**Student Representative Assembly Meeting 20K**

**Sunday, November 29, 2020 at 5:00pm**

**Remote Meeting, Microsoft Teams**

**This meeting was done remotely through Microsoft Teams, due to the unusual circumstance laid out by the response to COVID-19.**

**Called to Order at 5:05pm**

**CALL OF THE ROLL**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Present:** | Aminaei, Anderson, Bagtasos, Birch, Chelverajah, Chopra, Chui, Da-Ré, De Silva, Del Castillo, Della-Vedova, Dhindsa, Dixit, Egbeyemi, Fraser, Jones, Koscak, Mesic, Nakua, Noble, Samson, Seymour, Singh, Stathoukos, Tse |
| **Absent Excused:**  |  |
| **Absent:** | Au-Yeung, Dehab, Naik, Sariaslani, Violin, Wang |
| **Late:**  | Tsai |
| **Others Present:**  | V. Scott (Recording Secretary), Hasnain Khan (AVP (PFA)), Michelle Brown (AVP (IG)),Maanvi Dhillon (AVP (MA)) |
| **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 Noble, **seconded** by Tse that the Assembly adopt the agenda, as presented.

* Noble stated that the agenda looked good and hoped that the meeting didn’t go too long.

**Amendment**

**Moved** by Tse, **seconded** by Da-Ré to amend the agenda to add OUSA SAC to Report Period.

* Tse stated that the reports are from the conference and were circulated earlier.

**Vote on Amendment**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Amendment**

**Moved** by Egbeyemi, **seconded** by Da-Ré to amend the agenda to add “SRA Solidarity Statement with Public Housing Protesters at City Hall” to Business.

* Egbeyemi stated that this statement was timely to add with everything that was going on in downtown Hamilton.
* Da-Ré explained that Egbeyemi and Samson put a lot of work into this statement, so it would be good if it was added to the agenda.

**Vote on Amendment**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Amendment**

**Moved** by Tse, **seconded** by Da-Ré to amend the agenda to add MSU Policy to Report Period.

* Tse stated that they were required by the Education operating policy to bring forward what advocacy policies have been chosen.
* Da-Ré would like to see it be added to the agenda.

**Vote on Amendment**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Amendment**

**Moved** by Tse, **seconded** by Da-Ré to amend the agenda to add the following motion to Business: “**Moved** by \_\_\_\_, **seconded** by \_\_\_\_ that the Assembly approve the following yearplans, as circulated:

* Vice-President (Education)
* University Affairs Committee
* Provincial and Federal Affairs Committee”
* Tse explained that they would like to add these to the agenda for approval.
* Da-Ré stated that it was the last meeting of the fall, so the yearplans should be added.

**Vote on Amendment**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Moved** by Noble, **seconded** by Tse that the Assembly adopt the agenda, as amended.

**Vote to Adopt**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Adopt Minutes**

**Moved** by Singh, **seconded** by Fraser to adopt the minutes from SRA meeting 20H – October 18, 2020, as circulated.

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Announcements from the Chair**

* The Chair announced that this was the last meeting before the winter break. They welcomed Chelverajah, Fraser, and Naik to the meeting. The Chair reminded the Assembly to please turn on their cameras when speaking, and to mute themselves when not. They asked for observers to please sign the observer’s list.

**Report Period**

**1. First Year Council – Aimen Dhiloon presented**

* Dhiloon summarized the report.

**Questions**

* Noble thanked FYC for all the work that they’ve been doing.
* Tse stated that they were willing to lend support for the survey and to please reach out if there are any questions.
* Da-Ré echoed the sentiments of Noble and Tse. They stated that they would be happy to attend a meeting to answer any questions.
* Williams offered their help as well.

**2. Nursing Caucus – Bagtasos presented**

* Bagtasos summarized the report.

**Questions**

* Noble commended Bagtasos for changing the Nursing yearplan to adapt to advocacy efforts. They stated that yearplans do change and it takes a lot of introspection of expectations for various projects.

**3. Science Caucus – report circulated**

* Singh presented the report.

**4. Social Sciences Caucus – report circulated**

* Mesic presented the report.

**5. Municipal Affairs Committee – Maanvi Dhillon presented**

* Dhillon summarized the report.

**Questions**

* Noble stated that they were excited to see how things would turn out for Dhillon as they have been hearing nothing but good things. Dhillon thanked Noble and stated that everyone in the Ed Department has been helpful.

**6. University Affairs Committee – report circulated**

* Brittany Williams presented the report.

**Questions**

* Da-Ré stated that Williams was killing it with UA. They stated that this was a difficult portfolio to have with this year, as things are changing and having to respond to a wider job. They thanked Williams for doing a great job.
* Noble stated that SWC sent out a mental health survey and asked if the MSU already did one.
* Williams responded that they didn’t know about the survey but met with SWC and spoke to them about it. Williams stated that one of the concerns is about reaching out-of-province and international students as because of legal reasons they cannot be supported by programs outside of Ontario. Williams stated that they didn’t know what the survey entailed or targeted.

**7. Executive Board – report circulated**

* Tse presented the report.

**8. Vice-Presidenbt (Administration) – Noble presented**

* Noble summarized the report.

**9. OUSA SAC – report circulated**

* Tse presented the report.

**10. MSU Policy – report circulated**

* Tse presented the report.

**Information Period**

* Tse informed the Assembly that they spoke to Kim Dej and made it clear that the MSU doesn’t want proctoring to continue but would like the University to be more transparent about vetting standards and data. Tse stated that there will be a letter from Dr. Dej in Avenue and the FAQs and has asked that students be emailed this letter.
* Da-Ré informed the Assembly that the Education Taskforce Report was on the Daily News channel. They stated that they and Tse sat on the taskforce that collected feedback about the teaching and learning experience and helped create a list of recommendations on how to improve for winter term.

**Question Period**

* No questions were asked.

**Business**

**1. Open all seats on Awards Committees**

**Moved** by Noble, **seconded** by Singh that the Assembly open all MSU and SRA seats on the following Awards Committees:

* Honour M (1)
* Rudy Heinzl Award of Excellence (1)
* MSU Merit Scholarship (1)
* J. Lynn Watson (1)
* MSU Spirit (1)
* Noble stated that they need to elect the MSU and SRA reps.

**Vote on Motion**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**2. Close MSU seats on Awards Committees**

**Moved** by Singh, **seconded** by Tse to postpone the following motion to SRA meeting 20L: “**Moved** by \_\_\_\_, **seconded** by \_\_\_\_ that the Assembly close nominations for MSU members to the following award committees:

* Honour M (1)
* Rudy Heinzl Award of Excellence (1)
* MSU Merit Scholarship (1)
* J. Lynn Watson (1)
* MSU Spirit (1)”
* Singh stated that this would give the Assembly more time to find people interested. They explained that this would be more than a month to promote the openings.

**Vote to Postpone**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**3. Close SRA seats on Awards Committees**

**Moved** by Noble, **seconded** by Tse that the Assembly close nominations for SRA members to the following award committees:

* Honour M (1)
* MSU Merit Scholarship (1)
* J. Lynn Watson (1)
* MSU Spirit (1)
* Noble went over the awards with the Assembly.
* Aminaei asked who these seats were for.
* The Speaker responded that they were for SRA members to help chose the winners of the awards.

**Nominations**

* Aminaei nominated themselves for the Honour M Award Committee.
* Chui nominated themselves for the Honour M Award Committee.
* Dhindsa nominated themselves for the MSU Spirit Award Committee.
* Fraser nominated themselves for the MSU Merit Scholarship Award Committee.
* Dhindsa nominated themselves for the J. Lynn Watson Award Committee.
* Chui rescinded their nomination.

**Vote on Motion**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

* The Speaker announced that the following won the SRA seats on the Awards Committee by acclamation:
	+ Aminaei – Honour M Award Committee
	+ Dhinda – MSU Spirit Award and J. Lynn Watson Award Committees
	+ Fraser – MSU Merit Scholarship Award Committee

**4. Rescind Operating Policy – Network Access Protocol**

**Moved** by Noble, **seconded** by Fraser that the Assembly rescind **Operating Policy - Network Access Protocol**.

* Noble went over the memo with the Assembly.

**Vote on Motion**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**5. Proposed Operating Policy - Welcome Week Charitable Giving**

**Moved** by Noble, **seconded** by Da-Ré that the Assembly adopt **Operating Policy - Welcome Week Charitable Giving**, as circulated.

* Noble went over the memo with the Assembly.

**Vote on Motion**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**6. Proposed Renaming and Relocation of Bylaws and Policies**

**Moved** by Noble, **seconded** by Tse that the Assembly approve and adopt the renaming and relocation of the Bylaws and Policies in the memo circulated.

* Noble explained that they circulated a memo at a previous meeting. They stated that this had a more detailed outlook and asked the Assembly to ask any questions or concerns.
* Tse stated that these are straight forward changes, and it makes it more clear on how to access policies.

**Vote on Motion**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**7. Proposed Bylaw 8 – Policy Approval Process**

**Moved** by Noble, **seconded** by Da-Ré that the Assembly adopt **Bylaw 8 – Policy Approval Process**, as circulated.

* Noble went over the memo with the Assembly. They explained that a couple of additions will be brought forward in the winter term, but this was something that can be worked with and operated.
* Da-Ré felt that this would be a big help to the organization and thanked the AVP (Internal Governance) and Noble.

**Vote on Motion**

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

**Motion Passes**

**8. Yearplan**

**Moved**by Anderson, **seconded** by Fraser that the Assembly adopt the Vice-President (Administration)’s yearplan, as circulated.

* Anderson stated that they know that some folks have been working on yearplans for awhile and would like to get them approved.
* Noble went over their yearplan with the Assembly.

**Vote on Motion**

**In Favour: 23 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 1**

**Abstained: Noble**

**Motion Passes**

**9. SRA Solidarity Statement**

**Moved** by Egbeyemi, **seconded** by Samsonthat the McMaster Students Union adopts the following statement:

**Whereas,** housing has been declared as a human right by the Ontario Human Rights Commission since 20171; and

**Whereas,** 332 000 units of affordable private housing were lost, federally, between 2011-20162; and

**Whereas,** the National Housing Co-Investment Fund was supposed to invest in the construction of 6 500 new housing units by March 2020, but had only finalized agreements for a mere 736 as of February 20203; and

**Whereas,** Canada’s National Housing Strategy includes support for demonstrations put forward by researchers and housing partners outside of government4; and

**Whereas,** Public Health Ontario has named homelessness as a pre-existing social inequity within comorbidities associated with increased risk for severe outcomes from COVID-195; and

**Whereas,** Public Health Ontario has named homelessness as an example of a social determinant of COVID-19 exposure and infection6; and

**Whereas,** the mobility of the homeless population provides an additional difficulty for healthcare workers to track and prevent COVID-19 transmission7; and

**Whereas,** women who experience housing instability are at high-risk to experience violence8; and

**Whereas,** in 2020, the Hamilton Police Services (HPS) has estimated a budget surplus of over $500 0009; and

**Whereas,** In the past, the HPS has put portions of surpluses towards municipal projects, such as new downtown buildings10; and

**Whereas,** the provision of stable housing may decrease unnecessary and potentially harmful interactions with the police for unhoused residents in Hamilton11; and

**Whereas,** the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms encourages anyone to assemble and express their views without punitive action on behalf of the government; and

**Whereas,** many similar sentiments have been expressed in solidarity statements by MP Matthew Green, (Hamilton-Centre), and the Hamilton Centre Community Legal Clinic1213; and

**Whereas,** there is an affordable housing crisis in Canada, especially in the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area, that has only been exacerbated by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and will be further worsened in the coming winter months; and

**Whereas,** the demands of protestors in the Hamilton community are urgent and not misplaced; and therefore

**Be it resolved**that the 2020/21 SRA stand in solidarity with the peaceful protestors at City Hall and their demand to use re-allocate the 2020 HPS surplus into affordable housing, **be it further**

**Resolved**that the 2020/21 SRA calls on the Mayor and Councilors of the City of Hamilton to respond and enter dialogue with the protesters who have been demonstrating since Monday, November 23rd.

* Egbeyemi went over the memo that was circulated.
* Samson stated that this statement was relevant and important due to COVID and McMaster’s own students who may be facing housing issues. They stated that this could have an affect on policy makers within Hamilton.
* Tse thanked everyone for putting this together and for reaching out to the Board and others in the community about taking a stance. Tse stated that Hamilton does face an affordable housing crisis as there are over 6,000 people on a waiting list for subsidized housing. They stated that police services have half a million dollars in surplus that could go to community supports and the MSU should be ensuring that the community is supporting vulnerable populations during this time. Tse added that they are asking for this to be resubmitted to community supports as one of their asks for the Municipal Budget submission, as they need to better support racialized students in the city and on campus.
* Da-Ré stated that everything in this statement was in line with what the MSU stands for. They thanked everyone for putting the research into this. Da-Ré added that in the word document with the statement, there are citations everywhere in the whereas statements and that the Assembly should review. Da-Ré stated that the MSU should be taking a stand and supporting protesters and will be voting in favour.
* Khan stated that the organizers of the protest have been there day and night over the past seven days and asked the Assembly to please share the graphics being circulated.

**Vote on Motion**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**10. Additional Yearplans**

**Moved** by Noble, **seconded** by Singh that the Assembly adopt the following yearplans:

* Vice-President (Education)
* University Affairs Committee
* Provincial and Federal Affairs Committee
* Noble didn’t speak to the motion.
* Tse went over the Vice-President (Education) yearplan.
* Noble stated that Tse has definitely gone above and beyond the scope of the role to make sure the duties of the education team have been tended to. They thanked Tse for that.
* Da-Ré echoed Noble’s sentiments. They stated that Tse walked into a difficult year with Board and organizational priorities being set and having to catch up. Da-Ré was happy that Tse was in the role.

**Vote on Motion**

**In Favour: 23 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 1**

**Abstained: Tse**

**Motion Passes**

* Noble thanked the full-time staff who attended the meeting for all their hard work.

**Time of Next Meeting**

**January 10, 2021**

**5:00pm**

**Remote Meeting, Microsoft Teams**

**CALL OF THE ROLL**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Present:** | Aminaei, Anderson, Bagtasos, Birch, Chelverajah, Chopra, Chui, Da-Ré, De Silva, Del Castillo, Della-Vedova, Dhindsa, Dixit, Egbeyemi, Fraser, Jones, Koscak, Mesic, Nakua, Noble, Samson, Seymour, Singh, Stathoukos, Tse |
| **Absent Excused:**  |  |
| **Absent:** | Au-Yeung, Dehab, Naik, Sariaslani, Violin, Wang |
| **Late:**  | Tsai |
| **Others Present:**  | V. Scott (Recording Secretary) |
| **Chair:** | Rhea Jangra  |

**Adjournment**

**Moved** by Tse, **seconded** by Chelvarajah that the meeting be adjourned.

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Adjourned at 7:13pm**

/vs