most updated version of the motion and that there are still several errors in it and moved for an amendment. Au-Yeung pasted the updated version of the motion in the chat.

**Amendment**

**Moved** by Au-Yeung, **seconded** by Chui that the Assembly change the following:

Whereas, Under the Hong Kong National Security Law, anyone inside or outside of Hong Kong, and with or without Hong Kong residency, can be found in violation of the law on vague charges such as “subversion” or “collusion”; and

Whereas, McMaster’s post on March 26, 2020 updated on April 4,2020 titled “Zoom video conferencing: Best practices for privacy and security” does not sufficiently address the security issues posed by Zoom and the impact of said issues on McMaster students; and therefore

Resolved, that the 2020/2021 SRA call upon McMaster university to investigate and pursue the use of other video conference software that better ensures students’ privacy and safety, such as Microsoft Teams which is already accessible to all McMaster students.

* Au-Yeung advised of three changes to the original motion. The first change was a grammatical error – “and with or without not from Hong Kong residency” was changed to “and with or without Hong Kong residency”. The second change was referencing McMaster’s post about video conferencing. The original statement mentioned the post was on March 26th 2020 but the change includes the fact that it was updated on April 4th, 2020. The third change was removing the term “case-by-case usage” in the last paragraph.
* Egbeyemi expressed that the original terminology of “case-by-case usage” was good.
* Williams explained that even if certain topics aren’t being discussed, we are not able to filter out which data is being sent to Hong Kong. Williams stated that a big issue with the new national security law is that it’s not very clear as to when one may overstep or may say something deemed sensitive. By keeping this statement broad, it can be brought to the University in the future for implementation, whereas saying “case-by-case usage” may still be leaving a lot of students vulnerable.
* Egbeyemi stated this was a great point.
* Chui added that by leaving it as a “case-by-case” basis, students will still be required to self-censor as they won’t know when they are or are not offending the CCP.

**Vote on Amendment**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Vote on Main Motion**

**Moved** by Chui, **seconded** by Au-Yeung that the McMaster Students Union adopts the following statement:

Whereas, Zoom is a web-based video conferencing tool that is presently being used by McMaster University; and

Whereas, Zoom has been revealed to have several serious security issues pertaining to encryption, censorship, and surveillance; and

Whereas, Zoom has failed to be transparent with its level of encryption and its collaboration with authoritarian governments; and

Whereas, The University of Toronto’s Citizen Lab flagged security concerns regarding Zoom routing encryption keys through servers in Beijing, China; and

Whereas, There still remains a significant lack of transparency regarding where Zoom user data is being routed depending on clients’ location; and

Whereas, Zoom has admitted to surveilling and censoring users at the request of the Chinese Communist Party and has not categorically stated that it will desist from this in the future; and

Whereas, In June Zoom banned from its platform US- based activists commemorating the Tiananmen Square Massacre at the request of the Chinese government;and

Whereas, Specific McMaster students, such as Hong Kong students engaged in pro-democracy activism, are at particular risk due to Zoom’s security weaknesses; and

Whereas, Students feel the need to self-censor in class discussions where topics considered politically sensitive to the Chinese Communist Party arises; and
Whereas, Under Chinese law, private companies are required by law to assist the government with national security operations such as censorship and surveillance; and

Whereas, Human rights activists targeted by authoritarian regimes are at high risk of being surveilled and persecuted under the newly enacted National Security Law in Hong Kong; and

Whereas, Under the Hong Kong National Security Law, anyone inside or outside of Hong Kong, and with or without Hong Kong residency, can be found in violation of the law on vague charges such as “subversion” or “collusion”; and

Whereas, Zoom’s surveillance and censorship on behalf of authoritarian regimes such as the Chinese Communist Party poses a major threat to all McMaster students; and

Whereas, McMaster’s post on March 26, 2020 updated on April 4,2020 titled “Zoom video conferencing: Best practices for privacy and security” does not sufficiently address the security issues posed by Zoom and the impact of said issues on McMaster students; and therefore

Be it resolved that the 2020/21 SRA call upon McMaster University to investigate current security issues surrounding the use of Zoom; be it further

Resolved, that the 2020/2021 SRA call upon McMaster university to investigate and pursue the use of other video conference software that better ensures students’ privacy and safety, such as Microsoft Teams which is already accessible to all McMaster students.

**In Favour: 21 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 3**

**Abstentions: Tsai, Dahab, De Silva**

**Motion Passes**

**TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Sunday September 13, 2020

5:00pm EST

Remote Meeting, Microsoft Teams

**CALL OF THE ROLL**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Present:** | Aminaei, Anderson, Au-Yeung, Bagtasos, Chopra, Chui, Da-Ré, Dahab, De Silva, Del Castillo, Dhinsda, Dixit, Egbeyemi, Godlewski, Isah, Jones, Koscak, Mambetalinova, Nakua, Samson, Sariaslani, Seymour, Spasov, Stathoukos, Thind, Tsai |
| **Absent Excused:**  |  |
| **Absent:** | Baig, Birch, Della-Vedova, Mesic, Patel, Singh, Violin, Wang |
| **Late:**  |  |
| **Others Present:**  | D. Stajcer (Recording Secretary) |
| **Chair** | Rhea Jangra  |

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved** by Da-Ré, **seconded** by Anderson that the Assembly adjourn.

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Adjourned at 6:18pm.**

/ds