**Student Representative Assembly Meeting 21B**

**Sunday, April 18, 2021 at 10:00am**

**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 10:05am**

**CALL OF THE ROLL**

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| --- | --- |
| **Present:** | Agaiby, Anderson, Balassone, Chan, Chelverajah, Chen, Chui, Da-Ré, Dhiloon, Fernandes, Laing, Matsuba, McCauley, Mehta, Pereira, Sharia, Sheikh, Song, Tse |
| **Absent Excused:**  |  |
| **Absent:** | Behravan, Fleming, Liu, Mabanza, Sajid, Tan |
| **Late:**  | Baig, Choi, He, Khan, Violin |
| **Others Present:**  | Denver Della-Vedova (MSU President-Elect), V. Scott (Recording Secretary) |
| **Chair:** | Graeme Noble  |

**Territory Recognition**

* The SRA would like to recognize today that we are situated on traditional Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe territories through the ‘Dish with One Spoon Wampum Treaty’.

**Adoption of Agenda**

**Moved** by Da-Ré, **seconded** by Chui that the Assembly adopt the agenda, as presented.

* Da-Ré stated that there were a few things to get through today.
* Chui hoped that everyone had a chance to look through it.

**Vote to Adopt**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Announcements from the Chair**

* The Chair asked the Assembly to make sure they were arriving at least five minutes before the meeting started so that they could get the meeting started right away, and to also be respectful to those who were prepared and arrived on time.

**Special Orders of the Day**

**1. Recess for Meetings of MSU Incorporated and CFMU Incorporated**

**Moved**by Da-Ré, **seconded** by Anderson that the Assembly recess for the meetings of MSU Incorporated and CFMU Incorporated.

* Da-Ré stated that they had some budgets to approve and needed to move into these meetings to do so.
* Anderson agreed.

**Vote on Motion**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Recessed at 10:17am**

**Called to Order at 10:50am**

**CALL OF THE ROLL**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Present:** | Agaiby, Anderson, Baig, Balassone, Chan, Chelverajah, Chen, Choi, Chui, Da-Ré, Dhiloon, Fernandes, He, Laing, Khan, Matsuba, McCauley, Mehta, Pereira, Sajid, Sharia, Sheikh, Song, Tse, Violin |
| **Absent Excused:**  |  |
| **Absent:** | Behravan, Fleming, Liu, Mabanza, Tan |
| **Late:**  |  |
| **Others Present:**  | Denver Della-Vedova (MSU President-Elect), V. Scott (Recording Secretary) |
| **Chair:** | Graeme Noble  |

 **2. Ratify Executive Board Members**

**Moved** by Da-Ré, **seconded** by Anderson that the Assembly ratify the results of the 2021-2022 Executive Board election.

* Da-Ré stated that the election happened at the last SRA meeting, and now the Assembly just needed to ratify the results as the positions were of higher importance than other committees.
* Anderson stated that everyone did a great job running, and it made sense to ratify.

**Vote on Motion**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**3. Close SRA Seat to Other Committee**

**Moved**by Da-Ré, **seconded** by Chui that the Assembly close one (1) SRA seat on the Elections Committee.

* Da-Ré stated that this was the only seat they weren’t able to fill at the last SRA meeting.
* Chui stated that there was one nomination and to close the seat.

**Nominations**

* Fleming

**Vote on Motion**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

* Kaitlyn Fleming won the SRA seat on the Elections Committee by acclamation.

**Report Period**

**1. Sustainability Committee**

* Da-Ré summarized the report.

**Information Period**

* Tse announced that nominations for Vice-Presidents would be closing at the next SRA meeting. They asked that if platform documents were circulated, to please review them ahead of time so that questions could be asked of the candidates.
* Anderson asked the Assembly to please let all of their constituents know about the elections and if they were currently an MSU member, they could run. Anderson announced that Associate Vice-President jobs were also open to apply for.
* The Deputy Speaker announced that the Speaker elections would also be occurring and asked the Assembly to let their constituents know.

**Question Period**

* Matsuba asked the Deputy Speaker what would happen if no one nominated themselves during the VP and Speaker elections. The Deputy Speaker responded that if they didn’t receive nominations, the positions would remain open until they were filled. They explained that there were a number of different legislative clauses in place for who would take over specific roles. The Deputy Speaker stated that they currently had nominations for each position at that point.

**Business Arising from the Minutes**

**1.  Increased Coverage for Contraceptives**

**Moved** by Da-Ré, **seconded** by Chui that the Assembly task the MSU to look into increased coverage for contraceptives under the MSU health insurance plan, as well as reimbursement for emergency contraception.

* Da-Ré stated that they didn’t see a problem with this as the members who brought this forth wanted the MSU to look into it. Da-Ré explained that the MSU was already looking into this to an extent but can explore further.
* Chui thought that this would be good to look into and see what the MSU can do.
* McCauley asked if a committee or individual would be responsible for looking into this. McCauley ceded the rest of their time to Da-Ré.
* Da-Ré responded that Victoria Scott handled the Health and Dental plan work, with some Board members assisting over the summer.

**Vote on Motion**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**2.  Welcome Week Activities for International Students**

**Moved**by Da-Ré, **seconded**by Chui that the McMaster Students Union take the lead in coordinating with cultural clubs on campus in organizing virtual Welcome Week activities that are friendly to international students living in different countries. This may include, but is not limited to:

* Understanding international student orientation needs
* Scheduling and organizing virtual events in the time zone of the target students
* Translating welcome messages/materials into different language
* Distributing Welcome Week paraphernalia, if applicable.

* Da-Ré stated this was a well-intentioned motion and that the MSU already does this, to an extent. They stated that the MSU member who brought this forward would like to see clubs be more involved in bringing forward an international friendly orientation. Da-Ré stated that there might be limitations to the work that the MSU could do, particularly in an online year.
* Chui stated that the MSU should put more effort into putting more into international students and this would help these students enjoy Welcome Week too.
* Tse stated that this was a good idea. They added that the Associate Vice-President (University Affairs) helped put together an international student taskforce and that it was important to look into how to best support these students.
* Baig asked for more information on what this motion meant. Baig ceded the rest of their time to the Deputy Speaker.
* The Deputy Speaker responded that this motion would direct the MSU to take the lead in coordinating with cultural clubs in consultation and organization for Welcome Week. They stated that there weren’t specific outcomes listed, as there was a great deal of complexity in the Welcome Week structure.
* The Deputy Speaker read out a statement from Liu, who was unable to attend meeting: “Cultural clubs may not necessarily have the resources to provide translation for welcome messages/materials into different languages across faculties. Translation is not currently provided for French (official language), therefore it is questionable if translation is able to be provided for multiple languages. Welcome Week presents an opportunity for international students to practice their English communication skills in an informal setting to become more comfortable with the language, connect with peers, build confidence, and prepare for a successful academic year.”

**Vote on Motion**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**3.   Call for Advocacy Policies to be Adopted by Way of a Referendum**

**Moved**by Da-Ré, **seconded** by McCauley that the McMaster Students Union direct the SRA Standing Committee of Internal Governance to review **Bylaw 8 - Policy Approval Process**and amend **Bylaw 8 - Policy Approval Process, Section 10.2.1** to have all advocacy policies be adopted by way of a referendum of the general membership of the MSU as laid out in the **MSU Constitution, Section - VII Referenda**.

* Da-Ré stated that they only moved this motion so that it could get on the floor.
* McCauley stated that giving more ease to advocate could be a good thing.
* Tse stated that they understood the spirit of the motion, but had concerns about the implementation. Tse explained that this would make the governing process clunky by having referenda often just to approve advocacy policies. They stated that they already had a system of having the elected representatives of the SRA approve these. Tse stated that they were also concerned about having referenda for advocacy policies as the MSU doesn’t receive 100% turnout of the student population and it wouldn’t necessarily be more reflective of student opinions or needs. Tse asked if the motion was asking for just a review. Tse ceded the rest of the time to the Deputy Speaker.
* The Deputy Speaker responded that the motion asked for the policy to be reviewed and amended, which were two separate points.
* Da-Ré stated that any amendments would still have to come to the SRA to approve and that it wouldn’t just go to the Internal Governance committee and be a done deal. Da-Ré asked for confirmation from the Deputy Speaker and ceded the rest of their time to them.
* The Deputy Speaker responded that this would still have to go through the process set out in Bylaw 8.
* Anderson stated that it would probably be best for the Education department to increase consultations with students. They stated that holding referenda is time consuming and there would be challenges that arise by having at least two of them per academic year. Anderson explained that logistically, this would impact the organization as anyone with paid positions would have to take a leave of absence to run a campaign side. Anderson stated that they will be voting against the motion.
* Tse stated that they forgot to bring up a point. They stated that during the General Assembly it was brought up that it was for advocacy statements, not policies. Tse asked for clarification from the Deputy Speaker, and ceded the rest of their time to the Deputy Speaker.
* The Deputy Speaker responded that an amendment would have to be brought forward for this motion, but it was presented on the agenda as it was voted on at General Assembly.
* Tse thanked the Deputy Speaker for the clarification and stated that they would still vote against this motion, regardless of it being amended to advocacy policies or statements.

**Vote on Motion**

**In Favour: 0 Opposed: 17 Abstentions: 0**

**Opposed: Da-Ré, Laing, Anderson, Dhiloon, Balassone, McCauley, Chan, Pereira, Chui, Mehta, Baig, Chen, Fleming, Sheikh, Sharia, He, Chelverajah**

**Motion Fails**

**4.  Remove Minimum Quota of General Policies**

**Moved** by Da-Ré, **seconded** by Baig that the McMaster Students Union direct the SRA Standing Committee of Internal Governance to **review Operating Policy – Education & Advocacy Department** and amend **Operating Policy – Education & Advocacy Department, Section 5.2** to remove a minimum quota of General Policies to be presented to the SRA for approval each academic year.

* Da-Ré stated that they just wanted to ensure that this saw the floor.
* Baig explained that they would like to hear the discussion.
* Tse stated that the spirit of the motion came from the advocacy statements released this past year, even though it mentioned policies. They explained that they review a minimum of three policies per year. Tse added that there is a quota to make sure the policies stay up to date.
* Matsuba asked if the quotas have helped. Matsuba ceded the rest of their time to Tse.
* Tse responded that the minimum quota does help, and that this past year the Education team reviewed three policies. They added that some years they have done as little as three and at most six.
* Laing asked if this clause ever caused harm for advocacy initiatives. Laing ceded the rest of their time to Tse.
* Tse responded that they didn’t think the clause caused harm. They felt that the policy strengthened the department to push through and renew policies. Tse added that even if this motion was meant about advocacy statements instead of statements, the MSU doesn’t want minimums on that number either.

**Vote on Motion**

**In Favour: 0 Opposed: 18 Abstentions: 2**

**Opposed: Laing, Pereira, Balassone, McCauley, Baig, Chan, Matsuba, Dhiloon, Chen, Mehta, Fleming, Choi, Sheikh, Sharia, Tse, Agaiby, Chui, He**

**Abstained: Anderson, Da-Ré**

**Motion Fails**

**5.  Addition of One Vice-Chair International Seat to the First Year Council**

**Moved** by Da-Ré, **seconded** by Matsuba that the McMaster Students Union direct the SRA Standing Committee of Internal Governance to review **Bylaw 12 - First-Year Council** and amend **Bylaw 12 - First-Year Council, Section 3.1**&**3.2** to add one Vice-Chair International seat to the First Year Council, which shall be directly elected by the international MSU members registered in Level 1 of their program of study.

* Da-Ré stated that this was an interesting motion. They stated that they believe in the spirit of it, but it does open up a larger conversation about identity based seats on councils. Da-Ré stated that the spirit and scope makes sense for First-Year Council, and it is one of the goals for the President-Elect. They stated that they were curious to see what folks thought.
* Matsuba stated that this would be an interesting conversation.
* Della-Vedova stated that they felt that this was important for First-Year Council. They stated that they believe that an off-campus chair was added but this would reflect all living scenarios of first years and would have a better representative on student leadership.
* Baig asked if this seat would be given to someone not living in Canada or any student that was international. They asked if this would also be solely for the upcoming year. Baig ceded the rest of their time to Della-Vedova.
* Della-Vedova stated that it wasn’t set and wanted consultation. They added that they also wanted to hear the SRA perspectives.
* Matsuba stated that with everything being online the timing was geared to the eastern time zone. They felt that these students should have more of a say in things and a representative for international students would be good for others to relate and talk to.
* Chui thought that having a vice-chair international on FYC could help voice concerns. They felt that it shouldn’t be restricted to an online year. Chui wanted to hear from those who were on FYC. Chui ceded the rest of their time to Dhiloon.
* Dhiloon responded that they felt that there were some great points but there was nothing stopping international students running for the core positions. Dhiloon added that the Vice-Chair External was to represent anyone who wasn’t living on campus or in Hamilton. They felt that having a Vice-Chair International would overlap with the External role. Dhiloon stated that they were also interested in what others had to say.
* Anderson stated that they should look into this further to see what the body should be made up of, including any other minority groups.
* Della-Vedova felt that the off-campus chair was relatively busy to other chairs as it’s a large group of students under one person. They stated that this position would be to break things up and help the international students.
* Sharia stated that they would like to touch on the points Anderson brought up, about other minority groups not being represented and having equal rights on the council. They stated that this would be a bigger conversation that they need to have. Sharia pointed out that they didn’t have an ‘off-campus’ chair, and that if FYC were to have an international chair, Sharia wasn’t sure how the work would be divided. They explained that everything was already equally distributed amongst the core and couldn’t see that happening with an additional chair. They felt that they should look into more promotions or getting in touch with more students.
* Da-Ré stated that everyone was only starting to full understand the demographic makeup of campus. They explained that a survey was circulated to all students that will hopefully provide information about campus representation. Da-Ré stated that there might be a need for a larger conversation and diving into it. They added that depending on how this motion plays out they implore everyone to take a larger look at where the data was leading.
* Dhiloon pointed out that great points were made, and agreed that international students do deserve representation, but doesn’t see how an international chair would fit into the structure as it is at the moment. Dhiloon added that different groups do need to be represented but didn’t think that just having international students covered while ignoring others was effective.
* Tse thanked everyone for the discussion and stated that it was great to hear points from those who were on FYC. Tse liked the idea of more supports for international students. Tse asked the Deputy Speaker to clarify how the motion reads, and estimate a timeline based on their experience. Tse ceded the rest of their time to the Deputy Speaker.
* The Deputy Speaker stated that the motion would direct the Internal Governance Committee to review and present recommendations for the Assembly to vote on. They stated that there is no timeline associated with this motion so the Assembly is not bound for this to happen before FYC elections. The Deputy Speaker explained that in terms of timelines, if the Assembly wanted this done before FYC elections take place then the work must be done over the summer and presented before nominations open in September.
* Tse asked if it was realistic to have this come back before the nominations open. Tse ceded the rest of their time to the Deputy Speaker.
* The Deputy Speaker stated that this would be a crunch timeline and it would be the AVP bringing this forward as the committee rarely functions in their full capacity in the summer months. They stated that it would be rushed for September or it could be reviewed over the year.

**Moved** by Baig, **seconded** by Laing that the Assembly recess for 10 minutes.

* Baig stated that they’ve been here for two hours and they could all use a quick break to refresh.
* Laing stated that they would love a break and it sounds like one is needed to get an amendment written.

**Vote on Motion**

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Recessed at 12:11pm**

**Called to Order at 12:21pm**

**CALL OF THE ROLL**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Present:** | Agaiby, Anderson, Baig, Balassone, Chan, Chelverajah, Chen, Chui, Da-Ré, Dhiloon, Fernandes, He, Laing, Matsuba, McCauley, Mehta, Pereira, Sajid, Sharia, Sheikh, Song, Tse, Violin |
| **Absent Excused:**  |  |
| **Absent:** | Behravan, Fleming, Khan, Liu, Mabanza, Tan |
| **Late:**  | Choi |
| **Others Present:**  | Denver Della-Vedova (MSU President-Elect), V. Scott (Recording Secretary) |
| **Chair:** | Graeme Noble  |

**Amendment**

**Moved** by Da-Ré, **seconded** by Tse, that the SRA amend the motion on the floor to read: **Moved** by Da-Ré, **seconded** by Matsuba that the McMaster Students Union direct the First-Year Council to explore options to better support international first-year students, in consultation with any relevant Standing Committees of the SRA, and present any recommendations to SRA by the end of their term, including any proposed amendments to the governance structure of First-Year Council.

* Da-Ré stated that this would be the best way to look at governance changes or partnerships across campus.
* Tse stated that the Assembly generally agreed that they can support international students better. They added that they heard a bit of confusion and hesitation on specific details and implementation.

**Vote on Amendment**

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

**Motion Passes**

**Main Motion**

**Moved** by Da-Ré, **seconded** by Matsuba that the McMaster Students Union direct the First-Year Council to explore options to better support international first-year students, in consultation with any relevant Standing Committees of the SRA, and present any recommendations to SRA by the end of their term, including any proposed amendments to the governance structure of First-Year Council.

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Time of Next Meeting**

**April 25, 2021**

**10:00am**

**Remote Meeting, Microsoft Teams**

**CALL OF THE ROLL**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Present:** | Agaiby, Anderson, Baig, Balassone, Chan, Chelverajah, Chen, Choi, Chui, Da-Ré, Dhiloon, Fernandes, Fleming, He, Laing, Matsuba, McCauley, Mehta, Pereira, Sajid, Sharia, Sheikh, Song, Tse, Violin |
| **Absent Excused:**  |  |
| **Absent:** | Behravan, Khan, Liu, Mabanza, Tan |
| **Late:**  |  |
| **Others Present:**  | Denver Della-Vedova (MSU President-Elect), V. Scott (Recording Secretary) |
| **Chair:** | Graeme Noble  |

**Adjournment**

**Moved** by Laing, **seconded** by Chui that the meeting be adjourned.

**Motion Passes by General Consent**

**Adjourned at 12:39pm**

/vs